

Technical Guidance for RSA Screener Istation – Imagination Station, Inc.



This guidance is based off of information provided by the vendor, and is provided to assist districts in quickly finding essential information for using this screening instrument to meet the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA).

Contact Information

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Assessment Administration

Group size: Group Individual
Type: Curriculum-based measure Adaptive
Method: Paper-pencil Online

Administration Time

On average, administration window takes 30 minutes as a group. Times are provided by the publisher.



Required Assessment Component

Istation follows a continuum of learning that, research indicates, is predictive of later reading success. Skills build upon skills, and the sequence of subtests builds upon prior subtests. As skills of lower-level difficulty are eliminated from the test battery, more difficult skills that rely on achievement of the prior skills are added.

Because Istation incorporates computer-adaptive algorithms, students are administered items of increasing difficulty until either an appropriate level of ability is established or it is determined through other higher-level subtests that skill mastery has been achieved. Thus, defaults are only a starting point. Once Istation calibrates to the performance ability of a particular student, each subsequent test relies on the previous calibrations to determine with which items to begin subsequent administrations.

The following chart lists the subtests used by default for each grade level:

Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Listening Comprehension● Phonemic Awareness● Letter Knowledge● Vocabulary
1 st Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Phonemic Awareness● Letter Knowledge● Vocabulary● Alphabetic Decoding● Reading Comprehension● Spelling
2 nd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Vocabulary● Reading Comprehension● Spelling● Text Fluency
3 rd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Vocabulary● Reading Comprehension● Spelling● Text Fluency

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Grade Level Benchmarks

Istation has defined a three-tier normative grouping based on indices associated with the 20th and 40th percentiles. Students with an index above the 40th percentile for their grade are placed into Tier 1. Students with an index at or below the 20th percentile are placed into Tier 3. These tiers are used to guide educators in determining the level of instruction for each student. That is, students classified as:

- Tier 1 (above the 40th percentile) are on track and performing at grade level.
- Tier 2 (between 21st and 40th percentile) are at some risk, are performing moderately below grade level, and are in need of intervention.
- Tier 3 (20th percentile and below) are at risk, are performing seriously below grade level, and are in need of intensive intervention.

Students who are classified as Tier 2 across all subtests should be considered to be having comprehensive reading difficulties and should receive Tier 3 instruction.

The following chart shows the Overall Reading Ability Index score equivalent to the 40th percentile for each grade level at the beginning (September), middle (January), and end (May) of the year. **Students scoring below this score are considered at-risk for not meeting grade level reading expectations, and should be placed on an Academic Progress Plan (APP).**

	Beginning of Year	Middle of Year	End of Year
Kindergarten	184	195	202
1 st Grade	204	216	225
2 nd Grade	228	235	240
3 rd Grade	241	246	251