

Assessment Instrument Description: PALS

Element	Description	Instrument Information
Instrument Name	Name of specific instrument (more than vendor name).	Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) PALS-K PALS Plus
Vendor	Name of the company or organization that produces the instrument.	Illuminate Education
Purpose (Intended Use)	The described purpose and appropriate uses of the instrument.	<p>The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) is a research-based screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring tool. Teachers can use PALS to identify students at risk of developing reading difficulties, diagnose students' knowledge of literacy fundamentals, monitor progress, and plan instruction that targets students' needs.</p> <p>PALS measures children's knowledge of several important literacy fundamentals: phonological awareness, alphabet recognition, concept of word, knowledge of letter sounds and spelling. It provides a direct means of matching literacy instruction to specific literacy needs and provides a means for identifying those children who are relatively behind in their acquisition of these fundamental literacy skills.</p> <p>PALS Plus is used with children in grades 1-8 to identify students at risk of reading difficulties. It is designed to measure student knowledge of important literacy fundamentals and can be used as a diagnostic tool to provide teachers with explicit information to help guide their teaching. PALS Plus is a leveled instrument that is used to (a) screen and identify students in need of additional instruction based on their Entry Level task scores, and (b) diagnose specific skill deficits in students whose Entry Level scores do not meet a benchmark that represents minimum grade-level criteria.</p>
Types of Instruments	Interim, Summative, Diagnostic	Interim, Diagnostic and Summative
Population	Who (which students) could be assessed using the instrument.	PALS-K (for kindergartners), and PALS Plus (for students in Grades 1-8)

When? How frequently?	How frequently the instrument can be administered in a school year, and recommended or required administration windows.	<p>PALS Plus is typically administered three times a year, depending on students initial scores.</p> <p>The assessment windows are fall, mid-year and spring. Fall and Spring are usually required.</p>
Content Area (s)	Content area or areas being assessed.	Reading
Learning Objectives	Specific learning objectives being assessed, at as detailed a level as is provided. This may be "topics" or categories or may be actual learning objective statements.	<p>PALS-K is a measure of children’s knowledge of several important literacy fundamentals including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonological Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rhyme Awareness ○ Beginning Sound Awareness • Alphabet Knowledge/Lower-case recognition • Letter-Sound Knowledge • Concept of Word -- (a) accurately use words in a memorized rhyme, (b) use context to identify individual words within a given line of text, and (c) identify words presented outside of the text. • Word Recognition in Isolation (optional) <p>PALS Plus measures the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling • Word Recognition • Oral Reading Accuracy • Fluency & Rate • Comprehension • Alphabet Recognition • Letter Sounds • Concept of Word • Blending • Sound-to-Letter

ENTRY LEVEL: Word Knowledge

- Spelling Inventory
- Word Recognition in Isolation
- Letter Sounds (first grade only)

LEVEL A: Oral Reading in Context

- Accuracy
- Fluency
- Oral reading rate
- Comprehension

LEVEL B: Alphabetics

- Alphabet Recognition
- Letter Sounds
- Concept of Word

LEVEL C: Phonemic Awareness

- Blending
- Sound-to-Letter

Individual Comparison Points (cut scores)	Information provided regarding how good is good enough performance on the instrument. Comparison information should be available for every individual metric. This may be performance level ratings with specific cut scores.	Minimum expectations have been identified for different administration windows. These “benchmark scores” provide a comparison point for students’ summed scores. Benchmarks for each assessment and task are available for PALS users and can be found in the PALS Online System.

Summed Scores for PALS English:

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Kindergarten	29	71	83
1st Grade	41	65	35
2nd Grade	35	44	54
3rd Grade	54	65	65

Summed Scores for PALS español:

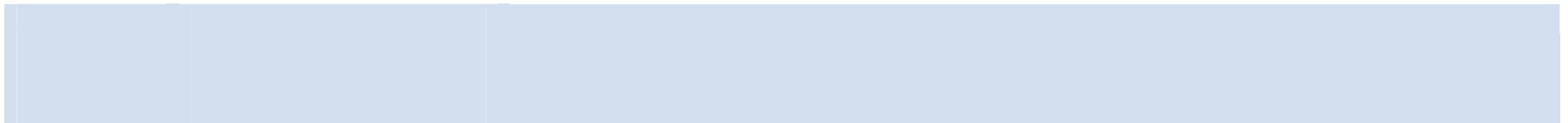
	Fall	Winter	Spring
Kindergarten	36	N/A	86
1st Grade	36	N/A	36
2nd Grade	36	N/A	51
3rd Grade	51	N/A	57

Aggregate Metrics

Scores provided at the group level. The group could be a grade level, school, district, or disaggregated groups (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender, IEP status, FRL status) Specify the group(s) and the score(s) provided.

Information provided regarding how good is good enough performance at the group level.

Comparison Points (cut scores)



Scores are aggregated to the class, school and district levels.

Aggregate metrics include:

- Percent and number of students at or above the identified benchmark score by grade level.
- Percent and

- number of students identified as having a significant reading deficiency by grade level.

None identified.

Data Reports

Description of data reports that are provided/available at the individual and aggregate level(s).

The PALS Online Score Entry & Reporting System complements the use of PALS assessments. The Online Score Entry and Reporting System ***provides reports at the student, class, school, and division level*** that identify at-risk students, diagnose instructional need, and monitor student progress.

Class and School Level Reports include:

- **Class Summary**
 - **Class Alphabet Recognition & Letter Sounds**
 - **Targeted Intervention by Skill**
 - **Class Instructional Reading Levels**
 - **Spelling/Phonics Knowledge**
 - **Grouping Chart and Report**
 - **Back to School—Performance by Task**
 - **K-3 Concept of a Word**
 - **School History**
 - Grade Level Reading Growth**
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