

K-12 LITERACY SUPPORTS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

October 2, 2025



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With gratitude, we acknowledge our privilege to meet with you today on the traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən People, known today as the Songhees and Xwsepsum First Nations.

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2 Review of Agenda
- 3 K-12 Literacy Supports Community of Practice (CoP) Overview
- 4 K-12 Literacy Supports Initiative Overview
- 5 Ministry Early Literacy Screening Guidance Review, and Standardized Approach and Single Screening Tool Overview
- 6 District Literacy Professional Learning Plans Overview, Grant Reporting, FESL Guidance
- 7 Next Steps and Meeting Close



K-12 LITERACY SUPPORTS COP OVERVIEW

- Purpose of the CoP is to provide schools and districts:
 - Information and learning opportunities on K-12 literacy topics
 - Space for collaboration
 - Opportunity to discuss literacy-related supports, challenges, opportunities, and best practices
 - Learn from SMEs on specific literacy topics of interest
 - Participate in small-scale workshops
- The CoP will be facilitated by the ministry's K-12 Literacy Supports Initiative Team



K-12 LITERACY SUPPORTS INITIATIVE

- Government is investing \$30M over 3 years to improve literacy levels for BC students including more supports for students with dyslexia and learning differences
 - Initiative broadly supports literacy development for all students (K-12), with a specific focus on early literacy (K-3)
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- Highlights from **Year 1 (2024/25)** of the initiative include:
 - Providing schools and districts with professional learning grants to support capacity building and professional learning related to K-12 literacy development
 - Identifying evidence-based screening criteria and tools
 - Engagement with a technical table to better understand the literacy landscape of B.C.
 - Release of the All About Literacy resource for parents/caregivers
 - Release of the Early Literacy Screening Tools Resource and FAQs

K-12 LITERACY SUPPORTS INITIATIVE

- **Years 2 (2025/26) and 3 (2026/27)** will focus on:
 - Providing early literacy guidance on screening and screening tools
 - Supporting districts with the rollout of mandatory screening in K (as a minimum) this fall
 - Developing a standardized literacy approach and single, made-in-B.C. screening tool



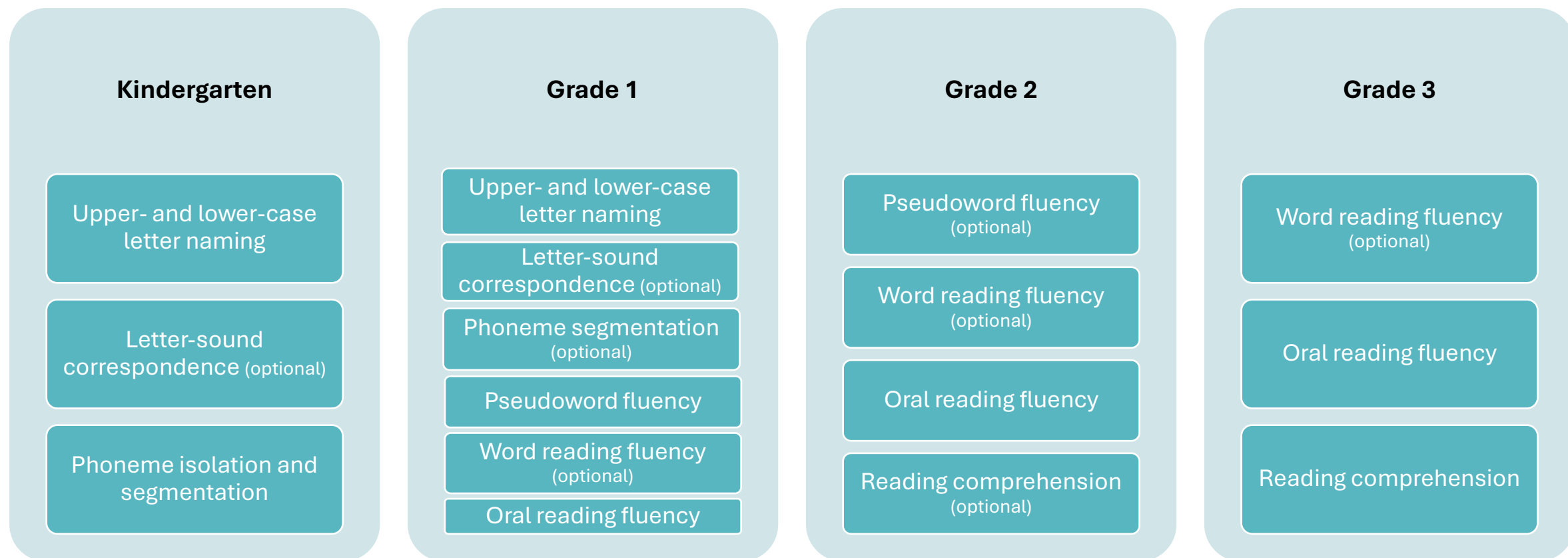
EARLY LITERACY SCREENING GUIDANCE

- Ministry criteria has been outlined in the Early Literacy Screening Tools Resource and includes:
 - **Criteria for early literacy screening tools**, ensuring tools are:
 - **Brief**
 - **Specific** (measures specific skills; may inform instruction, supports and intervention)
 - **Reliable** (produces consistent results) and **valid** (measures the intended skill)
 - **Predictive** (accurately forecasts future reading performance)
 - **Administered by a teacher**, ideally the classroom teacher



EARLY LITERACY SCREENING GUIDANCE

- As well as the minimum [Early Literacy Screening Component Criteria](#) for K-3:



EARLY LITERACY SCREENING GUIDANCE

- The resource also provides 3 **commercially available screening tools** meeting ministry criteria:

	Acadience Reading	aimswebPlus	DIBELS 8th Edition
Country of Origin	United States	United States	United States
General Information	Developed by the original DIBELS researchers. Screening tool includes all subtests.	Provided through Pearson Canada. Screening tool includes all subtests.	Developed by the University of Oregon. Screening tool includes all subtests.
Canadian Spelling	YES	YES (K-2 only)	NO
English	K-6	K-12	K-8
French	K-2	N/A	N/A
Paper – Availability & Cost	YES. Free.	N/A. Some print editions of digital materials available.	YES. Free.
Digital – Availability & Cost	YES. Cost varies based on volume and method of administration, contact for quote.	YES. aimswebPlus Reading is approximately \$6.50 per student.	YES. \$1 USD per student.
Data Storage	United States	Canada	United States
Administration Time	3-8 minutes	5-10 minutes	3-8 minutes
Training – Availability & Cost	Online, on-demand workshops. Mentor training available. Cost varies.	Online training sessions. Cost varies.	Free online on-demand training. Available trainer network and course options. Cost varies.

STANDARDIZED APPROACH & B.C. SCREENING TOOL

- Early literacy screening is a **formative assessment process**, intended to:
 - Determine where students are at in their reading skill development, and
 - Identify students who may require additional instructional supports/interventions
- Starting this fall, districts are required to screen K students (as a minimum) using:
 - a) One of the approved commercially available screening tools listed in the resource, **or**
 - b) Another commercially available screening tool that meets ministry criteria, **or**
 - c) A locally developed/adapted screening tool that meets ministry criteria
- This year, the ministry will be working to plan for a standardized approach to K-3 literacy screening for use in all schools in the coming years, including a made-in-B.C. early literacy screening tool



STANDARDIZED APPROACH & B.C. SCREENING TOOL

- A **made-in-B.C. early literacy screening tool** will be comprised of a set of 2 tools:
 - A tool in English for use in K-3; and
 - A tool in French for French immersion for use in K-3
- A homegrown tool ensures:
 - It is developed for B.C. students and reflects our curriculum, culture and local contexts; and
 - Students' early literacy skills are assessed against B.C. norms
- The tool will not be an adaptation of an existing commercially available or locally developed tool
- Anticipated to be ready for provincial use in the 2027/28 school year

BREAKOUT ROOM #1: B.C.'S APPROACH TO SCREENING

30mins

Discussion Questions

- What do you think is most important to reflect in a B.C. approach and homegrown screening tool?
- What kinds of communications, materials and professional learning opportunities are needed to support teachers and school staff with the implementation of screening?
- What are the most difficult screening-related questions you need ministry support to answer?



Scan the QR code or email us at:

Literacy.Supports@gov.bc.ca



DISTRICT LITERACY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLANS

- Purpose of the professional learning grants is to:
 - Build capacity of classroom teachers and district staff to deliver
 - Evidence-based literacy instruction
 - Literacy screening for K-3 students
 - Literacy interventions for K-12 students
 - Provide literacy information and resources to parents/caregivers
- Districts will develop professional learning plans and use funding to meet the literacy needs in their district, for example:
 - Supporting screening this year by investing in a low-cost, paper-based tool for immediate use **and/or**
 - Investing in professional learning broadly focused on literacy instruction/intervention that is not dependent on a specific tool



REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Reporting requirements under the **Professional Learning Grants**, include:
 - Literacy Professional Learning Plans due **October 17, 2025**
 - First annual grant expenditure report due **June 30, 2026**
 - Second annual grant expenditure report due **July 15, 2027** (if all funds were not spent by June 30, 2026)
- Under the grant, districts are also required to submit **K-12 Literacy Reports through FESL**, alongside Enhanced Student Learning Reports and Interim Progress Reports:
 - K-12 Literacy Reports due between **June 30 and October 1 each year** (optional in 2025, required in 2026 and 2027)

BREAKOUT ROOM #2: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLANS

30mins

Discussion Topics:

- Literacy Professional Learning Plans
 - Supporting screening in Kindergarten
 - Teacher professional learning
 - Supporting literacy instruction and intervention
 - Scaling up screening to K-3



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UPCOMING KEY DATES

October 17

District Literacy Professional Learning Plans due

December 11

Webinar on Early Literacy Skills

February 12

Next CoP meeting


QUESTIONS?

Please send any remaining questions
or suggestions to:

K-12 Literacy Supports Initiative Team at

Literacy.Supports@gov.bc.ca





**K-12 Literacy Supports
Initiative Team**



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THANK YOU