



2026-2027 Universal Mathematics Screener for Grades K-2 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Building foundational mathematics skills early supports student success in future academic and career pathways. To strengthen this foundation, [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-32-6.5-3](#) requires schools to provide targeted interventions for any student identified by universal mathematics screener data as being at risk of not meeting grade-level proficiency. Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, all Indiana public, charter, and non-public schools must adopt and implement one of the two State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved universal mathematics screeners for kindergarten through grade two (as defined in [IC 20-32-6.5-2](#)). Schools may utilize Formative (Interim) Assessment Grant funds to cover the assessment, training, and professional development associated with their chosen screener vendor. Additional information will continue to be added to this FAQ as it becomes available.

Number	Question	Answer
1	Who is required to adopt the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) universal mathematics screener?	All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited non-public schools (including Choice scholarship schools) serving students in kindergarten through grade two are required to adopt and implement one of the two SBOE-approved universal mathematics screeners. IC 20-32-6.5-2 states, “Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each school shall administer to all students in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 screeners approved by the department to identify students at risk of not meeting grade level proficiency.” Screeners are to be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.
2	What universal mathematics screeners are approved for 2026-2027?	The two universal mathematics screeners approved for 2026-2027 are Curriculum Associates i-Ready Inform and Forefront Education Universal Screeners for Number Sense.
3	Can a school choose a different universal mathematics screener than those approved by IDOE if they choose not to purchase the screener through formative funds?	All schools, public, charter, and accredited non-public serving students in kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 must administer one of the two approved universal mathematics screeners approved by the department. Additionally, IC 20-32-6.5-3 requires that all students in kindergarten through grade 8 at risk of not achieving grade level proficiency based on the analysis of data from a grade level screener approved by the department (K-2) or through-year statewide assessment (3-8), must be provided with mathematics intervention.
4	Does the 70% requirement to use the preferred	No. IC 20-32-5.1-17 specifies that schools in which fewer than 70% of students achieve a valid passing score on IREAD following the

	universal reading screener, Acadience, also apply to the universal mathematics screeners?	2025 administration are required to use the preferred universal screener for reading. This requirement is specific to that statute and does not apply to IC 20-32-6.5-2 .
5	Are the universal mathematics screeners eligible for purchase through the formative assessment grant?	Yes. Both universal mathematics screeners can be purchased using formative assessment grant funds. Schools can request funds for one of the approved universal mathematics screeners. The formative assessment grant application will be available this spring.
6	Will the formative assessment grant cover all costs?	While IDOE aims to maximize coverage of costs associated with a selected formative assessment, some expenses may exceed the allocated amount schools receive and would require local funding to cover any remaining costs.
7	Where can I find vendor contact information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Associates: CHoward@cainc.com or request a demo here. Forefront Education: sales@forefront.education or request a demo here.
8	How are students defined “at risk” using the K-2 universal mathematics screeners?	Each universal mathematics screener uses benchmark measures that assist educators in determining which students are working at grade level and those that are working below grade level expectations. Each vendor will provide training on how to interpret these benchmark measures and identify students that may need targeted intervention services. IDOE will provide additional guidance and models in the next few weeks to support local implementation.
9	What is the cost for each screener, and are there different pricing tiers available?	<p>Curriculum Associates’ i-Ready Inform assessment costs \$8.25 per student, with discounts available by student volumes and site licenses.</p> <p>Forefront Education’s USNS includes two plans– the Lite Plan for \$4.00 per student and the Basic Plan for \$6.00 per student. The free open-source USNS math screener may not be used as it does not meet Indiana’s legislated requirements. Schools must purchase one of the two plans if choosing Forefront Education as their vendor for the universal mathematics screener.</p> <p>Corporations and schools are encouraged to reach out to Curriculum Associates and Forefront Education with questions on pricing.</p>
10	How many times a year is the universal mathematics	Both universal mathematics screeners, USNS and i-Ready Inform, are recommended to be administered three times per year. Indiana Code (IC) 20-32-6.5-2 requires an approved screener to receive a

	screeners required to be administered?	convincing or partially convincing rating for accuracy, reliability, and validity from either the National Center on Intensive Intervention or another third party approved by the department. To receive these ratings, the screener must be evaluated using evidence from all three administrations throughout the year. Both IDOE-approved screeners meet this legislative requirement and are intentionally designed for three-times-yearly administration, which reflects best practice for monitoring student progress.
11	When is the required parent notification within the first 15 days required to be provided?	<p>SB 239 requires all schools to notify a parent within 15 days when a student is designated as at risk of not achieving grade-level proficiency. This “at risk” determination is based, at minimum, on the analysis of data from an IDOE-approved screener (i-Ready Inform or USNS) or a through-year statewide assessment (ILEARN Checkpoint Assessments). Schools should administer each assessment in a timely manner and review the data through collaborative conversations and data-based decision-making processes to identify students who are at risk (see Chapter 2 of Indiana’s Tiered System of Supports Toolkit for Mathematics).</p> <p>Within 15 days of making this determination, schools must notify parents using vendor-provided parent letters or locally developed communication tools. IDOE will not publish a universal family/caregiver letter for mathematics screening. Contact your assessment vendor for example letters for families and caregivers.</p> <p>To support all educators teaching kindergarten through grade eight mathematics, IDOE will release a math intervention plan template in the coming months. This template will help educators track assessment data, document intervention strategies, and record additional relevant information.</p>
12	Where can I find more information on each universal screener?	<p>Curriculum Associates - i-Ready Inform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using i-Ready Inform for K–2 Math Screening in Indiana (March webinar recording included) • Preview Guidance: Universal Mathematics Screening with i-Ready • Informational Video: Indiana Math Screening with i-Ready <p>Forefront Education - Universal Screeners for Number Sense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of USNS (informational video and resources included) • USNS March Webinar Recording and Resources

For additional information, please email IDOE’s [Office of Student Assessment](#).