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# Reading Difficulties Risk Screening Selection Panel DRAFT Screener Information Overview

*Note: The information included in this document is based on information provided by the publisher, is subject to change, and should be confirmed by potential purchasers.*

Screening Instrument Title: Amira

Organization: Amira Learning, Inc. with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) as official distribution partners

Web page: <https://www.amiralearning.com/>

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## General Information

Recommended grade(s):Kindergarten, Grade One, Grade Two

Except for *Other*, the Skills Measured shown in the table below are from California *Education Code* Section 53008 (g)(1)(B).

| **Skills Measured** | **Kindergarten** | **Grade 1** | **Grade 2** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| oral language | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| phonological awareness | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| phonemic awareness | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| decoding skills | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| letter–sound knowledge | Yes | Yes | Not indicated |
| knowledge of letter names | Yes | Yes | Not indicated |
| rapid automatized naming | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| visual attention | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| reading fluency | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| vocabulary | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| language comprehension | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other: Spelling/Encoding | Not indicated | Not indicated | Yes |
| Other: Phonological memory | Yes | Yes | Not indicated |
| Other: Reading comprehension | Not indicated | Not indicated | Yes |

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Recommended for use with the following student populations:

* general education students
* students with disabilities
* English learners
* bi/multilingual learners (English–Spanish)

Languages Available: English, Spanish

Information about establishing student language proficiency to administer screener: Yes, Amira offers four ways to screen students for reading risk depending on English language proficiency and information to support screening, intervention, and instruction: 1) English Screener with English proctoring (for students proficient in English or Level three or above on ELPAC); 2) English Screener with Spanish proctoring (Level three or above on ELPAC); 3) Spanish Screener (Amira Español) with Spanish proctoring (Levels one or two on ELPAC); 4) Screen in both English and Spanish (numbers one and three above, when a Spanish-speaking English learner is identified as “high risk” by the English screener).

## Accommodations

Supports or accommodations for students with disabilities: Amira offers automated accommodations and publishes guidance with decision-tree aids for educators to tailor the screening process. Amira's decision-based guidance, including decision trees in the Amira Teacher Manual, helps educators make informed choices about whether to administer digital or print assessments, and other special considerations. Amira's training resources inform educators to understand and implement accommodations effectively.

Supports or accommodations for students who are not yet proficient with English:Amira's decision-based guidance, including decision trees in the Amira Teacher Manual, helps educators make informed choices about language use in screening.

## Cost Information

Initial cost for implementing program: Initial cost of implementing the Amira Screener is based on a per-student license model of $4.99 per student per year, or districts can acquire a free subscription for the instrument where they pay for robust professional development at the cost of $20 per student for live virtual training.

Replacement cost per unit for subsequent use: $0 (Amira’s subscription model ensures that there are no limits on the number of screenings or assessments administered per student.)

Basic pricing plan and structure: All plans include unlimited assessments per student, no cost for administrator licenses, asynchronous training required to administer and utilize the Amira Screener, access to the Science of Reading Dashboard, Family Portal, unlimited technical support, 24/7 online chat help for teachers, online access to training materials at Amira University, and weekly office hour meetings.

* Option one: $0 (Free) Screener Subscription per student with each $20 per student Professional Development Package (live virtual training which includes an introduction to Amira, teacher training specific to instrument administration and a second training on data and reporting).
* Option two: Screener Subscription for $4.99 per student with free, asynchronous professional development and training incorporated into the subscription. Optional add-on professional development is available.
* Option three: Amira Suite Subscription (Amira Tutoring & Practice and Amira Assessment) for $20 (Available for purchase through Amira or HMH)
* Option four: HMH Bundle is also available for $9

Bulk pricing plan:Bulk pricing is available for purchases above 1,000 subscriptions (student seats). Bulk pricing discounts are available for purchases of either screener only or Amira Suite Subscriptions.

## Administration

Mode: Digital (Note: Standard Amira administration is digital; hard copy administration is available as an accommodation.)

Required technology: Computer, tablet, internet connection

Administration time in minutes:

* Kindergarten: Median 16 minutes; group administration
* Grade one: Median 18 minutes; group administration
* Grade two: Median 17 minutes; group administration

## Training

Time required for screener administrator training: two hours

Type of training available for screener administration of the instrument: The average amount of training and professional development time required for educators to administer the Amira screener is approximately two hours to complete the Basic Training, which covers administering the screener and interpreting the data. This training, delivered by a highly experienced team of Amira trainers, is designed to be concise yet comprehensive, equipping educators with the necessary skills to effectively proctor assessments and utilize data for instructional planning.

Describe the cost required for training, if applicable:$0.Amira waives the cost of all asynchronous virtual training sessions and on-demand resources to provide educators ongoing, embedded, just-in-time support.

## Scoring

Scores are calculated: Automatically (computer-scored)

Scoring time in minutes: Less than one minute per construct

## Communication and Resources

Types of resources available for educators, screener administrators, and families:

* For educators: Amira offers a comprehensive, research-driven training and professional development program designed to ensure that educators are thoroughly equipped to administer the screener and utilize its results effectively. Resources include:
  + "Getting Started with Amira" Training (60 minutes)
  + Amira Screener Training (60 minutes)
  + Interpreting Data Workshop (60 minutes)
  + Office Hours (Optional, 60 minutes)
  + On-Demand Resources
* For parents: Parent Portal allows parents and guardians to access real-time reports and updates in English and Spanish on their child's reading progress.

User interfaces and data management system:Amira provides a range of mechanisms for teachers to track the screening process and view scores. (Tracking Report, Scoring Screen, Risk Report, Benchmark Report, Class Performance Report, Instructional Recommendations Report, Skills Diagnostic Report)

Students, teachers, administrators, and families access Amira via the web; no additional equipment or plug-ins are required.

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