

FLKRS & STAR EARLY LITERACY FAQ

Topics are presented alphabetically.

Accommodations

Q: What accommodations may be provided for students with disabilities who may need additional assistance in accessing Star Early Literacy?

A: Star Early Literacy can be administered with a number of accommodations that typically do not impact the validity of the students' scores.

Available accommodations include the following:

Setting Accommodations

- Administer the test in a location with minimal distractions.
- Administer the test in a separate location.
- Administer the test in a small group.
- Administer the test individually.
- Administer the test in a room with special acoustics.
- Administer the test in a room with special lighting.
- Administer the test in a room with special furniture.

Presentation Accommodations

- Magnify the size of the font type.
- Read the testing directions (but not the test itself) orally to students.
- Sign the testing directions (but not the test itself) to hearing-impaired students.
- Read the testing directions (but not the test itself) in the students' native language.
- Click the Listen button for the student, so that the platform repeats the question.

Response Accommodations

- Alter the method of input from mouse to keyboard (or vice versa), or to an assistive device. Assessments also can be administered on an iPad to utilize touchscreen functionality.
- Have the student respond orally. Then have the teacher enter the student's response in the system.

Timing Accommodations

While nearly all students are able to answer Star Early Literacy assessment items within the standard time limits, teachers may extend time limits for individual students who need more time to demonstrate their proficiency. Extended time limits have no effect on the test's validity, as a student's performance on a test question remains solely a function of the test's calibrated difficulty and what that student knows and can do—not how quickly the student can do it.

Star Early Literacy reports indicate (via a footnote) whether a student was given an extended time limit to complete a test. A further note indicates that norms, as well as other technical data such as reliability and validity, are based on test administration using standard time limits.

Q: Are deaf or blind students able to participate in the assessment?

A: The Star Early Literacy assessment is not appropriate for students who are deaf or blind. For students who are not blind or deaf but who have visual or hearing impairments, educators are encouraged to evaluate the suitability of Star Early Literacy considering the students' specific impairment(s) and determine whether an online administration is appropriate. Star Early Literacy does not have a braille application. Also, the assessment is not designed to be accommodated for signing items to deaf students.

Q: Is there additional information on accommodations for students who are not able to access Star Early Literacy?

A: Yes. FDOE provided the following guidance to Florida school districts in an email sent July 31, 2017:

“In an effort to support districts with assessing kindergarten readiness for students with disabilities who are unable to access the Star Early Literacy assessment, the Florida Department of Education has renewed the contract to extend Pearson’s Work Sampling System (WSS) for these students. For administration of the WSS, the PMRN/SSO system will not be used, and districts will work directly with Pearson to prepare for administration this fall. More information will be coming soon regarding that process.

In addition to the WSS, several other screening instruments are available for local use in evaluating kindergarten readiness for students who are not able to access Star Early Literacy, including the following:

- DIBELS (letter naming fluency)
- Independent Reading Level Assessment (IRLA)
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) – baseline Fall 2017
- Brigance: Early Childhood Screeners – Braille version available from the Florida Instructional Material Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI)
- The Oregon Project: The OR Project for Preschool Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired – available upon request from FIMC-VI
- Jerry Johns Basic Reading Inventory: Pre-Primer through Grade Twelve and Early Literacy Assessments – available upon request from FIMC-VI

The Department will make arrangements to purchase these screeners for districts on request. Districts interested in obtaining any of the above should reach out to the interim director of FIMC-VI, Kay Ratzlaff, at (813) 837-7826 or Victoria Gaitanis at (850) 245-0475, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org.

As a reminder, Star Early Literacy can be administered with a number of accommodations that do not affect the validity of the students’ scores. Many of these accommodations are built into the program and the computer’s operating system and are, therefore, available to all students who

take the tests. Additional information on student accommodations for Star Early Literacy is available on page 5 of the Star Early Literacy Test Administration Manual at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/18494/urlt/StarEarlyLiteracy-TAM.pdf>."

Q: If a student cannot access all parts of the test due to his or her disability, will the student still receive a score?

A: No. The student must be able to answer all parts of the test to receive a score.

Q: Will guidance be provided to address students whose IEP allows for extra time to respond on assessments, since there is a 90-second time limit for each item?

A: Yes. Students may be given extra time via the testing platform to respond to individual test items.

Q: What about DHH students, including those who read lips? Are there scripts?

A: Currently, there are no scripts for the assessment, although reading of instructions aloud is an available accommodation.

Q: Is there a paper-based assessment for students who cannot access Star Early Literacy via computer?

A: Currently, there is not a paper-based assessment.

Q: Is an enlarged font available for visually-impaired students?

A: No, but students with vision impairment may use a screen magnifier.

Existing Customers

Q: If our school has a contract with Renaissance, will the FLKRS data follow the student?

A: For districts that already have the Renaissance Place platform in place, Renaissance Learning will pull student enrollment data over to the district's Florida Kindergarten Readiness site. Keep in mind that the first use of Star Early Literacy to meet FLKRS requirements begins at the start of the 2017-18 school year and applies to first-time enrolled kindergarten students during the first 30 school days of the school year.

FDOE Policy

Q: Is there a post-assessment planned for the end of the school year?

A: The FLKRS contract does not provide for post-assessment. Districts may contract independently with Renaissance Learning to use Star Early Literacy for administrations outside the scope of the FLKRS state contract.

Q: To prevent duplicate testing, will there be data adjustments for students who move between schools or districts?

A: State-assigned Florida Education ID (FLEID) numbers are required for each student to prevent such duplications. Data collection is expected to include an initial state collection for enrollment at the beginning of the year during the first few weeks of the Survey 8 window, with provision for districts to submit update(s) for additional enrollments and student movement prior to testing.

Q: Does this take the place of the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener?

A: Star Early Literacy is the new Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). It replaces the Work Sampling System (WSS) as the FLKRS instrument, and results will be used to calculate the kindergarten readiness rate.

Q: Regarding students who are retained in kindergarten, should they be tested? Usually they are not.

A: The kindergarten readiness rate will be calculated based on first-time test takers (i.e., testing students within 30 school days of their first enrollment in kindergarten). Scores for students who are repeating kindergarten will not be included in readiness-rate calculations; however, schools and districts may choose to test students to inform placement and instruction.

Q: Will the supported Chrome OS version be consistent with Pearson (TestNav) and AIR (TDS) online assessments?

A: Yes.

Q: Will you repeat who to contact for us to register for the TtT (train-the-trainer) session?

A: Contact Ed.croft@fldoe.org.

Q: Can you clarify calendar/school days when referring to the 30-day window for testing?

A: Yes. The statutory requirement is for testing within the first 30 school days of the school year, dependent upon the individual school's start date.

Q: Some reasons were listed for possible student non-participation, such as conditions relating to students with disabilities, English Language Learners, At-Risk students, etc. Will guidance be provided on how non-participation will be considered?

A: Rule language is being developed that will provide more direction on the kindergarten readiness rate and participation.

Q: Are the video and practice resource available online?

A: The webinar recording and the practice resource are now available on the FLKRS webpage at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>. For more information on the practice resource, you may also contact Renaissance Learning at flkreadiness@renaissance.com.

Q: What is the definition of kindergarten readiness as it relates to the screener?

A: The kindergarten screener is a formative assessment for kindergarten teachers to identify each child's areas of strength and weakness related to preparation for mastery of the kindergarten standards. Literacy and numeracy are the primary areas of instruction in kindergarten.

FLEID

Q: Will students leaving VPK be assigned an FLEID?

A: Yes. All students who participated in a public VPK program in 2016-17 have been assigned an FLEID. In addition, all students enrolling in Florida's public school system are assigned an FLEID upon first enrollment.

General

Q: How will schools/students access the assessment?

A: The Star Early Literacy assessment is accessed via web browser. A systems requirements document is available so you can verify that your browser is compatible:
<http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R004312127GJB43D.pdf>.

Q: Is the K-Readiness website available?

A: The FLKRS webpage is now available at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>.

Q: When will the updated system requirements be released?

A: They are available now on the Florida K-Readiness website:
<http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>.

Q: Are there any "caching" component setups that need to be completed prior to testing?

A: No.

Q: Is Renaissance Place available for individual districts?

A: A link for access to each district's dedicated Florida Kindergarten Readiness site is planned for the FLKRS website (<http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>). In the interim, districts may contact Renaissance Learning at flkreadiness@renaissance.com to set up their Renaissance Place account and log-in site.

Q: Will raw files of results be provided for upload to the district student information system?

A: There is a feature in the Renaissance Place assessment platform that will allow a district to import the raw data.

Parent Letters

Q: Are parent notification letters available to inform parents about FLKRS screening?

A: FDOE has provided school districts with a parent notification letter template that schools may customize for distribution to parents. District coordinators have access to the notification letter template on ShareFile.

Q: Are parent reports available for ESOL parents in their native language?

A: There is an English and Spanish version of the parent report.

Policy (Districts)

Q: Any advice on how best to support communication of information to charter schools?

A: Districts should maintain communication with charter schools consistent with practices applied for other state assessment administrations.

Private Schools

Note: In an email communication to school district contacts sent July 18, 2017, FDOE updated its policies and requirements regarding private schools and the administration of FLKRS. Questions and answers in this section reflect the updated policies.

Q: Are private schools required to administer FLKRS?

A: Section 1002.69(1), F.S. states: “Nonpublic schools may administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.” It is important to also note that s. 1002.69(4) states: “Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must submit the child for the statewide kindergarten screening, regardless of whether the child is admitted to kindergarten in a public school or nonpublic school.”

Q: What options are available for testing private school students?

A: Private school kindergarten students who attended a state-funded VPK program may be tested on the Star Early Literacy assessment in one of two ways: 1) the private school the student is attending may participate in the FLKRS administration by signing up through Renaissance Learning, completing training, and administering the Star Early Literacy assessment to kindergarten students at the private school, or 2) private school kindergarten students may be tested at a public school site designated by the local school district. Per Section 1002.69, F.S., each school district is required to designate sites to administer FLKRS to private-school-enrolled kindergarten students who were previously enrolled in state-funded VPK programs.

Q: Are there penalties associated with not administering FLKRS to our kindergarten students who were previously enrolled in VPK?

A: If students are not tested, then these students’ scores cannot be included in the readiness rates for their respective VPK providers. If no students in a given VPK program test, then no readiness rate will be calculated for that program. If only some students test, the VPK readiness rate is calculated based on the available scores.

Q: Are there advantages to testing students on site vs. sending them to a district-designated site?

A: Private schools testing onsite will not have to arrange transportation for students, and test administrators will be able to monitor student testing onsite, rather than having to send test administrators to monitor private school students who are testing at a district-designated site. Private school students may be more comfortable testing in the familiar environment of their private school.

Q: If we do not administer FLKRS on our site, would we still be required to send our kindergartners with previous VPK instruction to the public-school site in our district for testing?

A: Section 1002.69(1), F.S. states: “Nonpublic schools may administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.” It is important to also note that s. 1002.69(4) states: “Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must submit the child for the statewide kindergarten screening, regardless of whether the child is admitted to kindergarten in a public school or nonpublic school.”

Q: If our school has already purchased Star Early Literacy for uses outside of FLKRS screening, would we still be able to take advantage of the state's assumed costs for testing our eligible kindergarten students on FLKRS?

A: For FLKRS testing, the Star Early Literacy assessment will be set up on a separate portal for testing only kindergarten students who were previously enrolled in VPK programs and who have an FLEID number. Renaissance will assist you in accessing that platform at no cost to your organization. Other uses of Renaissance assessments beyond the scope of FLKRS testing (which is limited to an initial assessment within the first 30 school days of the school year) would come under a separate contract with Renaissance that schools may purchase optionally. You may contact Renaissance at flkreadiness@renaissance.com for more information.

Q: How will we be able to identify/obtain the FLEID numbers for our kindergarten students who previously attended a VPK program so that we can register these students for FLKRS testing?

A: FDOE is finalizing the procedures for private schools to obtain FLEID numbers for their kindergarten students who previously attended VPK programs. The FLEID numbers are required before your access to Star Early Literacy can be provided by Renaissance. More information will be provided as soon as it is available.

Q: Who do we contact to set up Star Early Literacy for FLKRS testing at our site?

A: Contact Renaissance Learning at flkreadiness@renaissance.com for initial information on setting up your access to the Star Early Literacy portal for FLKRS screening. Renaissance will not be able to set up accounts for private schools before the schools have obtained the FLEID numbers for kindergarten students who are eligible to be screened.

Q: If our school elects to send eligible kindergarten students to a district-designated site for screening, how do we contact the district assessment coordinator to obtain screening site/date information?

A: Florida school districts include general contact information via their websites, for which links are posted at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/school-dis-data/superintendents.stml>. You can also contact Ed Croft at FDOE at ed.croft@fldoe.org for information on the appropriate district contact person for the area in which your school is located.

Q: What are the private school's responsibilities for test administration if the school sends eligible kindergarten students to a district-designated site for FLKRS screening?

A: The private school is responsible for providing a teacher/administrator to accompany students and administer the screening at the district-designated facility. The private school will use the private-school FLKRS portal (which will be posted at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>) to log into the Star Early Literacy platform with log-in credentials provided by Renaissance.

Q: Who do I contact if I have other questions about VPK readiness rates?

A: For questions regarding VPK readiness rates, please contact the appropriate staff at the Office of Early Learning at http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/about_us/oel_contacts.aspx.

Rostering Students

Please see the FLKRS Rostering Options document at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>.

Q: We use auto-processing for Renaissance Place. Can we update or add a student?

A: Even if your school or district is using the Renaissance Data Integration service, you will be able to manually add or edit a student in your district K-Readiness Renaissance Place site.

Q: Where can I find the rostering template?

A: The rostering template is available on the Florida K-Readiness website - <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>; you can also send an email to flkreadiness@renaissance.com to request a copy.

Q: If your district is a current Renaissance Place customer but does not use the Renaissance Data Integration (RDI) service, can just one roster template upload be used both for the non-FLKRS Renaissance Place platform (initial upload) and the FLKRS/Star Early Literacy platform?

A: Even if you don't have the Renaissance Data Integration service, the students from your district or school Renaissance Place site will be pulled into the K-Readiness Renaissance Place site.

Q: Can we upload partial additional files that only include new students?

A: Yes. Please only submit new students in additional rosters.

Q: Is there a deadline for the student template based on your district's start date?

A: There is no firm FDOE deadline for final submission; however, it would be ideal to have rosters finalized the week prior to a school's start date to ensure testing can begin as soon as the school chooses to do so.

Q: Is there a report that can be run to see duplicate accounts after uploading files?

A: Yes. You can generate a list of all rostered students to check for duplicates.

Q: How will rostering work for districts that have some schools already using Star and some that are not?

A: Schools that have Renaissance Place will automatically be rostered into the K-Readiness Renaissance Place site. Schools that don't have Renaissance Place will need to submit a roster or manually enter their students. To enhance the efficiency of the rostering process, FDOE plans to conduct a start-of-school-year survey collection (Survey 8) as an initial file to form the basis for rostering. FDOE will provide this data to Renaissance Learning. Districts will be able to submit updates to account for additional enrollments or student movement within the district.

Q: Will the state provide another large scale import for rostering?

A: Yes. FDOE will be using the Survey 8 data reporting and collection process to support rostering for FLKRS. FDOE will provide an extract file to Renaissance Learning on a weekly basis to cover all district data submissions through August, with a final extract planned for transmittal on September 5, 2017. Additional information on the Survey 8 data reporting process for FLKRS is available online at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7574/urlt/0101174-pmrn.pdf>.

Q: Will layout files be shared with common vendors like FOCUS so that they can automate the roster process?

A: The template file districts use to submit student roster data to Renaissance Learning can be shared with other vendors as necessary.

Q: Will you define required versus optional fields on the layout template?

A: Yes. In the Column Definitions tab, the optional field definition will say "or blank."

Q: Is the student demographic information editable if a mistake is made?

A: Yes.

Q: Will there be a school-level user that can add students manually?

A: Each school should have at least one administrator with an account in Renaissance Place that can manually enter students.

Q: Will districts be able to use one roster to upload student data?

A: Districts will need to use one of the three options available. For districts that currently use Renaissance Place, students will automatically be enrolled in the Florida K-Readiness Renaissance Place site. The other two options are submitting a roster template or manually adding students. These options are in addition to the planned extract from Survey 8 after the first few weeks of the Survey 8 window. To enhance the efficiency of the rostering process, FDOE plans to conduct a start-of-school-year survey collection (Survey 8) as an initial file to form the basis for rostering. FDOE will provide this data to Renaissance Learning. Districts will be able to submit updates to account for additional enrollments or student movement within the district. If a district does not currently have a Renaissance Place site or does not want to use the automated RDI service, the district must choose either Survey 8 **or** the Roster Template.

Q: We typically have thousands of students register after the first day of school, particularly kindergartners. Will it be possible to load "delta" rosters?

A: Yes.

Q: How will staff be entered into the system, and is there school- and district-level management?

A: Yes. There are roles in Renaissance Place for school- and district-level management. If you are currently using Renaissance Place in your district/school, Renaissance will bring those teachers that have kindergarten students assigned to them into the K-Readiness Renaissance Place site. If you are submitting a roster template, we will import the teachers from that file into the K-Readiness Renaissance Place site. You can also manually enter your teachers into Renaissance Place.

[Star Early Literacy Info](#)

Q: How much time does it typically take for a student to complete this assessment?

A: Students will have 90 seconds to answer each question, and the national average completion time for the entire assessment is 20 minutes. Students whose IEPs indicate an extended time accommodation may receive extended time for the administration.

Q: Are there a recommended assessment settings?

A: The most important things are to make sure there are no distractions and that students in group settings have earphones or earbuds.

Q: Could VPK centers have access to the practice test this spring to familiarize their students with the platform?

A: Yes. The practice site will be available on the K-Readiness website.

Q: Will the students be able to take the established Spanish version of Star Early Literacy?

A: FDOE does not plan to use a Spanish version for FLKRS.

Q: Is this system separate from Renaissance Star Early Literacy?

A: It is the same Star Early Learning as is in use in several districts and schools. For the purpose of FLKRS and readiness rate calculations, it will be administered in a separate Renaissance Place site that is specific to the Florida K-Readiness program.

Q: What is the "monitor password"?

A: By default, the monitor password is "admin." You can change your monitor password if you would like.

Q: Will you provide us with any other materials that we can present to teachers like a PowerPoint that is appropriate for what they need to know?

A: Yes. We will have presentation resources available for training schools. Many of the resources can be found on the Florida K-Readiness website (<http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>).

Q: Is there a limit to the allowable number of district-/administrative-level users?

A: No.

Q: How long is a practice module?

A: The practice module provides 75 seconds per question. The number of questions may vary; a student is required to answer three questions correctly in a row before they are taken to the test.

Q: Are the results of the Star Early Literacy assessment immediately available?

A: Yes.

Q: Are reports downloadable, and would they be in meaningful format, or are they relatively electronic only?

A: Yes. They are downloadable in PDF format. Districts may also export their own district's data from the system.

Q: Could you share the benchmarks that were used for K-Readiness rates in the other states where this measure is used?

A: Each benchmark is specific to the requirements of that state.

Q: Are the directions available in other languages?

A: Directions are only available in English.

Setup

Q: We have single sign on through CLEVER/WebNet in our district. Will STAR be able to be set up and accessed through CLEVER/WebNet?

A: No, not at this time.

Webinar Info

Q: How can I access the webinar recording?

A: The following link will provide access to the recorded Star Early Literacy Preview Webinar, May 3, 2017: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/187455020331814667>. A copy of the webinar presentation is now available on the Florida K-Readiness webpage at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>.

Q: How can I access the PowerPoint?

A: The presentation is posted on the Florida K-Readiness website. You can access resources from the Florida K-Readiness webpage at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs>.