

What do I need to know about the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener?

The department is excited to offer a free and optional *Tennessee Universal Reading Screener* suite of tools for the launch of the 2021-2022 school year. As part of the **Tennessee Literacy Success Act**, districts are required to administer an approved universal reading screener to all students in grades K-3 during three administration windows each school year, and report data to the state department.

While districts have the option to select a universal reading screener from the State Board of Education's [approved list](#) to meet the requirements of the Tennessee Literacy Success Act, the free Tennessee Universal Reading Screener meets all of the legislative requirements, can be used at no-cost by districts and charter schools, and also resolves any data submission requirements for the district.

aimswebPlus has received the contract to provide the free Tennessee Universal Reading Screener suite of math and reading screeners, assessment platform, as well as a district training series.

Districts opting to use the free Tennessee Universal Reading Screener will have seamless support in setting up accounts, meeting state administration guidelines, and easily reporting requirements within the state-provided platform.

If a district chooses to opt out and utilize a universal reading screener approved by the State Board of Education, the district must still comply with administration windows, guidelines and reporting requirements. See the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener [FAQ](#) for more information.

Regardless of the screener selected, districts must follow the testing administration guidelines including the window of assessment and reporting outlined in the FAQ [here](#). Districts may not have a classroom teacher administer the universal reading screener to their own class. Finally, the district's selected universal reading screener must be outlined in their Foundational Literacy Skills Plan (FLSP).

Choosing to Utilize the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener

Districts already using *aimswebPlus* should begin by completing the [interest survey](#) to share district information with the Tennessee Department of Education, then attend one of the launch webinars. Many districts have been using *aimswebPlus* and already have established accounts. In this instance, contact louellen.marlatt@pearson.com for reimbursement of existing current contracts of grades K through three students. See the reimbursement guidance document [here](#).

Districts not already using *aimswebPlus* should begin by completing the [interest survey](#) to share district information with the Tennessee Department of Education, then attend one of the launch webinars. The [launch guide](#) will assist districts in setting up accounts. Districts that need additional logistical or planning guidance should reach out to Jennifer.jordan@tn.gov or if they need more support from Pearson, to amber.press@tn.gov.

Choosing NOT to Utilize the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener

The Tennessee Literacy Success Act allows flexibility for districts to opt out of the TN Universal Reading Screener by choosing to utilize a [different reading screener](#) approved by the State Board of Education. If a district is already using one of these approved screeners, they may wish to continue their existing contract. If a district is using a screener that is not on the approved list, they must make a selection from the approved list or opt into the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener for the 2021-2022 school year.

Districts that are making a change to their choice of universal reading screener must submit an update to their FLSP by October 1, 2021 following the process outlined in the next section.

Foundational Literacy Skills Plan Revisions 2021-2022

The Tennessee Literacy Success Act requires each district to develop and maintain a Foundational Literacy Skills Plan (FLSP). These initial plans were approved by June 1, 2021 but plans must be kept up to date.

If key programmatic pieces of a FLSP change for the 2021-2022 school year, the district is required to submit FLSP revisions to the department. Plan revisions that require an updated FLSP submission include changes to these key programmatic pieces:

- changes to the amount of time dedicated to foundational skills instruction,
- changes to adopted curricular materials, or
- changes to the selected universal reading screener

Revisions must go through the same review process as the original submission and will be scored using the rubric in the [FLSP toolkit](#). Once the revisions are approved, the department will provide an updated FLSP that must be updated on both the district and department websites in compliance with the Tennessee Literacy Success Act.

To update the FLSP, [please click this link](#). Only resubmit answers to the sections that are changing. For additional guidance on making revisions to your approved FLSP, please click [here](#).

If changes are being made or considered for the 2022-2023 school year, there will be a separate process announced at a later date.