

# Literacy Assessment RFAP Vendor Questions and Department Responses

## Question 1:

**Can you clarify whether this RFAP allows vendors to submit an assessment for only grades 3–6, or whether approval must cover the full K–6 grade span?**

Vendors can submit an assessment for any individual grade or subset of grades within the K-6 span.

## Question 2:

**What are the minimum thresholds required for reliability and validity, e.g., AUC, sensitivity/specificity, etc.?**

Vendors are asked to complete the submission form with the most accurate and representative technical characteristics for the required exhibits. The Department will review the information provided in relation to established criteria.

The Department will not make minimum thresholds for reliability and validity known. This practice was affirmed by an administrative law judge in *Edmentum, Inc. v. Iowa Department of Education*, No. 24DOE0012 (Aug. 30, 2024) ("Nothing in either the Iowa Administrative Procedure act, the relevant statute, or the rule required the Department to pre-publish" the "threshold value" at issue "or otherwise make it known to potential offerors.") The Department will adhere to this precedent.

## Question 3:

**We have a tool that is currently approved for a subset of grades. If we wish to submit for additional grade levels, should we submit only for those grade levels or should we resubmit for the entire span even if the approved subset of grades' evidence has not changed?**

Submit for the grade levels to be reviewed. In the scenario described, it would be sufficient to submit for those additional grades.

## Question 4:

**Does the state require universal literacy screeners to assess oral reading fluency?**

No.

## Question 5:

**Does assessment of at least one fluency standard in the Iowa Academic Standards meet the state's requirement for universal literacy screeners?**

Assessment of fluency standards in the Iowa Academic Standards is not a requirement of universal literacy screeners.

**Question 6:**

**Are there minimum data values per grade level that need to be met for the AUC, Sensitivity and Specificity, and Reliability criteria for literacy universal screener submissions?**

See Question 2.

**Question 7:**

**Are there minimum data values per grade level that need to be met for the Reliability requirement for literacy progress monitoring submissions?**

See Question 2.

**Question 8:**

**As indicated in the solicitation on page 1, "Assessments are reviewed and approved separately by grade (K-6) and purpose (i.e., universal screening, progress monitoring)."We have several assessments approved on the Department's Early Literacy approved list, in both screening and progress monitoring. However, some of our approvals do not extend to all grades our products support. May vendors submit applications for already-approved assessments, but only for specific grades not covered by the current approvals?**

Yes.

**Question 9:**

**As indicated in the solicitation, "Assessments are reviewed and approved separately by grade (K-6) and purpose (i.e., universal screening, progress monitoring)."We have several assessments approved on the Department's Early Literacy approved list. However, some of our assessments are only approved as a universal screener but not for progress monitoring, and vice versa. If, for example, an assessment is an approved universal screener but not an approved progress monitor, can vendors submit a progress monitor-only application for that assessment?**

Yes.

**If this is acceptable, in this scenario, is it appropriate for vendors to submit "N/A" in response to all universal screening requirements (Section 2) and respond only to requirements related to progress monitoring and both uses (Sections 1, 3–6 and Form 122) without compromising our current approvals?**

Yes.

**Question 10:**

**"Assessments currently on the approved lists will remain on those lists." Can the DOE confirm that those already on the list do not need to submit a new application?**

Confirmed.

**Question 11:**

**Can the department share the evaluation criteria or minimum technical characteristics required for inclusion for universal screening and progress monitoring?**

See Question 2.

**Question 12:**

**[Assessment Name] is already approved as a universal screener, so we will be applying only for Progress Monitoring. Given that, should we still submit a correlations document?**

If applying for progress monitoring, complete those sections required for progress monitoring submission, i.e., Section 1, Section 3, Section 4 and Section 6. If the "correlations document" is part of the required supporting evidence, provide it where needed. If the "correlations document" is not part of the required supporting evidence, do not provide.

**Question 13:**

**Since our application is limited to Progress Monitoring, is it necessary to complete Section 2: Universal Screening Specifications?**

No

**Question 14:**

**Because [Assessment Name] is already on the universal screener list, we are submitting for Progress Monitoring only. Please clarify whether you require information covering all reporting capabilities, including those for universal screening, or only those that apply to Progress Monitoring.**

If applying for progress monitoring, complete those sections required for progress monitoring, i.e., Section 1, Section 3, Section 4 and Section 6.

**Question 15:**

**The response document requests specifications for Benchmarking and Progress Monitoring. Would we still need to complete the Progress Monitoring if the information would be a duplicate of what is posted in Benchmarking? All of our measures have been scaled to be equivalent, so all the reliability data apply for both. Should we copy everything over even if it is duplicated?**

Vendors can submit for universal screening, progress monitoring or both. Vendors are to submit specifications for the purpose (i.e., universal screening or progress monitoring) for which they wish to apply. The table indicates that Section 1, Section 2, Section 4, and Section 6 are required for universal screening and Section 1, Section 3, Section 4, and Section 6 are required for progress monitoring.