

mCLASS®

2019 mCLASS FAQ



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Introducing mCLASS

mCLASS® is a newly enhanced, all-in-one early literacy assessment, intervention, and instructional toolkit that enables you to understand every student as a reader, so you can deliver literacy instruction that's right for each and every one of them, whether it's targeted time with you or an engaging, out-of-this-world adaptive curriculum.

Every student is an individual. mCLASS helps you make data-driven, engaging literacy instruction a reality for everyone. That is the power of mCLASS.



What's new in mCLASS?

1

When will mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition be released?

mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition will be available for the 2019–2020 school year to districts ready to upgrade.

We will continue to support mCLASS:DIBELS Next through the end of the 2018-2019 school year and for an additional two years through school year 2020-2021. You will have ample time to learn about DIBELS 8th Edition and to plan whether and when to upgrade.

2

What enhancements should we expect in mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?

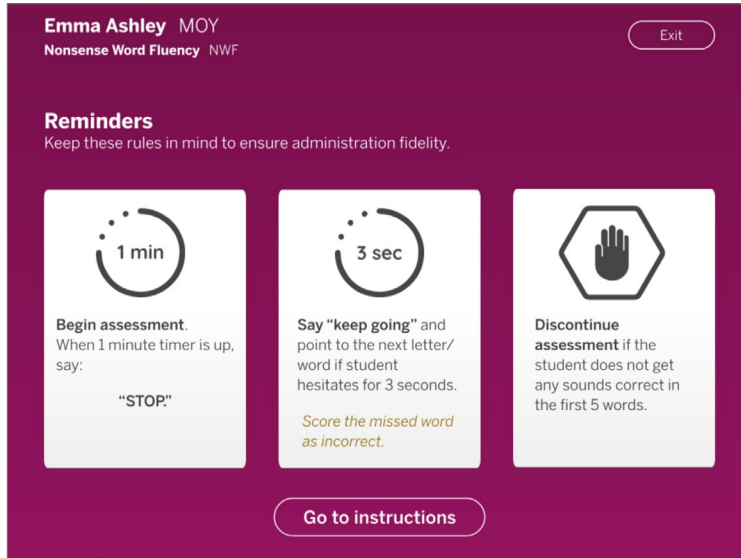
- Reduced assessment time and more useful data through adaptive test design
- Even stronger research basis for screening for reading difficulties, including dyslexia
- Bolstered reporting and updated skill profiles to better support instruction
- Increased text quality through authentic text passages for the oral reading and Maze comprehension subtests

Please watch this [short video](#) for an overview of the enhancements and changes you can expect.

3

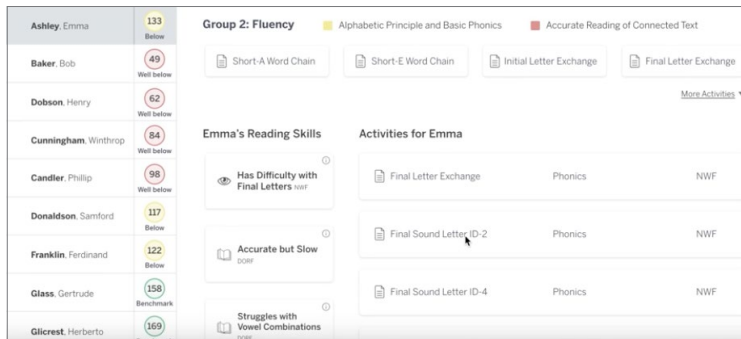
What improvements are being made to mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition?

Streamlined designs allow for faster assessment administration.



mCLASS updates harness the improvements in DIBELS 8th Edition for better reporting and more targeted instructional tools. Intuitive and actionable reports, such as skill-based reporting, will strengthen the connection between assessment and instruction.

- Individual instruction reporting makes it even easier for teachers to plan individualized instructional next steps.



- The small groups report highlights, in teacher-friendly terms, the grade-level expectations for every student at each grade time of year.

My Groups

Group 1: Letter Combinations

NWF_CLS

Group 2: Fluency

ORF NWF_CLS

Group 3: Comprehension

MAZE

+ Custom Group

Group 1: Letter Combinations ■ NWF_CLS

Teach consonant digraphs and variant vowel patterns, including digraphs and diphthongs in isolation and in context (i.e. blend words with those specific spelling patterns)

This group have difficulties with:

- Reading words with r-controlled spelling pattern
- Reading words with consonant digraph spelling pattern
- Reading words with vowel digraphs, diphthongs, or variant vowel digraphs

Students

Bob Baker Ferdinand Franklin

Phillip Candler

Winthrop Cunningham

Henry Dobson

Samford Donaldson

- This new Class Summary shows teachers how many students have mastered or are at risk for each skill area, such as decoding or word reading. Student details follow, and student results can be sorted by skill area.

| | | Beginning of Year | Middle of Year | End of Year | Grade 2 | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | Overall Risk | Letter Sounds | Decoding | Word Reading | Reading Fluency |
| Class Summary | 14/15 Students assessed | Well-Below Benchmark | 27 ^h 4 Students | 33 ^h 5 Students | 21 ^h 5 Students | 27 ^h 4 Students | 33 ^h 5 Students | | |
| | 0 Not assessed | Below Benchmark | 20 ^h 3 Students | 13 ^h 2 Students | 20 ^h 3 Students | 20 ^h 3 Students | 33 ^h 5 Students | | |
| | 1 In progress | At Benchmark | 27 ^h 4 Students | 27 ^h 4 Students | 38 ^h 5 Students | 33 ^h 5 Students | 33 ^h 2 Students | | |
| | | Above Benchmark | 27 ^h 4 Students | 27 ^h 4 Students | 29 ^h 4 Students | 20 ^h 3 Students | 20 ^h 3 Students | | |

Grade 2 Students

| Lastname, First Name | Overall Risk Goal 250 | Skill Areas | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | NWF-CLS Goal 54 | NWF-WRC Goal 13 | WRF Goal 20 | ORF Goal 52 | ORF-ACCU Goal 90 | MAZE Goal 10 |
| Ashley, Emma | 133 Below | 85 Below | 85 Below | 85 Below | 85 Below | 25 Well below | 85 Below |
| Baker, Bob | 49 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below |
| Dobson, Henry | 62 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below | 25 Well below |

4

How does DIBELS 8th Edition support screening for dyslexia risk?

DIBELS 8th Edition measures have been updated based on the latest research to be stronger measures of processing speed, phonological awareness, and alphabetic principles for dyslexia screening purposes. DIBELS 8th Edition can be used with our Early Literacy Measures (RAN, Spelling, Vocabulary) to provide additional information regarding difficulties that may be associated with risk for dyslexia.

5

How have the measures and scoring been revised?

Measures have been updated based on the latest research to meet increased standards of reliability and validity. Adaptive procedures and discontinue rules focus assessment on the priority skills and prevent overtesting.

Summary of changes:

- Consistent measures within grades will provide improved growth measurement.
- All subtests have been revised to be grade-specific and to increase in difficulty, covering a full progression of skills and minimizing floor and ceiling effects. This provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate what they know and further pinpoint what they don't know.
- Phoneme Segmentation Fluency replaces First Sound Fluency. The expanded coverage minimizes floor effect and provides information about difficulty in PA skills without the additional FSF measure.
- A new subtest, Word Reading Fluency, can help identify students with poor sight word reading skills that other subtests miss.
- For all measures, the basic scoring procedures remain the same. For NWF, credit is given for recoding words as whole words even if the student misses in the first attempt.
- Oral Reading Fluency is now only one passage, instead of three. Retell has been removed. Thus, ORF assessment will take a third of the time.

6

Now that the assessment has been designed to be more efficient, how much time will it take?

The following administration times are expected, but may vary with the addition of measure and assessment discontinue rules.

- One minute per individually administered measure
- Three minutes for a Maze (formerly Daze) group administration
- One additional minute per administration for instructions and setup

In the fall and winter of kindergarten and the fall of first grade, rules for discontinuing benchmark assessment apply; the times for discontinued assessments are also provided.

Per student administration times for mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition

| Grade | Measure | Discontinued assessment time | Complete assessment time |
|-------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| K | LNF, PSF, NWF, WRF | 3 minutes | 5 minutes |
| G1 | LNF, PSF, NWF, WRF, ORF | 5 minutes | 6 minutes |
| G2–3 | NWF, WRF, ORF, Maze | 4 minutes + 4 minutes for whole class | |
| G4–6 | ORF, Maze | 2 minutes + 4 minutes for whole class | |

7

How are mCLASS results used to personalize instruction? What instructional content is available, driven by assessment data?

mCLASS analyzes student response patterns to DIBELS 8th Edition subtests, identifies areas of need, and recommends targeted instruction for each student and small group.

mCLASS Intervention (formerly Burst Reading) uses DIBELS 8th Edition assessment data to group students based on similar needs and generate rigorous, teacher-led intervention lessons.

mCLASS: Amplify Reading Edition uses students' overall risk levels to place them in Amplify Reading instruction. Amplify Reading teaches literacy skills through a captivating game world. This adaptive, research-based program immerses each student in the most appropriate language, decoding, and comprehension activities and differentiates instruction based on progress.

8

What are the rationale and the impact of decreasing the number of ORF passages from three to one?

DIBELS 8th Edition marks the first time that Oral Reading Fluency requires the administration of just one passage per benchmark period. Research has shown that administering more than one passage does little to improve the reliability and validity of ORF (Baker et al., 2015; Petscher & Kim, 2011). Rather, a single passage works just as well, and it reduces the testing burden for both students and assessors. ORF scores will be equated to account for the variability in difficulty across passages. More information is available in the technical manual and on the University of Oregon website, within the ORF section and equating section at the bottom.

9

Is Above Benchmark (blue) being removed?

While the materials from UO do not currently reference the Above Benchmark (blue) category, Above Benchmark will be included in mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition. Research and analysis are in progress to determine the cut scores and definition of the category.

10

Will Pathways of Progress still be available?

Pathways of Progress will be replaced with Zones of Growth (ZoG), which uses a similar framework for evaluating goal types and rate of growth.

- Criteria for each goal type will display based on each student's BOY composite score.
- Student benchmark results from one TOY to the next will be evaluated to inform the growth rate using five percentile levels.
- Student PM results between benchmark periods will be evaluated to inform rate of growth.

11

Is there a technical paper to document the reliability and validity of DIBELS 8th Edition?

The technical manual is available on the University of Oregon website.

12 What will happen to prior years' mCLASS:DIBELS Next results in student summaries and aggregate reports? Will there be guidance for comparing DIBELS Next and DIBELS 8th Edition results?

Historical mCLASS:DIBELS Next data will continue to be available at the student and aggregate level, accessible from the mCLASS reports. For student-level data, a link in the report will direct educators to DIBELS Next data from previous years. For aggregate reporting, administrators will be able to see data for DIBELS Next or DIBELS 8th edition based on the selected school year. Student results will be reported separately and not side by side, as they are based on different versions of the assessment and have different scores.

We will also provide information on how the DIBELS Next measures relate to the DIBELS 8th Edition measures, so educators can apply that knowledge to understand the differences.

13 Are updates being made to IDEL?

We are actively working with the University of Oregon on the next edition of IDEL based on updated research that better supports the linguistic structure and development of Spanish. As part of this effort, we are seeking districts who can partner with us in this research. In the meantime, the current version of IDEL will continue to be available.



How do I plan for my upgrade?

1

How much will it cost to upgrade?

Licenses: License prices will not increase. Contact your Amplify representative for pricing.

Materials: DIBELS 8th Edition has all new materials. These materials are available for purchase at a reduced cost from prior years at \$47 per kit, regardless of grade. These materials can also be downloaded free and printed from the University of Oregon DIBELS website.

Training: You will have the option to select from a variety of professional development supports that support your upgrade goals, including: participating in a series of free complimentary webinars, a self-paced online course, low-cost remote sessions, or in-depth in-person sessions delivered directly to educators or through a Training of Trainers approach.

2

What training will my staff need?

Teachers and administrators will need to become familiar with the changes to the measures, reports, and instructional tools. They'll need to develop fluency in administering and scoring based on new standardized guidelines, interpret student data, and identify and plan instruction using skills-focused lessons available through mCLASS.

A series of free online webinars will include embedded videos that will later be made available to your staff through mCLASS. The topics for these webinars/videos include: overview of mCLASS upgrades, basic early literacy skills, understanding your mCLASS data, forming groups and delivering small group instruction, progress monitoring, Zones of Growth, and mCLASS Instruction.

We will also provide paid, live training in the form of remote webinars and in-person sessions as well as a self-paced online course:

- ½ day upgrade training: remote (\$750) and in-person (\$2500)
- 1 day upgrade training: remote (\$1000) and in-person (\$3200)
- 1 day Training of Trainers upgrade training: remote (\$1000) and in-person (\$3200)
- 6 hour upgrade training: online course (\$49 per person)

3

Can we implement DIBELS 8th Edition with one school and phase in others afterward?

Districts must implement DIBELS 8th Edition in all schools at the beginning of the school year or wait until the following year. We currently do not plan to support partial implementations.

Due to the differences between DIBELS Next and DIBELS 8th Edition, the same assessment should be used throughout the school year to ensure consistency in the analysis of student progress and for planning instruction.

4

How long do we have to consider our upgrade to DIBELS 8th Edition?

Given the updated research and the enhancements we will make to mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition, we are excited to partner with you to upgrade for the beginning of the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year.

5

What next steps should we take to move forward with our upgrade?

Contact your Amplify representative or email renewals@amplify.com as soon as possible so we can help you implement a careful transition plan that ensures your schools will be ready for the beginning of the school year.



6

What features will be available in mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition for the beginning of the 2019–2020 school year?

We have designed a phased release plan to provide core functionality in July 2019, with additional features released throughout the year. The tentative timeline is as follows:

| July: Early start schools Benchmark Assessment | September: Traditional BOY Progress Monitoring and Instructional Support | Growth Analysis Support |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benchmark Assessment K–6• Classroom Benchmark Reports• Subset of Key Reporting and Analysis Suite Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress Monitoring K–6• Classroom Progress Monitoring Reports• Home Connect Letters• Instruction (SGA, ILA)• mCLASS Intervention Compatibility• Zones of Growth (ZoG) Goal Type Display• Amplify Reading Integration | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Reporting and Analysis Suite• ZoG Benchmark Report†• ZoG Progress Monitoring Report• Local Percentiles <p>†Will have an end-of-year growth report based on ZoG.</p> |

A limited set of features will not be included in mCLASS for the 2019-2020 school year. Development plans are under review for the Activities Tab, Lexile Linking, the CKLA Partner Edition, and DIBELS Deep.

7

Is student online administration available for DIBELS 8th Edition?

Observational testing is the most developmentally appropriate way to assess early literacy skills. Teachers gain rich information about students' abilities by listening to them read and noting, for example, hesitation on certain words, reading with accuracy at a sufficient pace, and prosody for understanding. As students grow in their foundational reading skills, online testing may be appropriate for older students with sufficient self-regulation and computer skills.

Online Benchmark for grades 2 and above: Equivalent online measures for DIBELS 8th Edition are being piloted and will be available upon completion of the research study.

How do I learn more?

We are ready to address your questions. Contact your Amplify representative or renewals@amplify.com.

In addition, the DIBELS 8th Edition **assessment manual** is available online, and the full set of assessment materials can be downloaded from the **University of Oregon DIBELS website**.

