

Budget Unit: Early Warning System for Literacy

BU Number: 282TP060001

Overview

The Early Warning System for Literacy provides reading assessments for Prekindergarten through Grade 6 to detect students deficient in reading. Local school districts use universal screening and progress monitoring assessments, and store student performance data on a statewide database. The Department of Education (DE) provides the assessments at no cost to schools. The Early Warning System consists of three parts:

- Universal screening identifies students at-risk for reading difficulties. These assessments are administered to all students three times a year, in the fall, winter, and spring. Universal screening measures are brief assessments that focus on a variety of targeted skills.
- Progress monitoring assessments are administered to students receiving additional instruction or intervention, to determine if students are improving in reading.
- Iowa TIER (Tools for Innovation and Educational Results) is a data system with the capability to store universal screening, intervention, and progress monitoring data for every student in the state.

State Purchased Assessments

The DE has purchased the following assessments for school districts:

- [Formative Assessment System for Teachers](#) (FAST): a suite of online assessments for Kindergarten through Grade 6 that provides universal screening and progress monitoring.
- [Individual Growth and Development Indicators](#) (IGDIs): a set of online assessments for Prekindergarten that provides universal screening.

School districts are not required to administer FAST and IGDIs. They may purchase different assessments, as long as they are deemed reliable and valid. The DE has identified acceptable options listed on the [DE website](#). Currently, more than 90.0% of public schools utilize FAST and IGDIs.

Training

The Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC) partners with Iowa's colleges and universities to align statewide literacy initiatives with pre-service teacher preparation. All 29 of Iowa's colleges and universities with elementary teacher preparation programs have participated in training to administer and use the FAST and IGDIs assessments. The IRRC provides and supports Iowa's colleges and universities with their own data system, identical to Iowa TIER, to train future educators in practicum and pre-service settings.

Funding

For FY 2016, the Department received \$2.0 million in state appropriations for the Early Warning System for Literacy initiative. The Department may secure \$1.2 million from other sources to provide total funding of \$3.2 million, the amount the Department considers necessary to meet requirements in Iowa Code section [279.68](#).

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Chapter Code: [279.68](#)

Iowa Administrative Code: [281.62 IAC](#)

Early Warning System - Funding by Source		
	FY 2014	FY 2015
Department of Education Administration Budget Unit	\$ 0	\$ 1,983,748
Early Warning System Budget Unit	0	0
<i>Early Childhood Special Education (Part B)</i>	959,225	480,732
Teacher Development Academies	530,713	240,872
Iowa Reading Research Center	1,740,000	531,300
<i>Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title VI</i>	0	949,190
<i>Statewide Longitudinal Data System</i>	0	200,000
<i>Safe and Supportive Schools Grant</i>	0	91,740
Totals	<u>\$ 3,229,938</u>	<u>\$ 4,477,581</u>

NOTES: Totals may not sum due to rounding. Italicized items indicate federal funding.
The FY 2015 expenditures included additional one-time set-up and implementation costs.

More Information

Iowa's Early Warning System for Literacy: <http://www.iowareadingresearch.org/reading-in-iowa/literacy-warning-system/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

LSA Staff Contact: Tim Crellin (515-725-1286) timothy.crellin@legis.iowa.gov