

Language Arts Benchmark Assessments for Grade 1

The Language Arts Benchmark provides teachers with valuable information on the reading and writing development of each student that helps them make informed instructional decisions to facilitate literacy growth. A variety of assessments are used to assess students' progress at different times of the year on the acquisition of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) learning standards for Grade 1.

Literacy Assessment	Beginning-of-Year	Mid-Year	End-of-Year
Reading	Minimum Standard	Minimum Standard	Minimum Standard
Independent Reading Level	C or 3-4	F or 10	I/J or 16/18
High Frequency Words	33 of 35	68 of 75	136 of 150
ISIP Overall Score	Tier 2	Tier 2	Tier 2
Meets Reading Standards	2 of 3	2 of 3	2 of 3
Language	District Standard	District Standard	District Standard
Written Composition	1 or 2 of 4	2 of 4	2 of 4
Meets Language Standards	1 of 1	1 of 1	1 of 1

- **Independent Reading Level (IRL):** The IRL is assessed using either the Development Reading Assessment (numeric levels) or the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (alphabetic levels). Students read a leveled text while the teacher records the way the story is read to determine a child's accuracy (number of words pronounced correctly), fluency (expression, pacing, intonation, and attention to punctuation), and comprehension.
- **High Frequency Words:** Students must read high frequency word flash cards within 3 seconds to demonstrate mastery. The high frequency words are based on Dr. Edward Fry's research of the most commonly used words in English.
- **ISIP:** I-Station's Indicators of Progress is a required early literacy assessment composed of short tests that determine a student's overall reading ability. The computer-based assessment measures students in the areas of phonemic awareness, letter knowledge, alphabetic decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, spelling, and text fluency. For additional information about ISIP, go to www.istation.com.
- **Written Composition:** Students write a composition on a self-selected topic based upon the current grade-level unit of study. The writing is scored using the 4-point, holistic Grade 1 Writing Rubric that evaluates the paper's focus and ideas, organization, voice, word choice, fluency, and conventions.