3-5 Literacy Balanced Assessments

Type	Assessment	Purpose	For Who	Frequency
Universal Screening	SOL Reading Growth Assessment	Legislation passed in the 2021 Virginia General Assembly requiring the implementation of "through-year" or "growth"assessments beginning in fall 2021 for reading grades 3-8. The tests are shorter than a typical Standards of Learning (SOL) test and are used to measure the growth of student understanding in reading throughout a school year. More information can be found on the Virginia Department of Education website: (https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/student-assessment/virginia-sol-assessment-program/growth-assessments).	All students in grades 3-5	Fall and Mid- Year
Diagnostic	Spelling Inventory	The PALS Spelling Assessment is used to determine a child's stage of word study development and aid teachers in deciding what kind of phonics instruction to deliver.	All students in grade 3	Fall, Mid- Year, and Spring
		The DSA, or Developmental Spelling Assessment is used to determine a child's stage of word study development and aid teachers in deciding what kind of advanced phonics instruction to deliver.	All students in grades 4-5	Entry for all and optional for Mid- Year & Spring
	P.A.S.T.	The P.A.S.T. (Phonological Awareness Screening Test) is a standardized assessment tool designed to evaluate an individual's phonological awareness skills. The P.A.S.T. assesses various aspects of phonological awareness, such as segmenting, blending, and manipulating sounds, helping educators identify potential reading difficulties and tailor effective interventions for improved literacy outcomes.	Teacher choice based on data	optional
	PALS Decoding Inventory	A decoding inventory provides information about how skillfully a student applies phonics knowledge to accurately read words. This information can help teachers focus instruction on the phonics features students need to learn to become accurate and fluent readers. Decoding skills contribute to the development of automatic word recognition and overall reading proficiency.	Teacher choice based on data	optional
Progress Monitoring	STAR Reading	STAR Reading is an adaptive computer-based test students take to support teachers with determining a student's level of understanding in the areas of reading. The tests are administered throughout a school year to allow teachers to monitor student growth in both areas.	All students in grades 3-5	Fall, Mid- Year, and Spring
	PALS Quick Checks	PALS Quick Checks are criterion-referenced brief measures administered between PALS screening windows to measure progress in essential literacy skills. Quick Checks measure the same skills assessed on PALS-K and PALS, but use different items. Quick Checks are designed for use with K-3 students who: (1) need more instruction in a specific skill (2) did not meet the benchmark for a PALS task (3) have been identified by PALS, or (4) are receiving intervention.	Teacher choice based on data	optional
	Unit Assessments	Unit Assessments measure a student's progress on grade-level reading standards taught throughout a unit of study. Unit assessment data enables teachers to determine students who need extra support in literacy. Cumulative standards reports collected from Unit Assessment data helps teachers monitor student progress over	All students in grades 3-5	Every 3 weeks

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		time and help determine the effectiveness of instruction and interventions.		
	Lexia Core5	Lexia Core5 is a computer-based literacy program designed for students in grades pre-K to 5. It is widely used for literacy progress monitoring by educators and schools. Through adaptive learning technology, Lexia Core5 assesses each student's reading abilities, identifies their strengths and areas for improvement, and then delivers personalized instruction tailored to their needs. Teachers can track students' progress in real-time through the program's comprehensive data reporting, enabling them to make informed decisions about instruction and intervention strategies to support their students' literacy development effectively.	All students in grades 3-5	ongoing
	Formative Assessments	The purpose of formative literacy assessments in grades 3-5 is to gauge students' ongoing progress and understanding of literacy concepts on a regular basis. Teachers design these assessments to provide real-time feedback about students' strengths and areas for improvement in various aspects of literacy, such as phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. By continually monitoring students' performance, teachers can make timely instructional adjustments, offer targeted support, and tailor lessons to meet the individual needs of each student, ultimately fostering a strong foundation for lifelong literacy skills.	All students in grades 3-5	ongoing
Other Assessments	SOL Reading Test	SOL tests measure the success of students in meeting the Board of Education's expectations for learning and achievement. Students in grades 3-5 will take an online Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) in the subject of English: Reading. The tests are administered online except for students who require a paper test due to a documented need.	All students in grades 3-5	Spring

PALS (PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS AND LITERACY SCREENING) Decoding Inventory
- PALS Decoding Inventory

PALS (PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS AND LITERACY SCREENING) QUICK CHECKS
- PALS Beginning Sound Production Quickcheck
- PALS Lower-Case Alphabet Recognition Quickcheck
- PALS Upper-Case Alphabet Recognition Quickcheck
- PALS Letter Sounds Quickcheck
- PALS Spelling Kg Quickcheck
- PALS Spelling 1-3 Quickcheck
- PALS Word Recognition in Isolation Quickcheck
- PALS Oral Reading in Context Quickcheck

P.A.S.T. (PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS SCREENING TEST)
These documents are also available directly from the P.A.S.T. website at https://thepasttest.com, or use the links below.