

Early Literacy Screening in New Westminster Schools

Why are we doing Literacy Screening?

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has mandated that all Kindergarten students (at a minimum) across the province are screened starting in the 2025-2026 school year. In 2026-2027, all students in grades 1-3 will be screened.

In New Westminster Schools, all students in Kindergarten, and grade one will be screened using a ministry approved screener this year. In 2026-2027, all students in grades 2 and 3 will also be screened.

What Is Literacy Screening?

An early literacy screener is an evidence-based assessment tool that is used to identify students' literacy skills. The screening tool is a short teacher-administered assessment that is valid, reliable and predictive of reading performance. The screening tool is used to check key early reading skills like letter and sound recognition, phonemic awareness, and oral language. It helps teachers plan instruction and support.

Screening is important because it:

- identifies students who may require extra support
- supports early intervention
- helps teachers tailor instruction

Helpful Ministry Resources

[Parent Brochure – All About Early Literacy \(PDF\)](#)

[K-12 Literacy Supports Website](#)



This initiative is funded and supported by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, as part of their commitment to improving literacy outcomes for all students across British Columbia.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs:)

Is early literacy screening a test?

The screening is not a test and is not used to determine a student's proficiency level on their report card.

How many times will my child be screened?

Students will be screened three times a year: the beginning, middle and end of year by their classroom teacher.

Will results of the screening be shared with parents and caregivers?

Teachers may wish to share the screening process and results with parents and caregivers. Informal discussions can be helpful to parents and caregivers in understanding their child's development of literacy skills as well as how they can support their child's learning at home.

Is this for all students in Kindergarten and grade one?

Yes. All kindergarten and grade 1 students in our District will be screened, including those in French Immersion, ELL Students, and Students with Disabilities and Diverse Abilities.

French Immersion Students:

For the 2025-2026 school year, French Immersion students in Kindergarten will be screened in English. As French Immersion students progress in the school year with French instruction they will then be screened in French at the middle of the year and the end of the year.

ELL Students:

ELL students can be screened. If an ELL student is not yet proficient in English, teachers can supplement the early literacy screening with additional vocabulary and language comprehension assessments as needed.

Students with Disabilities and Diverse Abilities:

While screening is possible for most students, it may not be for others. In specific cases, teachers will collaborate with the school-based resource teacher or case manager.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Early Literacy Screening Initiative, please speak with your child's classroom teacher or school principal.