MPS Literacy Assessments

Assessments used to measure literacy progress are listed below. Families are encouraged to ask their child’s teachers for more information about each assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Grade(s)</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT Aspire American College Test</td>
<td>9 – 10</td>
<td>Monitor progress towards college and career readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT American College Test</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Measure academic readiness for college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Early Literacy and STAR Reading</td>
<td>K – 8</td>
<td>Identify whether your child is likely to meet, not meet, or exceed grade level benchmarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>PALS Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening</td>
<td>K4 – 2</td>
<td>Identify whether your child is likely to meet, not meet, or exceed grade level benchmarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>WI State Assessment</td>
<td>3 – 8</td>
<td>Measure career and college readiness</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAR Early Literacy and STAR Reading</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>Identifies students strengths and areas of need for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAR Progress Monitoring</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>Monitors progress of literacy skills for students who had identified needs</td>
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What is literacy?
Literacy consists of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language. The MPS Comprehensive Literacy Plan provides a framework for high-quality literacy instruction and learning. Literacy strategies are included in other subject areas such as science and math.

What does literacy in the classroom look like?

- **Whole group instruction** – At the start of literacy time, teachers introduce lessons and read aloud to children; at the end of literacy time, children share learning while teachers check for understanding as well as review and wrap up the lesson.

- **Small group instruction** – Children participate in literacy learning in a small group with the teacher.

- **Literacy work stations** – Stations provide children with opportunities to independently apply literacy skills and strategies to activities including the use of media and technology; research and inquiry; language and vocabulary; and writing.

How will I know if my child is struggling with literacy?
Your child may struggle with literacy if you notice any of the following:

- Difficulty reading aloud
- Difficulty making associations between sounds and letters
- Guesses at words
- Struggles sounding out words
- Reading is very slow and choppy
- Difficulty retelling or summarizing a story
- Reading below grade level

What does it mean when my child needs an intervention?
If your child does not meet academic standards, your child may be identified to receive an academic intervention. An intervention can be small group or one-on-one with a classroom teacher. An intervention will focus on the specific skills where your child is having trouble.

What can I do if my child is excelling in literacy?
- Request enrichment opportunities for your child.
- Visit the National Association for Gifted Children at [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org).

What can I do to support literacy at home?
- Read with your child daily.
- Ask your child what he/she has learned in school.
- Share stories with your child.
- Read the world around you by reading billboards, signs, menus, etc. with your child.
- Notice your child's interests and build on them with books.
- Connect reading to writing at home (take pictures and create a book; make puppets and put on a show; read the book after watching the movie; keep a journal; or read several books by the same author and discuss).
- Create a special reading place at home.
- Visit the public library.
- Utilize MPS online resources provided on the district website.
- Become familiar with literacy standards and assessments.

Have fun with literacy!