

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Early Warning System for Literacy

Overview

The Early Warning System for Literacy provides reading assessments for Prekindergarten through Grade 6 to detect students persistently at-risk 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 provides the assessments at no cost to schools, though the appropriation for the program in FY 2016 and FY 2017 was not sufficient to fund the entire program.

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 Department 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 Department has identified [acceptable options](#) listed on the Department 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 preservice 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 2017, the Department received \$2.0 million in state appropriations for the Early Warning System for Literacy, which is insufficient to fully fund the program. The Department may secure additional funds from other sources, including billing school districts for a portion of the cost, to provide a funding amount the Department considers necessary to meet the requirements in Iowa Code section [279.68](#). As of FY 2017, the Department has not billed school districts for the cost of the system.

The chart on the following page displays expenditures for the Early Warning System by funding source for FY 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016.

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>

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Early Warning System for Literacy

Early Warning System - Expenditures by Source			
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Department of Education Administration Budget Unit	\$ 0	\$ 1,983,748	\$ 0
Early Warning System Budget Unit	0	0	1,915,000
<i>Early Childhood Special Education (Part B)</i>	959,225	480,732	2,063,600
Teacher Development Academies	530,713	240,872	186,000
Iowa Reading Research Center	1,740,000	531,300	0
<i>Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title VI</i>	0	949,190	725,000
<i>Statewide Longitudinal Data System</i>	0	200,000	0
<i>Safe and Supportive Schools Grant</i>	0	91,740	0
Career Development	0	0	80,000
	\$ 3,229,938	\$ 4,477,581	\$ 4,969,600
<p>NOTES: Totals may not sum due to rounding. Italicized items indicate federal funding. The contract period for FY 2014 includes the last 3.5 months of FY 2013 .</p>			

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [279.68](#)
[281](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [62](#)

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