Universal Screening for Foundational Reading Skills

WCPS is committed to identifying and addressing the needs of each student. Three times a year, all students in grades 1-8 participate in an assessment that provides teachers with valuable data about students’ development in reading, the I-Ready diagnostic assessment. The screening tool we use with our youngest readers in kindergarten is the American Reading Company Independent Reading Level Assessment (IRLA). This screening helps to determine the placement of students’ reading skills and predict risk for future reading difficulties. If students’ scores on either of these screening tools indicate some risk, further diagnostic assessments are completed. Screening and diagnostic data is reviewed by grade-level teams to develop instructional plans.

WCPS utilizes universal screening, diagnostic assessments, and documented student performance to drive decisions about students’ level of risk for meeting grade-level expectations in reading and their needs for supplemental instruction and intervention.

Parents/Guardians of all WCPS students will be notified of their child’s reading achievement quarterly, in each report card. Following the mid-year data review, parents or guardians of kindergarten students will receive a notification letter if their child demonstrates some risk for reading difficulty. The letter will include reading screening results and a description of any supplemental instruction that will be provided. Parents or guardians of students in grades 1-2 who are new to WCPS will also be sent a notification letter if their child demonstrates some risk for reading difficulty. Outside of these formal communication measures, WCPS teachers are encouraged to communicate frequently with caregivers about students’ progress. We strive to forge strong partnerships with our families and our schools’ staff welcome communication from parents/guardians as well.

Typical and atypical early reading behaviors are described in the graphic below titled: “What are the Effects of Dyslexia: Signs of typical reading development and possible indicators of risk for dyslexia.” If a text version of the graphic is preferred, please click here.
If you have questions or concerns about your child’s reading skills or the need for supplemental reading instruction, please contact your child’s teacher. If you have questions about WCPS universal screening procedures for risks of reading difficulties, please contact cmhamborsky@worcesterk12.org.