

Actions to Improve Early Literacy in Saskatchewan

Principals and Teachers:

As part of the Provincial Education Plan, the Ministry of Education is working with education partners to improve early literacy and reading instruction.

Focusing on Kindergarten to Grade 3 reading is a key priority for Saskatchewan. Having students read at the appropriate grade level is one of the most important measures to guarantee future academic success. Students who learn to read by Grade 3 will read to learn in higher grades.

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has also emphasized the need for screening students to identify reading difficulties and building teacher expertise in reading instruction.

The actions to improve early literacy include:

- implementing provincially approved reading screeners;
- renewing the English Kindergarten to Grade 3 curricula align with evidence-based best practices for reading acquisition;
- reviewing the French Immersion and Fransaskois curricula; and,
- building teacher expertise in structured literacy.

Reading Screener

A reading screener is an evidence-based assessment that identifies students who are at risk for or are experiencing reading difficulties, so they can receive more targeted instruction or immediate intervention.

The Ministry of Education has provided education organizations with a suite of valid and reliable reading screening assessments, including support materials for teachers. The assessments in the “Provincial Reading Screeners” were developed by international literacy experts and are aligned with the Saskatchewan reading scope and sequence.

Vision

Every child will have the opportunity to become a skilled and confident reader through evidence-based literacy approaches that provide a foundation for lifelong learning.

(Developed together with Saskatchewan reading experts.)

For more information on the Provincial Reading Screeners, please visit the Early Literacy Portal: earlyliteracy.edonline.sk.ca

Actions to Improve Early Literacy

Questions and Answers

Why are we investing in early reading?

One in three Grade 3 students in Saskatchewan are reading below grade level. As Grade 3 reading proficiency is the single greatest predictor of academic success, focusing on early literacy is the right thing to do for Saskatchewan students.

Who will be screened?

All students in Kindergarten to Grade 3.

When will the screeners be administered?

The minimum number of screens per grade is provided in the chart below. Teachers may choose to screen students more often to monitor progress.

	Fall	Winter	Spring*
K		✓	
Gr. 1	✓	✓	✓
Gr. 2	✓	✓	✓
Gr. 3	✓	✓	✓

*Spring screens must be completed for students who were identified as requiring additional supports in the Winter screen and may be completed for all students at the discretion of the education organization.

The Early Literacy Portal contains a detailed schedule for each of the screeners at each grade level: earlyliteracy.edonline.sk.ca

When will I get results and how can I use them?

Screeners provide timely feedback for teachers to help identify students' reading difficulties.

Once reading difficulties are identified, teachers can provide targeted interventions to support students in improving their reading skill acquisition.

What do I report to the ministry?

For the 2025-26 school year only, school organizations will not be required to submit reading data to the ministry. Mindful of the nature of this transition year, school divisions have the autonomy to share local 2025-26 reading data with their Boards. The ministry will engage with the sector to discuss what data collection and reporting will look like in the 2026-27 school year.

Where can teachers access supports?

Building teacher expertise is essential to the successful implementation of these actions to improve early literacy. The Early Literacy Portal will contain resources to support teachers, including videos demonstrating how to administer the Provincial Reading Screeners, as well as intervention materials teachers may use when a student has been identified as "requiring additional supports."