

CHAPTER 62  
STATE STANDARDS FOR PROGRESSION IN READING

**281—62.1(256,279) Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to implement Iowa Code section 279.68. All rules in this chapter shall be construed and applied to meet the following standard: all actions under this chapter must provide reasonable expectation that a student's progress toward reading proficiency is sufficient to master appropriate grade four level reading skills prior to the student's promotion to grade four.

[ARC 1331C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14]

**281—62.2(256,279) Assessment of reading proficiency.** All school districts shall assess reading proficiency of all students, as required by this rule.

**62.2(1) *Assessment at beginning of school year.*** A school district shall assess all students enrolled in kindergarten through grade three at the beginning of each school year for the students' level of reading or reading readiness.

**62.2(2) *Subsequent assessments throughout school year.*** A school district shall provide to all students additional, brief assessments of reading achievement in a manner required by the department, using assessments that meet the standards described in subrule 62.2(5).

**62.2(3) *Progress-monitoring instruments.*** For students identified as being persistently at risk in reading, as well as students who are becoming persistently at risk in reading, a school district shall monitor the students' progress in reading with instruments that meet the standards in subrule 62.2(5), in at least a frequency required by the department.

**62.2(4) *Statewide or locally determined assessments.*** Assessments may be locally determined or statewide, including an annual standard-based assessment, provided that all assessments for purposes of implementing this chapter meet the standards described in subrule 62.2(5).

**62.2(5) *Standards for approval for assessments.*** Any assessment of reading or reading readiness required by this rule and used to implement this chapter shall meet the following minimum standards before use by a school district.

*a. Standards for all assessments.* Any assessment used under this chapter, including instruments described in paragraphs 62.2(5) "b" and "c," shall meet department-adopted minimum standards for reliability and validity, at the appropriate grade level and for the skills assessed. In addition, all assessments must have information available concerning administration time per student, access to student data after completion, and amount of teacher training required.

*b. Standards for universal-screening instruments.* Any assessment used for universal-screening purposes under this chapter shall meet department-adopted minimum standards for the following statistical measures: area under the curve and specificity/sensitivity.

*c. Standards for progress-monitoring instruments.* Any assessment used for progress-monitoring purposes under this chapter shall meet department-adopted standards for number of forms of demonstrated equivalence and for the following statistical measure: reliability of slope.

*d. Department publication of approved assessments.* The department shall annually publish or update a list of assessments approved pursuant to this subrule. Approved assessments will have a demonstrated ability to predict future reading performance.

**62.2(6) *Basic levels of reading proficiency on approved assessments.*** The department shall determine benchmarks for basic levels of reading proficiency to be used with approved assessments based on the ability to predict meaningful future outcomes of a student's reading performance that is sufficient to master appropriate grade four reading skills prior to the student's promotion to grade four.

**62.2(7) *Assessment measures.*** Assessments administered to implement this chapter, when taken as a whole, shall measure phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

**62.2(8) *Noncompliant assessments.*** Assessments that do not meet the requirements of this rule shall not be used by any school district to implement this chapter.

[ARC 1331C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14; ARC 2862C, IAB 12/7/16, effective 1/11/17]

**281—62.3(256,279) Tools for evaluating and reevaluating reading proficiency.** The department identifies the following attributes of tools that may be used in evaluating and reevaluating reading proficiency.

**62.3(1) *Locally determined or statewide assessments.*** In evaluating and reevaluating students who are or may be at risk or persistently at risk in reading, school districts shall use assessments that meet the standards referenced in subrule 62.2(5).

**62.3(2) *Alternative assessments.*** If a school district determines, based on the clear and unique facts of a particular student's case, that a particular student requires an alternative assessment to determine proficiency in reading, in addition to the assessments referred to in rule 281—62.2(256,279) and subrule 62.3(1), the alternative assessment shall be founded on scientifically based research and shall be reasonably calculated to provide equivalent information about the student's reading, in addition to information provided by the assessments referred to in rule 281—62.2(256,279) and subrule 62.3(1).

**62.3(3) *Portfolio reviews.*** School districts may review a portfolio of a student's work to determine reading proficiency. Portfolio reviews must be conducted using standard review criteria that are founded on scientifically based research. A portfolio review may be used along with assessments required in rule 281—62.2(256,279) and subrule 62.3(1) but shall not be used in lieu of such assessments. The department shall maintain a list of portfolio review criteria that are adequate under this subrule.

**62.3(4) *Teacher observation.*** A student may initially be identified as being persistently at risk in reading proficiency based on teacher observation. A teacher observation under this subrule shall be based on department-approved observation criteria. Teacher observation shall not be used to determine that a student continues to be persistently at risk in reading.

**62.3(5) *Other tools.*** The department may identify additional tools for use in evaluating and reevaluating reading proficiency, so long as those tools are founded on scientifically based research.

**62.3(6) *Alternate assessment.*** If an individual with a disability has been determined to require an alternate assessment aligned to alternate academic achievement standards in reading, pursuant to rule 281—41.320(256B,34CFR300), that individual shall receive such alternate assessment, as well as alternate universal screening and progress monitoring required by this chapter on instruments approved by the department.

**62.3(7) *Noncompliant tools.*** Tools that do not meet the requirements of this rule shall not be used by any school district to implement this chapter.

[ARC 1331C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14; ARC 2862C, IAB 12/7/16, effective 1/11/17; ARC 3291C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17]

**281—62.4(256,279) Identification of a student as being persistently at risk in reading.** A school district shall follow this rule in determining whether a student in kindergarten through grade three is persistently at risk in reading.

**62.4(1) *Definition of "persistently at risk in reading."*** A school district shall determine that a student is "persistently at risk in reading" if, based on the requirements of this chapter, the student has not met the grade-level benchmarks on two consecutive screening assessments administered pursuant to this chapter. A student is "at risk in reading" if the student did not meet the grade-level benchmark for one of the two most recent screening assessments administered pursuant to this chapter.

**62.4(2) *Determination of a persistent risk in reading.***

*a.* In initially determining whether a student is persistently at risk in reading as defined in subrule 62.4(1), the school district shall consider assessments referred to in rule 281—62.2(256,279) and subrule 62.3(1) or teacher observations that meet the criteria referenced in subrule 62.3(4).

*b.* In determining whether a student continues to be persistently at risk in reading, a school district shall consider assessments referred to in rule 281—62.2(256,279) and subrule 62.3(1), with specific attention given to progress-monitoring results under subrule 62.2(3).

**62.4(3) *Services offered to all students who are persistently at risk in reading.*** A school district shall provide intensive reading instruction to any student who is persistently at risk in reading, as defined in subrule 62.4(1). A school district shall continue to provide the student with intensive reading instruction until the student is reading at grade level, at grade levels beyond grade three if necessary, as determined

by the student's consistently proficient performance on valid and reliable measures of reading ability that meet the requirements of rule 281—62.2(256,279). All services provided under this subrule shall comply with rule 281—62.6(256,279).

**62.4(4) Notice to parents.** The parent or guardian of any student in kindergarten through grade three who is persistently at risk in reading, as defined in subrule 62.4(1), shall be notified regularly in writing and shall be provided all of the following:

- a. A description of the services currently provided to the child;
- b. A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that the school district will provide to the child that are designed to remediate the identified area or areas in which the student is persistently at risk in reading;
- c. Strategies for parents and guardians to use in helping the student read proficiently, including but not limited to the promotion of parent-guided home reading; and
- d. Regular updates regarding the student's progress toward reaching or exceeding the targeted level of reading proficiency.

[ARC 1331C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14; ARC 2862C, IAB 12/7/16, effective 1/11/17; ARC 3291C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17]

**281—62.5(256,279) Intensive summer reading program.** Rescinded ARC 3291C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17.

**281—62.6(256,279) Successful progression for early readers.** Each school district shall provide the following.

**62.6(1) Intensive instructional services.** A school district shall provide students who are persistently at risk in reading under subrule 62.4(2) with intensive instructional services and supports, free of charge, to remediate the areas in which students are not proficient in reading. The intensive instructional services are further described in subrule 62.6(2).

a. Intensive instructional services under this subrule shall include a minimum of 90 minutes daily of scientific research-based reading instruction, which shall be core instruction.

b. In addition to the instruction described in paragraph 62.6(1) "a," a school district shall prescribe other strategies, which may include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Small group instruction.
- (2) Reduced teacher-student ratios.
- (3) More frequent progress monitoring.
- (4) Tutoring or mentoring.
- (5) Extended school day, week, or year.
- (6) Summer reading programs.

**62.6(2) Reading enhancement and acceleration development initiative.** The intensive instructional services described in subrule 62.6(1) shall be provided to all students in kindergarten through grade three who are identified as being persistently at risk in reading, as determined pursuant to subrule 62.4(2). The services shall meet the following requirements:

a. A school district shall provide intensive instructional services during regular school hours, in addition to the regular reading instruction.

b. A school district shall provide a reading curriculum that meets the standards of subrule 62.6(3).

**62.6(3) Reading curriculum for students who are persistently at risk in reading.** A curriculum that does not meet the standards of this subrule shall not be used to implement this chapter. To implement this subrule, a school district shall provide a curriculum that meets the following guidelines and specifications:

a. Assists students assessed as persistently at risk in reading to develop the skills to read at grade level. Assistance shall include but not be limited to strategies that formally address dyslexia, when appropriate. For purposes of this paragraph, "dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin, is characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities, and may include difficulties that typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive

abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction, as well as secondary consequences such as problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

*b.* Provides skill development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

*c.* Is supported by scientifically based research in reading.

*d.* Is implemented by certified instructional staff with appropriate training and professional development. Such training and professional development shall meet the requirements of rule 281—83.6(284).

*e.* Is implemented by certified instructional staff with fidelity, which shall meet such standards for fidelity of implementation that the department may adopt.

*f.* Includes a scientifically based and reliable assessment, which shall meet the requirements of rule 281—62.1(256,279).

*g.* Provides initial and ongoing analysis of each student’s reading progress, which shall meet the requirements of rule 281—62.1(256,279), with notice provided to parents pursuant to subrule 62.6(4).

*h.* Is implemented during regular school hours.

*i.* Provides a curriculum in core academic subjects to assist the student in maintaining or meeting proficiency levels for the appropriate grade in all academic subjects.

**62.6(4) Parent notice, involvement and support.** At a minimum and in addition to other requirements of this chapter, school districts shall provide the following to all parents or guardians of students who are persistently at risk in reading:

*a.* At regular intervals, a school district shall apprise the parent or guardian of academic and other progress being made by the student and give the parent or guardian other useful information.

*b.* In addition to required reading enhancement and acceleration strategies provided to students, a school district shall provide parents or guardians of students who are persistently at risk in reading under subrule 62.4(2) with a plan outlined in a parental contract, including participation in regular parent-guided home reading.

**62.6(5) Report to the department.** Each school district shall report to the department the specific intensive reading interventions and supports implemented by the school district pursuant to this chapter. The department shall annually prescribe the components of required or requested reports.

**62.6(6) Rule of construction: students who are at risk in reading.** Subject to paragraphs 62.6(6) “a” and “b,” school districts may voluntarily provide additional services and interventions to students who are “at risk in reading” as defined in subrule 62.4(1).

*a.* School districts must provide progress monitoring to students who are “at risk in reading.”

*b.* If a student who was previously “persistently at risk” and is currently identified as “at risk” and falls below the grade-level benchmark on a locally determined number of progress monitoring probes, the student must be provided services under this rule until the next screening assessment administered pursuant to this chapter.

[ARC 1331C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14; ARC 2862C, IAB 12/7/16, effective 1/11/17; ARC 5873C, IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21]

**281—62.7(256,279) Promotion to grade four.** Rescinded ARC 3291C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17.

**281—62.8(256,279) Good-cause exemption.** Rescinded ARC 3291C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17.

**281—62.9(256,279) Ensuring continuous improvement in reading proficiency.**

**62.9(1) Reading proficiency addressed in comprehensive school improvement plan.** To ensure all children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade, each school district shall address reading proficiency as part of its comprehensive school improvement plan, drawing upon information about students from assessments and reassessment conducted pursuant to this chapter and the prevalence of areas in which students are persistently at risk in reading, identified by classroom, elementary school, and other student characteristics.

**62.9(2) *Review of chronic early absenteeism.*** As part of its comprehensive school improvement plan, each school district shall review chronic early elementary absenteeism for its impact on literacy development.

**62.9(3) *Attendance centers with lower levels of reading proficiency.*** If more than 15 percent of an attendance center's students are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade, the comprehensive school improvement plan shall include strategies to reduce that percentage, including school and community strategies to raise the percentage of students who are reading at grade level. Strategies adopted under this subrule shall meet the requirements of this chapter.

**62.9(4) *Professional development.*** Each school district, subject to an appropriation of funds by the general assembly, shall provide professional development services to enhance the skills of elementary teachers in responding to children's unique reading issues and needs and to increase the use of evidence-based strategies.

**62.9(5) *Relationship between this chapter and the department's general accreditation standards.*** In addition to the requirement in subrule 62.9(1), the department shall consider compliance with and performance under this chapter in its enforcement of the general accreditation standards and school improvement process described in 281—Chapter 12.

[ARC 1331C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14; ARC 2862C, IAB 12/7/16, effective 1/11/17]

#### **281—62.10(256,279) Miscellaneous provisions.**

**62.10(1) *Services beyond third grade.*** Students who are identified as persistently at risk in reading at the end of third grade remain entitled to intensive reading instruction. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a school district from determining a student above third grade is persistently at risk in reading or from providing services to a student so identified.

**62.10(2) *Database.*** In implementing subrule 62.6(5), the department may require school districts to enter assessment and progress monitoring data into a statewide database.

**62.10(3) *Accredited nonpublic schools.*** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent an accredited nonpublic school from voluntarily complying with this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the department from offering universal screening or progress monitoring instruments to accredited nonpublic school students or to prevent the department from allowing inclusion of those students' data in the database described in subrule 62.10(2).

**62.10(4) *Rule of construction.*** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require a school district to select a particular assessment, instrument, tool, curriculum, or program, so long as the assessment, instrument, tool, curriculum, or program used meets the requirements of this chapter.

[ARC 1331C, IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14; ARC 2862C, IAB 12/7/16, effective 1/11/17; ARC 3291C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 279.68 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 642, sections 27 through 30.

[Filed ARC 1331C (Notice ARC 1245C, IAB 12/11/13), IAB 2/19/14, effective 3/26/14]

[Filed ARC 2862C (Notice ARC 2762C, IAB 10/12/16), IAB 12/7/16, effective 1/11/17]

[Filed ARC 3291C (Notice ARC 3149C, IAB 7/5/17), IAB 8/30/17, effective 10/4/17]

[Filed ARC 5873C (Notice ARC 5663C, IAB 6/2/21), IAB 8/25/21, effective 9/29/21]