

September 9, 2026

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Early years literacy is a priority for both the Government of Saskatchewan and Prairie South School Division. As part of Saskatchewan's Provincial Education Plan, the Ministry of Education, in consultation with sector partners, has developed **Actions to Improve Early Literacy**.

As part of the Actions to Improve Early Literacy, in the 2026-27 school year, all schools will use reading screeners to assess Kindergarten to Grade 3 students' reading skills. A screener is a quick evidence-based assessment that helps teachers identify whether students are experiencing reading difficulties. These tools and the information they provide will help teachers make specific plans to support children who may require additional support.

There will be three assessment windows for the K-3 Reading Screeners:

Fall: September 21 – October 9
Winter: January 18 – February 5
Spring: May 10 – May 28

Kindergarten students will only participate in the Winter assessment giving them adequate time to begin developing age-appropriate literacy skills in the classroom before completing the screens.

Although this information currently pertains to parents/caregivers of children in Kindergarten to Grade 3, Prairie South believes it is important to inform all parents/caregivers about provincial assessment information.

If you have any questions about the K-3 Reading Screeners, please contact Amanda Olson, Superintendent of Learning, at olson.amanda@prairiesouth.ca.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's learning.



Amanda Olson
Superintendent of Learning



Actions to Improve Early Literacy in Saskatchewan

Parents and Caregivers:

The Ministry of Education is working with teachers and education partners to improve early literacy and reading instruction. This approach includes:

- renewing the English Kindergarten to Grade 3 curricula based on best practices in reading instruction;
- reviewing the French Immersion and Fransaskois curricula;
- building teacher expertise in structured literacy; and,
- screening all students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 to assess their foundational reading skills.

Why is this being implemented?

One in three Grade 3 students in Saskatchewan are reading below grade level.

Focusing on Kindergarten to Grade 3 reading is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. Students being able to read at the appropriate grade level is one of the most important measures to support future academic success. Students who learn to read by Grade 3 will read to learn in higher grades.

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has emphasized the need for screening students to identify reading difficulties and build teacher expertise in reading instruction.

What does this mean for my child?

In the 2026-27 school year, all schools will use a reading screener to assess Kindergarten to Grade 3 students' reading skills. A screener is a quick assessment that helps teachers identify whether students are experiencing reading difficulties. These tools and the information they provide will help teachers make specific plans to support children requiring additional support.

Throne Speech

A child's ability to read at grade level by Grade 3 is the single greatest predictor of future academic success, because this is when students transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

Do other provinces use reading screeners?

Yes. Many provinces are implementing screening approaches similar to Saskatchewan. This includes Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

How often will my child be screened?

The minimum number of screens per grade is provided in the chart below. Teachers may choose to screen students more often to monitor progress.

	Fall	Winter	Spring*
K		✓	
Gr. 1	✓	✓	✓
Gr. 2	✓	✓	✓
Gr. 3	✓	✓	✓

*Spring screens must be completed for students who were identified as requiring additional supports in the Winter screen and may be completed for all students at the discretion of the education organization.

Will I get the results from my child's reading assessment?

Schools will share students' reading screener results with parents in a timely manner.

What happens if my child is identified as "requiring additional supports"?

The results from the screeners will help teachers identify the reading skills a student is struggling to acquire. Interventions can then be provided to target instruction that best meets the student's needs.

Where can I find more information?

Please visit saskatchewan.ca/earlyliteracy to learn more.