



FastBridge aReading and aMath: Frequently Asked Questions

What are the aReading and aMath tests?

aReading and aMath, by *FastBridge Learning*, are reading and math tests developed by the University of Minnesota. Students complete aReading and aMath on a computer. When a student answers a question correctly, the next question is slightly more challenging. When a student answers a question incorrectly, the next question is slightly easier. The changing difficulty of questions give more accurate results. The student finishes each assessment in about 20-25 minutes and the results are a measure of their overall reading and math ability.

Why were aReading and aMath selected as one of the district measures of reading and math ability?

aReading and aMath were selected because they give comparable information in less time than what we used before (Performance Series). Less class time is lost because the tests are shorter. When a student takes these assessments multiple times over the year, we can confirm she or he is growing as most kids their age and give them the support they need to stay on track.

When are aReading and aMath given?

These assessments are administered in the fall, winter, and spring.

How are the results from these assessments used?

These assessments help teachers understand:

- Each student's *current* reading performance.
- Each student's reading *improvement* over time.

Remember, aReading and aMath are each just one test used to measure broad reading and math skills. Teachers use this and many other strategies to determine what specific help a student may need.

What happens if a teacher determines my student is at risk?

Students can get additional help in a number of ways, but it is most often through additional small-group time either with their regular teacher or with another teacher who specializes in giving that support. Progress is checked frequently during the time the student is getting the support to make sure it is working. Extra support continues until students show they no longer need the support.

What can I do to support my child's progress in reading and math?

Your child's classroom teacher will be able to provide you with more information specific to your child and how you might support him or her at home. Whether your child is on track or at risk, you can always contact the teacher for updates.