Early Literacy Assessment Tool
REAL-TIME ASSESSMENT OF READING SKILLS

BACKGROUND

The Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) provides teachers with real-time information about the reading skill levels of their students in kindergarten through third grade. The ELAT is one of the tools that Colorado teachers can use to meet the assessment requirements of the Colorado READ Act. The READ Act requires teachers in kindergarten through third grade to administer an interim assessment to all children to determine whether children are making sufficient progress toward grade level reading proficiency. When students are identified as significantly below grade level, teachers must administer a diagnostic assessment to determine specific areas of need for reading improvement. Teachers use this assessment data to collaboratively develop an intervention plan with the child's parents, called a READ plan, to bring the child up to grade level reading proficiency. The ELAT supports this process and provides teachers with a tool to monitor the reading progress of their students on an ongoing basis.

Colorado's Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) Participation 2019-2020

Districts selected a vendor, Amplify or Istation.

Participation in the ELAT project includes:

- 140 districts and the Charter School Institute
- 597 schools
- Approximately 127,000 students
- Approximately 50% of all K-3 students in the state

ELAT CONTRACTOR OPTIONS FOR 2018-2023

The 2012 School Finance Act authorized the Colorado Department of Education to select a contractor to fund an early literacy assessment tool that teachers may use to obtain real-time assessments of the reading skill levels of students in kindergarten through third grade. Through a competitive bid process, the contract was awarded to Amplify for its DIBELS Next and diagnostic reading assessments in January 2013 through June 30, 2018.

After a competitive process in the spring of 2018, Amplify and Istation were awarded a contract for July 2018 through June 2023. Amplify provides DIBELS Next and IDEL, approved interim reading assessments, and DIBELS Deep PA/WRD diagnostic reading assessment, an approved diagnostic measure. Istation provides ISIP Early Reading and ISIP Lectura Temprana, approved interim reading assessments.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The state funding for the ELAT project includes the cost of the online software license and training. Hardware is not included. Both vendors, Amplify and Istation, provide training and technical support for each participating district. This training and support includes administering the assessments as well as using data from these assessments to inform instruction. CDE works with both vendors to coordinate onsite support for participating schools and districts. Three times a year, vendors provide data on the number of kindergarten through third-grade students participating in the program and their reading skill level. This information is used by CDE to monitor service delivery for the Early Literacy Assessment Tool, to redirect service and support for participating schools, and to inform its annual report to the legislature on the success of the program.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

All Colorado districts and the Charter School Institute (CSI) are eligible to participate in the ELAT project. In January of each year, the department issues an application to participate in the program. Districts select a vendor through the application process. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available licenses, the department prioritizes

participation according to the guidelines set in statute. Participation in the ELAT project has increased over the five years of the project. The chart below shows the number of districts, schools and students participating in the project from 2013-14 to 2019-20.

ELAT Participants, 2013-2019

	2013-14	**2014-15**	**2015-16**	**2016-17**	**2017-18**	**2018-19**	**2019-20**
Number of Districts Participating	123 and CSI	126 and CSI	132 and CSI	137 and CSI	146 and CSI	141 and CSI	140 and CSI
Number of Schools Participating	417	482	518	574	579	596	597
Number of Students Participating	91,565	112,232	119, 204	127,604	126,505	127,858	127,249
Percent of Students Participating	34%	40%	44%	47%	47%	49%	50%

PROGRAM RESULTS

A portion of the ELAT contract payment is based on achievement of two objectives: a 15 percent reduction in the number of students identified as having a significant reading deficiency (SRD) from the beginning of the year to the end of the year and a 75 percent customer satisfaction rate. The ELAT project has met the objectives each year. The charts below show the performance on each objective.

Reduction of SRD in ELAT Schools from Beginning of Year to End of Year, 2018-19

	Beginning of Year	End of Year	Percentage Reduction
Kindergarten	9,916	2,971	70%
First Grade	8,269	6,541	21%
Second Grade	7,156	5,653	21%
Third Grade	8,096	5,809	28%
Total	**33,724**	**20,974**	**38%**

ELAT Customer Satisfaction Survey Results, 2018-19

	Software for interim assessment (DIBELS Next)	Software for diagnostic assessment (DIBELS Deep)	Teacher level reports	Teacher support materials	Amplify customer care	District level reports
Satisfied or Very Satisfied	96%	87%	93%	94%	95%	93%

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) website
- 2019 Annual Report on the Colorado READ Act