

Foundations of Reading Test Pass Rates 2026

Teacher preparation programs were required to administer the Foundations of Reading test (FoRT) and report the results. This report shows candidates who were tested between Aug. 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026.

The passing score, set by the Iowa Department of Education (Department), is 240, which is the national benchmark. The report includes the percentage of candidates at each institution in relation to the passing score, number of test takers and learning support services or opportunities for students to retake the test. **As of Aug. 1, 2026, the Iowa overall passage rate was 52%.**

For questions about this report email idoie.edprep@iowa.gov.

Institution of Higher Education (IHE)	Percent At or Above Passing Score (240)	Percent Below Passing Score (239 and under)	Number of Candidates Tested	Services or Opportunities to Retake the Assessment
Briar Cliff University	above 50%	-	< 10*	Require remediation with an additional course
Buena Vista University	40%	60%	58	Require individual tutoring
Central College	89%	11%	18	Require online remediation (externally developed)
Clarke University	36%	64%	11	Require online remediation (externally developed)
Coe College	above 50%	-	< 10*	Require remediation with an additional course
Cornell College	above 50%	-	< 10*	Require online remediation (externally developed)
Dordt University	86%	14%	36	Require online remediation (externally developed)
Drake University	69%	31%	13	- Offer online remediation (externally developed) - Offer individual tutoring
Emmaus University	above 50%	-	< 10*	Require online remediation (externally developed)
Faith Baptist Bible College	above 50%	-	< 10*	Require online remediation (externally developed)
Graceland University	27%	73%	11	- Require online remediation (internally developed) - Require remediation with an additional course

Institution of Higher Education (IHE)	Percent At or Above Passing Score (240)	Percent Below Passing Score (239 and under)	Number of Candidates Tested	Services or Opportunities to Retake the Assessment
Grand View University	63%	37%	27	• Offer online remediation (externally developed) • Offer individual tutoring
Grinnell College	no report required	-	-	This IHE does not prepare candidates in this area
Iowa State University	65%	35%	141	• Require online remediation (externally developed)
Loras College	above 50%	-	< 10*	• Require online remediation (externally developed) • Individualized remediation plans
Luther College	80%	20%	10	• Require online remediation (externally developed)
Morningside University	67%	33%	39	• Require online remediation (externally developed) • Offer individual tutoring
Northwestern College	62%	38%	34	• Require online remediation (externally developed) • Offer individual tutoring • Require to take an internally developed test
RAPIL - Regents Alternative Pathway to Iowa Licensure	no report required	-	-	This IHE does not prepare candidates in this area
St. Ambrose/Mount Mercy University	68%	32%	37	• Require online remediation (externally developed) • Offer individual tutoring • Individual meetings with advisor
Simpson College	above 50%	-	< 10*	• Offer remediation with an additional course • Option to retake exam
University of Dubuque	70%	30%	20	• EPP voucher for initial attempt • Require individual tutoring
University of Iowa	55%	45%	123	• Offer online remediation (internally developed)

Institution of Higher Education (IHE)	Percent At or Above Passing Score (240)	Percent Below Passing Score (239 and under)	Number of Candidates Tested	Services or Opportunities to Retake the Assessment
University of Northern Iowa	37%	63%	308	• Offer online remediation (externally developed) • Offer individual tutoring • Offer remediation with an additional course
Upper Iowa University	27%	73%	56	• Offer online remediation (externally developed) • Offer individual tutoring • Online module supporting each section of FORT
Viterbo University	no report required	-	-	This IHE does not prepare candidates in this area
Waldorf University	below 50%	-	< 10*	• Require online remediation (externally developed)
Wartburg College	63%	37%	19	• Offer online remediation (externally developed)
William Penn University	39%	61%	23	• Require online remediation (externally developed)

* less than ten candidates were tested from this institution

About the Report

- This report includes the percentage of candidates in teacher preparation programs (TPP) whose score on the FORT is below, at or above the passing score.
- The report indicates services or opportunities to retake the assessment that the institution makes available.

About the Scores

- Scores earned on the FORT should not be interpreted as a sole method to assess the quality of individual candidates or their overall readiness to teach.
 - Scores are a snapshot of how individuals performed on the day they took the test, reflecting performance on a standardized assessment.
 - Programs have remediation options for those who did not pass (examples are listed in the table) so candidate knowledge about topics assessed on the test is not fixed.
- Passing the FORT is not a measure of an individual candidate's likelihood of obtaining licensure, as passing the test is not a licensure requirement.
- Scores do not account for candidate progression in their academic program; some may have taken the test early or late in their coursework.
- Scores can be used as a tool for programs to identify program-level and candidate strengths and areas of improvement, as the test includes performance across multiple subareas with multiple-choice and open-response sections.

Considerations for Interpretation of FORT Data

- **Timing of Test Administration.** Consideration should be given to the fact that pass-rate variance may occur depending on when in the program candidates are required to take the test. Programs have flexibility in determining the point, within their sequence, that candidates complete the assessment.
- **Curriculum Revisions.** As of July 1, 2024, legislation requires programs to align their curriculum with the Science of Reading. In response, many programs have continued to revise coursework and instructional sequences to meet these standards.
 - **FORT Performance Data.** Programs will use performance data to make targeted curriculum revisions. Results include performance across specific objectives, including: Foundations of Reading Development, Development of Reading Comprehension, Reading Assessment and Instruction and Integration of Knowledge and Understanding.
- **Anticipated Growth.** As programs refine curricula and candidates experience clinical opportunities aligned with Science of Reading practices, pass rates are expected to continue improving.

Resources Available from the Department and Program Analysis

The Department has provided [resources](#) for faculty and candidates such as [Iowa Literacy Educator Preparation Workbook](#), which allows preparation programs to self evaluate and improve their curricula to align with the [Iowa State Comprehensive Literacy Plan](#). Department consultants facilitated peer-evaluation and planned two literacy summits (June 5-6, 2025 and June 3-4, 2026) for educator preparation to focus on continuous improvement, in addition to the regular program review cycles. Programs with passage rates below the state average are required to submit the [FORT Data Analysis and Reflection Tool](#) identifying next steps for increasing passage rates; and identification of internal assessments utilized to ensure candidate preparedness in literacy competencies prior to licensure.

Resources Available from Pearson

- [Assessment Framework Worksheet](#)- resource for institutions to align curriculum with the objectives for the Foundations of Reading test.
- [Prepare Page](#)- includes the Foundations of Reading Framework, sample questions for each objective, practice test links, Right Start links, etc.
- [Right Start](#)- self-paced, interactive course that can be purchased to provide candidates with knowledge and skills to prepare for the test.
- [Practice Test](#)- free resource for candidates to help prepare them for the FORT. There is also a [Multiple-Choice Question Analyses](#) that provides support by explaining the correct answer for each question.

For questions about this report, email ido.eedprep@iowa.gov.