



## ***FastBridge earlyReading and earlyMath: Frequently Asked Questions***

### ***What are the earlyReading and earlyMath tests?***

earlyReading and earlyMath, by *FastBridge Learning*, are reading and math tests developed by the University of Minnesota. FastBridge earlyMath and earlyReading are assessments given three times a year in kindergarten and first grade. The earlyReading assessment has four sub-tests and the earlyMath assessment has three sub-tests. Both earlyReading and earlyMath are given in the fall, winter, and spring. However, the sub-tests change each season because children's reading and mathematical readiness changes quickly in early elementary. Each assessment "season" (fall, winter, spring), the sub-tests are blended into a single "score" for reading and a single "score" for math that provide an overall picture of where your child is in his or her development of early reading and early math skills. This single score is called a composite score.

### ***Why were earlyReading and earlyMath selected as one of the district measures of reading and math ability?***

earlyReading and earlyMath were selected because they provide information to help us understand the development of your student's sub-skills in early reading and early math. 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 earlyReading and earlyMath given?***

These assessments are administered in the fall, winter, and spring and are given individually by testing staff.

### ***How are the results from these assessments used?***

These assessments help teachers understand:

- Each student's *current* performance in a variety of early reading and early math sub-skills.
- Each student's reading *improvement* over time.

Remember, earlyReading and earlyMath are just one set of 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 the instruction 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.