

Example reading assessment tools in MTSS

May 2024

The Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) recommends the use of a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to better assist Years 7 to 9 students struggling with foundational literacy and numeracy skills. If you're unfamiliar with the MTSS framework, we recommend you start with AERO's [Introduction to a Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#) explainer.

This practice resource provides examples of reading assessments for an MTSS framework. It forms part of a [series of guidance](#) created in partnership with the Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation (DSF). We recommend that you read AERO's [Choosing Reading Assessments in MTSS](#) practice guide before this practice resource.

[Table 1](#) lists several assessment tools we've evaluated according to our recommended criteria for [choosing reading assessments](#) and [choosing reading interventions](#). These tools meet many (but may not meet all) criteria. All were identified as providing scoring criteria or benchmarking.

This list is intended to provide examples of assessment tools that are suitable for secondary students in Australia. It's not exhaustive, and schools are encouraged to evaluate the tools currently being utilised in their schools to determine suitability, and any additional assessment tools that may be needed. Schools will also need to consider the qualifications required by individuals administering these tests.

Inclusion on this list doesn't indicate that these assessment tools (or assessment tools and intervention resources associated with these assessments) are endorsed by AERO or DSF Literacy and Clinical Services.

Table 1: Example assessment tools for reading

Assessment type (US, DX, PM)*	Population of interest	Targeted skills	Sensitivity and specificity	Reliability	Validity	Format (F, O, I, G)**	Length	Suitability for		Cost (as of March 2024)
								Secondary context	Australian context	
Acadience Reading Diagnostic: Comprehension, Fluency and Oral Language (CFOL) (Voyager Sopris)										
DX	Grade F–6	Word reading fluency Comprehension Vocabulary	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	10 min	Designed for younger students but suitable diagnostic tool for lower-level readers	US norms and content but suitable diagnostic tool for specific skill deficits	US\$68 for kit US\$1.20 per student/ administration
Acadience Reading Diagnostic: Phonological Awareness and Word Reading (PA & WRD) (Voyager Sopris)										
DX	Grade F–6	Phonemic awareness Word reading accuracy	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	10 min	Designed for younger students but suitable diagnostic tool for lower-level readers	US norms and content but suitable diagnostic tool for specific skill deficits	US\$108 for kit US\$1.20 per student/ administration

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Assessment type (US, DX, PM)*	Population of interest	Targeted skills	Sensitivity and specificity	Reliability	Validity	Format (F, O, I, G)**	Length	Suitability for		Cost (as of March 2024)
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Acadience Reading 7–8 (Voyager Sopris)										
US, PM	Grade 7–8	Word reading accuracy and fluency Reading comprehension	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I, G	10–50 min	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable screening tool for general reading ability and fluency	US\$132 per kit (one kit per year level) US\$3.60 per student/administration
CUBED Dynamic Decoding Measures										
US, PM	Grade 1–8	Phonemic awareness Word reading accuracy Orthographic knowledge	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	5–15 min	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable screening tool for general reading ability and fluency	Free to download and print

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CUBED Narrative Language Measures										
US, PM	Grade 1–9	Oral language Reading Vocabulary Writing	Shows promise (nears selection criteria)	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	5–15 min	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable screening tool for general reading ability and fluency	Free to download and print
Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), 8th edition										
US, PM	Grade F–8	Word reading accuracy Reading fluency Reading comprehension	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I, G	2 min (ORF) 5 min (Maze)	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable screening tool for general reading ability and fluency	Free to download and print

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								Secondary context	Australian context	
EasyCBM										
PM	Grade F–8	Passage reading fluency Reading comprehension	Shows promise (nears selection criteria)	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, O, I, G	1 min (Fluency) 15 min (Vocab) 30 min (Comp)	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable screening tool for general reading ability and fluency	Free to register a Lite account with access to most tests US\$49 a year to upgrade
Gates MacGinitie Reading Tests, 4th edition (Nelson Assessments)										
DX	Grade F–12	Vocabulary Reading comprehension	Limited information available as open access	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I, G	55 min	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable diagnostic tool for specific skill gaps	US\$395 for kit US\$4 per student/administration
Gray Oral Reading Test, 5th edition (GORT-5) (Pro-Ed Australia)										
DX	Grade 1–12	Reading comprehension	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	20 min	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable diagnostic tool for specific skill gaps	A\$654 for kit \$6.50 per student/administration

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								Secondary context	Australian context	
Martin and Pratt Nonword Reading Test (MultiLit)										
DX	Grade 2–10	Phonological awareness Decoding	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Limited information has been reviewed	Limited information has been reviewed	F, I	10 min	Designed for secondary students	Currently being re-normed via MultiLit	Being republished by MultiLit Cost TBD
Castles and Coltheart 2 (CC2) (Digital: MOTiF, Print: SPELD organisations in Australia)										
DX	6–11 years of age	Word reading accuracy Phonics	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, O, I	10 min	Designed for younger students but suitable diagnostic tool for lower level readers	Australian-based test	Free to download
The Diagnostic Spelling Test for Irregular Words (DiSTi) (MOTiF)										
DX	Grade 1–7	Spelling of irregular words	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, O, I, G	10 min	Designed for Year 7 students but suitable diagnostic tool for lower-level older readers	Australian-based test	Free to download

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								Secondary context	Australian context	
The Diagnostic Spelling Test – Morphology (DiST-m) (MOTiF)										
DX	Grade 3–10	Morphological spelling rules	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Limited information has been reviewed	Limited information has been reviewed	F, I, G	10 min	Designed for secondary students	Australian-based test	Free to download
The Diagnostic Spelling Test – Nonwords (DiSTn) (MOTiF)										
DX	Grade 1–7	Non-word spelling	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I, G	10 min	Designed for Year 7 students but suitable diagnostic tool for lower-level older readers	Australian-based test	Free to download
The Macquarie University Advanced Adults Spelling Test (MAAST) (MOTiF)										
DX	Post-secondary	Spelling	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Limited information has been reviewed	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I, G	10 min	Designed for adults but suitable diagnostic tool for older students	Australian-based test	Free to download

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								Secondary context	Australian context	
The Test of Orthographic Choice (TOC) (MOTiF)										
DX	Grade 1–6	Orthographic knowledge	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Limited information has been reviewed	Limited information has been reviewed	F, I, G	10 min	Designed for younger students but suitable diagnostic tool for lower-level readers	Australian-based test	Free to download
New Group Reading Test (NGRT) (GL Assessments; PAA Australia)										
US, PM	Grade 1–10	Word reading accuracy Reading comprehension	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	O, I, G	45 min (paper) 30 min (online)	Designed for secondary students	UK norms and content but suitable for Australian students	A\$22 per student if assessed 2 times a year
New Group Spelling Test (NGST) (GL Assessments; PAA Australia)										
US, PM	Grade 2–10	Spelling	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	O, I, G	20 min	Designed for secondary students	UK norms and content but suitable for Australian students	A\$11.50 per student if assessed 2 times a year

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								Secondary context	Australian context	
Progressive Achievement Test – Reading (PAT-R) (ACER)										
US	Grade 1–10	Reading comprehension Vocabulary	Limited research evidence available	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I, G	45–60 min	Designed for secondary students	Australian-based test	A\$9 per student/ administration
PAT Spelling Skills (updated version of PAT-S) (ACER)										
US	Grade F–10	Spelling	Limited research evidence available	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	O, I, G	20 min	Designed for secondary students	Australian-based test	A\$9 per student/ administration
Progress Test in English in Secondary Schools (PTE) (GL Assessments)										
US, PM	Grade F–10	Spelling Grammar Punctuation Reading comprehension	Limited research evidence available	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, O, I, G	45–60 min	Designed for secondary students	UK norms and content but suitable for Australian students	Approx A\$10 per student/ administration

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Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills (TILLS) (DSF; ACER)										
DX	Grade 1-12	Phonological awareness Vocabulary Spelling Reading comprehension Reading fluency Language comprehension Expressive writing Memory Social communication	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	20–45 min depending on use	Designed for use with secondary students	US Norms and Content but suitable as a diagnostic tool for specific skill deficits	A\$915 for Kit A\$9 per student / administration

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								Secondary context	Australian context	
Tests of Reading Comprehension (TORCH), 3rd edition (ACER)										
US, PM	Grade 3–10	Reading comprehension	Limited research evidence available	Limited information has been reviewed	Limited information has been reviewed	F, I, G	30–45 min	Designed for secondary students	Australian-based test	A\$125 for digital manual A\$19.95 per test booklet (reusable) A\$1.75 per student/administration
Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE), 2nd edition (Pearson Clinical; Pro-Ed Australia)										
DX, PM	Grade F–12	Word reading accuracy Decoding	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	5 min	Designed for secondary students	US norms and content but suitable diagnostic tool for specific skill gaps	A\$640 for kit A\$4 per student/administration

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Wheldall Assessment of Reading Passages (WARP) (MultiLit)										
US, PM	Grade 2–5 and older students with lower-level reading ability	Reading fluency	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	5 min	Designed for younger students but suitable diagnostic tool for lower-level readers	Australian-based test	A\$290 per kit A\$2 per student/ administration
Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, 3rd edition (WIAT-III) (Pearson Clinical)										
DX	Grade F–12	Word reading accuracy Decoding Spelling Writing Reading comprehension Language	Shows promise (nears selection criteria)	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	5–60 min depending on use	Designed for secondary students	US-based test with Australian norms Suitable diagnostic tool for Australian students	A\$1418 per physical kit A\$15 per student/ administration A\$150 per year for digital kit license A\$9.10 per student/ administration (dependent on use)

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Woodcock Johnson Tests of Achievements – IV (WJ-IV ACH) (PAA Australia)										
DX	Grade F–12	Word reading accuracy Spelling Writing Reading comprehension Language	Shows promise (nears selection criteria)	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	5–60 min depending on use	Designed for secondary students	US-based test with Australian norms Suitable diagnostic tool for Australian students	A\$1320 per kit A\$9 per student/ administration
Woodcock Johnson Tests of Oral Language – IV (WJ-IV OL) (PAA Australia)										
DX	Grade F–12	Oral language Phonological processing Language comprehension	Shows promise (nears selection criteria)	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	F, I	5–60 min depending on use	Designed for secondary students	US-based test with Australian norms Suitable diagnostic tool for Australian students	A\$770 per kit A\$4.50 per student/ administration

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								Secondary context	Australian context	
York Assessment of Reading for Comprehension (YARC) – Secondary (DSF Literacy and Clinical Services; PAA Australia)										
DX	Grade 7–12	Word reading accuracy and fluency Reading comprehension	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Meets or exceeds selection criteria	Shows promise (nears selection criteria)	F, I	20–30 min	Designed for secondary students	UK norms but has been adapted to Australian context	A\$755 per kit A\$7.50 per student/ administration

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Acknowledgement

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