

What is the DRA?

The DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) is an individualized reading assessment that enables teachers to evaluate growth in student reading performance over time. The DRA helps teachers to identify students' independent reading level by assessing students' oral reading fluency and comprehension. A student's independent reading level is the level at which he or she can read successfully without assistance from the teacher. Reading levels range from A/1 (emergent reader) to 60 (advanced reader) in elementary school.

How is oral reading fluency and comprehension measured by the DRA?

Teachers listen while students read short passages aloud. Teachers assess students' oral reading fluency by evaluating their expression, phrasing, reading rate and accuracy. Fluent readers read in long meaningful phrases with appropriate expression; the number of words read per minute is within acceptable parameters (not calculated at levels A/1-12); and word recognition is highly accurate. Teachers assess students' comprehension by evaluating students' responses to prompts after reading. For levels A/1-24, students provide oral responses. For levels 28-60, students provide written responses.

What is the purpose of the DRA?

The DRA provides information that teachers use to group students for guided reading and to plan appropriate reading instruction that is differentiated to meet students' needs. The DRA level is also used to match students with text that allows them to read for meaning, draw on the reading skills they already control, and expand their reading skills in text with the right mixture of support and challenge.

When is the DRA given?

At Lee Elementary, The DRA is given in the fall, at mid-year and in the spring.

How do students' DRA levels correlate to their grade level?

Grade Level	DRA Level
Kindergarten	A-1
Kindergarten	2
Kindergarten	3
First	4
First	6
First	8
First	10
First	12
First	14
First	16

Second	18
Second	20
Second	24
Second	28
Third	30
Third	34
Third	38
Fourth	40
Fifth	50