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DIBELS[®] NEWSLETTER

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DIBELS Next[®] News

Large Print Student Materials

The DIBELS Next download site now includes a large-print version of the student materials to use when assessing students with visual impairments. To access the download site, visit <http://dibels.org/> and click on "DIBELS Next."

Early Release Assessments

There is still time for schools to sign up to use an early release version of several new assessments from the authors of DIBELS. Available measures include DIBELS Math, PELI[®] (Pre-K), CARI[™] (DIBELS 7–9), and IDAPEL[®] (French DIBELS). For more information, email info@dibels.org.

Pathways of Progress[™]

DIBELSnet[®] users have access to the new Pathways of Progress Report as well as the Pathways of Progress goal setting utility for the 2014–2015 school year. For more information about Pathways of Progress, visit <http://dibels.org/>.

DIBELS Next Now Includes Student Lexile[®] Measures, National Norms

Several new developments will further improve schools' ability to use DIBELS Next data to improve instructional outcomes for students starting this school year.

BEGINNING OF YEAR		MIDDLE OF YEAR	
DIBELS Composite Score	Student Lexile Measure	DIBELS Composite Score	Student Lexile Measure
415	850L	428	875L
279	575L	352	720L
374	765L	414	845L
480	975L	518	1055L
558	1135L	566	1150L
69	155L	151	320L
256	530L	424	865L
301	620L	350	720L
411	840L	432	880L
240	500L	305	630L
329	675L	363	745L
305	630L	316	650L

The authors of DIBELS at DMG have partnered with MetaMetrics[®], developer of The Lexile[®] Framework for Reading, and Amplify, developer of mCLASS[®]:DIBELS Next, to link student Lexile measures to DIBELS Next. DMG's DIBELSnet data reporting service now has a report available that provides student Lexile measures based on the DIBELS Next Composite Score for students in first through sixth grades. Student Lexile measures will also be available in Amplify's mCLASS system later next year.

Soon, DIBELS users will be able to find a technical report that details the analysis for the DIBELS and Lexile Framework linkage at <http://dibels.org/pubs.html>.

Also now available are nationally representative percentile ranks for all DIBELS Next measures, giving schools an additional source of information to interpret students' scores. The sample included approximately 265,000 students from over 1,000 schools across the US with data entered in DIBELSnet for the 2012–2013 school year.

The technical report that details the research and includes the percentiles can be found at <http://dibels.org/pubs.html>. Lead author Elizabeth Dewey said, "While the primary interpretation of DIBELS scores should continue to be the benchmark goals, national norms can provide important additional information about student performance, especially when examined at the school or district level." Dewey added, "Further, adding local norms to the mix can provide a more complete and nuanced perspective on the student's skills and needs."

Schools using the DIBELSnet data reporting service have the option to view the national norms on the Classroom or Instructional Group Report.

RTI Innovations Conference On October 9–10, 2014, the annual RTI Innovations Conference will take place in Salt Lake City, UT. The conference is the premier event for educators to learn about recent advances in implementing, sustaining, and improving Response to Intervention. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.rti-innovations.com/>.

Back to School Special for DIBELS® Online Training

Now through the end of October 2014, all DIBELS Next online training has been discounted to support educators' professional development in the new school year.

The DIBELS Next Essential and DIBELS Next Transition workshops provide detailed training on the administration and scoring of DIBELS Next. The DIBELS Next Transition workshop is designed for trained users of DIBELS 6th Edition who want to update their training for DIBELS Next. The Essential workshop is for new assessors or for those that would like a more thorough review of administration and scoring. The Essential workshop

includes information about the theoretical foundations of DIBELS and guidelines and logistics for its use. Both workshops include the option to use either downloadable handouts or purchase a printed training manual.

The new DIBELS Next Data Interpretation online workshop is also included in the back-to-school special. The data workshop is appropriate for both new and experienced DIBELS users that need advanced training in the use of DIBELS Next data. Participants can use their school's or district's data during the workshop's practice activities for a customized experience.

The DIBELS Next Survey and DIBELS Deep workshops are also available with discounted pricing.

DIBELS Next Survey is a set of materials and procedures for finding an appropriate instructional and progress monitoring level for students performing below grade level. The training covers the guidelines for identifying students that need Survey, demonstrates how to conduct Survey assessment, and includes case studies to illustrate its use.

DIBELS Deep is a diagnostic measure of phonemic awareness, word reading, and decoding that can be used to

gain more in-depth diagnostic information about subskills than may be apparent from DIBELS Next test scores alone.

DIBELS Mentors that complete the DIBELS Next Survey or DIBELS Deep trainings and pass a quiz will receive an endorsement to their certificate that will allow them to train on those assessments.

Online training subscriptions are valid for 30 days and can be paused and re-watched as often as needed during that time frame. For more information or to register for online training, visit <http://dibels.org/> and click on "Online Training."

DIBELS People: Alisa Dorman

This edition's DIBELS Person is Alisa Dorman, Director of Training Events at Dynamic Measurement Group. Alisa has provided DIBELS professional development for DMG for the past five years following her role managing Reading First programs for the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OK DOE). This school year, she will be transitioning to a new position in the Office of Literacy for the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).



outcomes is simply the best part about training.

Q: What was your favorite part about providing DIBELS training to schools?

A: Being with educators and administrators onsite is so rewarding and helps me stay grounded in the real work. Learning from them about their successes and supporting them to improve student reading

Q: What is your advice for schools that are just starting to use DIBELS? Any tips/advice for advanced users?

A: For those who are just beginning to use DIBELS, I would stress that implementation of a new assessment can feel overwhelming. Each year of

implementation will become more refined and over time, the information gleaned from the assessment will be like a beacon highlighting success and pointing to remaining targets of opportunities.

For those who are advanced in their DIBELS knowledge, I'd challenge them to be "torch bearers" in their schools and school systems. I'd encourage them to keep the focus on what really matters—improving reading outcome for students. I'd recommend they stay connected to the community of DIBELS users and to DMG, as both are valuable resources in their work.

Q: What made you want to be a part of the CDE?

A: State legislation known as the Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act

(READ Act) was recently passed to support K–3 literacy efforts. The intent of the legislation is to support students in meeting important reading outcomes. This work is similar to my previous work at OK DOE and very much in line with the mission of DMG and the DIBELS authors. I believe it will be a great opportunity to work within a targeted, statewide initiative intended to support early literacy, which is very important to me.

Q: What will you miss about working at DMG?

A: The time spent working at DMG has provided me with a unique opportunity to be a part of DIBELS research specifically, and the development of new assessment products and tools. It has been an experience like no other.

DIBELS Mentors' Corner

DMG Introduces the Peggy Johnson Outstanding DIBELS Mentor Award

DIBELS authors Ruth Kaminski and Roland Good presented the first annual Outstanding DIBELS Mentor Award to Peggy Johnson at the 2014 DIBELS Super Institute in Las Vegas.



The award will be given each year to a DIBELS Mentor that has made significant contributions to the understanding and use of DIBELS in the field. It will also bear the name of its inaugural recipient and be named the Peggy Johnson Outstanding DIBELS Mentor Award.

Johnson was a veteran teacher of more than 20 years when

she received DIBELS training from Dr. Good in 1999. "Drs. Ruth Kaminski and Roland Good changed how I viewed education. That was the day I realized educators now had a tool that would assist teachers in changing instruction to

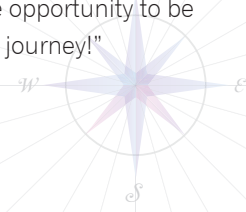
meet the literacy needs of our students," said Johnson. Her experience using DIBELS to inform instruction made her an advocate for its use and she went on to become a DIBELS trainer and coach.

Her long-standing presence in the DIBELS community led to an appearance in the Voyager Sopris DIBELS training video "Catch them Early and Watch them Grow" and an article in the DIBELS People section of the April 2010 DIBELS Newsletter.

Since her initial training, Johnson has attended seven DIBELS training events led by

Kaminski and Good and in 2004 she became the first DIBELS Mentor.

Johnson said of her experience with DIBELS, "Ruth and Roland are dedicated to educators and the success of the future of our children. Approximately 95% of our children can learn to read by third grade and my DIBELS Mentor journey will continue until we reach that goal. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the journey!"



DIBELS In The News

September 8: Prescott, AZ

Read about how Kindergarten teachers at Territorial Early Childhood Center use DIBELS scores to help design intervention activities in the Daily Courier's article "Early childhood fun part of Chino schools." <http://www.dcourier.com/>

September 4: Mountain Home, AR



The novel "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program and its initial effect on Kindergarten

students' DIBELS scores is highlighted in the Baxter Bulletin article "Parents read 1,000 books to children." <http://www.baxterbulletin.com/>

September 4: Salt Lake City, UT

The KSL.com article "Super heroes reward super readers" describes one district's unique approach to rewarding students' reading efforts and its effect on DIBELS scores. <http://www.ksl.com/>

August 26: Mabton, WA

The Mabton School Board will be including DIBELS in its school improvement plan as a strategy to build literacy skills as

seen in the Daily Sun News article "School improvement plans detailed for Mapton School Board." <http://www.dailysunnews.com/>

August 25: Revere, MA

"Big strides in reading seen at local schools" from the Revere Journal talks about DIBELS use to improve outcomes at a systems level. <http://www.reverejournal.com/>

August 25: Pittsburgh, PA

Exceptional efforts to use DIBELS data and a high-quality core curriculum to improve outcomes is highlighted in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article "Pittsburgh schools to accentu-

ate reading fluency for youngest students." <http://www.post-gazette.com/>

August 21: Crowley, LA

Read the Advertiser article "United Way of Acadiana training volunteer readers" for a look at how volunteers have made a difference in students' DIBELS DORF scores. <http://www.theadvertiser.com/>



DIBELS Super Institute Scheduled for Summer 2015

The 2015 DIBELS Super Institute has been scheduled to take place July 13-16 in Las Vegas, NV, at the Luxor Hotel and Casino.

The institute is the premier DIBELS training event with presenters who are leading educational experts, including DIBELS authors Ruth Kaminski and Roland Good. The event is designed for all levels of educators, from instructional specialists to administrators. Participants can choose to attend a variety of one- to two-day workshops that will be held over the course of the week. Opportunities are available for networking with fellow DIBELS users.

"The DIBELS Super Institute is a unique



opportunity to learn from the authors of the DIBELS family of measures and connect with some of the most advanced DIBELS users in the world," said Stephanie Stollar, the Director of DIBELS Mentoring.

Registration for the institute will open in December and be available at <http://dibels.org/>.

Workshops available at the DIBELS Super Institute:

DIBELS Next Essential

DIBELS Next Data Interpretation

DIBELS Next Mentoring

DIBELS Math Essential

DIBELS Math Data Interpretation and Mentoring

DIBELS Deep/DIBELS Next Survey

Pathways of Progress with DIBELS AD

PELI Essential

IDEL Entrenamiento Esencial

More to be announced!

DIBELS FAQs

Q: A student at the beginning of first grade has met the benchmark goal for the Composite Score, but scored well below the benchmark goal (red) on NWF CLS. Does that mean the student does not need additional instructional support?

A: The DIBELS Composite Score is the best overall indicator of a student's later reading performance, but a single score is never a guarantee, and the composite score is not the only thing you should look at. You should always look at how students do on the individual skill areas when making decisions about grouping for instruction. This student is likely to need support learning the alphabetic principle.

Although the Composite Score is a great overall picture of a student's reading ability, any time a student has an individual measure score that is well below the benchmark goal, you should consider that student as likely to need additional support in order to become a proficient reader.

Coming Events

Live Online Workshops

Two live, interactive online workshops will be presented by DMG professional development specialists through the end of 2014.

DIBELS Next Data Interpretation Workshop Oct 21

This is an advanced workshop that will help educators learn how to use DIBELS data to inform instruction. This is the second of three workshops required to become a DIBELS Next Mentor.

DIBELS Next Mentoring Dec 5

This is the third and final workshop required to become a DIBELS Next Mentor. Participants must first complete the DIBELS Next Essential and DIBELS Next Data Interpretation workshops. In this workshop, participants will extend their DIBELS knowledge and learn how to provide leadership and training to other DIBELS users. At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will receive materials to train others to administer and score DIBELS, as well as interpret DIBELS data.

September Training Event

DMG will host a live training event in Homestead, PA, from November 18–20. Workshops include DIBELS Math Essential, DIBELS Math Data Interpretation & Mentoring, and DIBELS Deep/DIBELS Next Survey. For details, visit <http://dibels.org/>.

DEC Conference 2014

DIBELS author Ruth Kaminski will present at the annual conference for the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Early Childhood in St. Louis, MO, on October 7–9. Dr. Kaminski's presentation topics include the research behind the benchmark goals for the Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI), a DIBELS-linked assessment for pre-K, and the development of Tier 3 early literacy intervention materials for preschool students identified as needing support acquiring foundational literacy skills. For more information visit <http://www.dec-sped.org/>.