



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

2026-2027 Universal Reading Screener Approval Process

[Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-35.5](#) requires Indiana schools to conduct universal reading screening to students in kindergarten through grade two. In response to the universal reading screener, students identified as “at risk” (or “at some risk”) must participate in additional diagnostic measures. Universal reading screeners for use with Formative Assessment Grant funds must be approved by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) per [IC 20-32-5.1-17](#). IDOE partners with a committee of Indiana educators to review universal reading screeners to ensure that they meet legislative requirements prior to approval.

Approved universal reading screeners must meet the requirements defined within the Universal Reading Screener Evaluation Protocol: 2026-2027. This process document defines the steps vendors may take to seek approval as a universal reading screener. Table 1 provides an overview of tasks and deadlines. Additional details for completing each task follow.

- Universal reading screeners approved for the 2025-2026 school year must submit an assurance memo stating that no significant updates to test design that would impact validity, reliability, or interpretation of results have been made. The memo must be submitted through the online [Universal Reading Screener Submission Form \(2026-2027\)](#).
- All universal reading screeners that were not approved for the 2025-2026 school year must submit documentation for each Criterion.
 - If the universal reading screener was updated in any way, the vendor must complete the entire approval process.

Table 1: Overview of Process Tasks and Deadlines

Date	Task Due
Friday, October 31 - Friday, November 14, 2025	Letter of intent via the online Universal Reading Screener Vendor Registration Form (2026-2027) .
Monday, December 15, 2025	Final date to submit the completed request for approval with accompanying documentation via the online Universal Reading Screener Submission Form (2026-2027) .
Wednesday, December 17, 2025 through Friday, January 16, 2026	Universal Reading Screener committee reviews submitted requests.
Wednesday, January 28, 2025	Vendors receive feedback.
Wednesday, February 4, 2026	Final date for vendors to submit appeals and/or additional documentation in response to committee feedback via the online

	Universal Reading Screener Vendor Submission Form (2026-2027).
Friday, February 6, 2026	Vendors receive final feedback following appeal review.
Monday, March 16, 2026*	IDOE announces final universal reading screener approvals to vendors and schools.

**This date is dependent upon internal IDOE approvals and may be subject to change.*

Vendors should use the following process to apply as a universal reading screener for the 2026-2027 school year.

1. Requestor reviews the Universal Reading Screener Evaluation Protocol: 2026-2027 found on IDOE's [Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Grant webpage](#).
2. Requestor submits a letter of intent via [Universal Reading Screener Vendor Registration Form \(2026-2027\)](#) to participate by **Friday, November 14, 2025**.
 - The online registration form will include the vendor name, universal reading screener intended for submission, acknowledgement of the published process, and agreement to follow the published process.
3. Requestor compiles evidence addressing all applicable criteria.
4. Requestor submits information **by Monday, December 15, 2025** via the [Universal Reading Screener Submission Form \(2026-2027\)](#) The form will require:
 - Universal reading screener name and vendor (i.e., company name).
 - Contact information for a company representative. This representative will be contacted (1) in the event IDOE has questions regarding the submission and (2) with evaluation results. More than one contact may be submitted, if desired.
 - Documentation addressing each criterion in the rubric (per process step 3).
 - Universal reading screeners are considered individually. If a requestor wishes to apply for the approval of more than one universal reading screener, the requestor must submit a separate request for each universal reading screener.
 - Portions of documentation that the requestor wishes to remain confidential should be clearly labeled.
 - Previously approved universal reading screeners must submit an assurance memo stating that no significant updates to test design that would impact validity, reliability, or interpretation of results have been made for the 2026-2027 school year through the [Universal Reading Screener Submission Form \(2026-2027\)](#). If substantive changes were applied, the universal reading screener is considered a “new” universal reading screener, and all documentation must be provided.
 - Once the form is submitted, an automatic email confirmation will be sent to verify its receipt. Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) if confirmation is not received.
5. IDOE moves documentation to committee review.
6. The committee reviews the submitted documentation against the Universal Reading Screener Evaluation Protocol: 2026-2027. The committee determines whether or not the universal reading screener is approved based on the evidence provided.

- If clarifications are needed, IDOE will request clarification from the requestor.
7. IDOE sends the final approval determination and any additional feedback to the requestor's provided contact(s) via email.
 8. **Appeal Process:** Vendors have until **Wednesday, February 4** to appeal with responses and added documentation (if necessary) to the committee's feedback. Appeal responses and documentation are filed via submission of a new [Universal Reading Screener Submission Form \(2026-2027\)](#). Reference step 4 above. Select the *Appeal* box to indicate an appeal submission.
 9. DOE provides final approval and feedback to vendors by **Friday, February 6, 2026**.
 10. IDOE publishes the list of final approved universal reading screeners for Indiana schools via IDOE's [Formative \(Interim\) Assessment Grant webpage](#).

Contact IDOE's [Office of Student Assessment](#) with questions.