

LEXILE® MEASURES :: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Your role as a parent is critical to the learning success of your child. Studies show that children who read outside of school – and who grow up in active reading environments – perform better on tests. But just as the same shoe size does not fit all children of the same age, not all children read at the same ability level. We want to help you understand The Lexile® Framework for Reading. The following information details how North Carolina assessments are using the Lexile Framework to further reading education in public schools, and how you can use it to encourage and support your child’s reading success at home.

WHAT ASSESSMENTS REPORT A LEXILE MEASURE?

The Lexile Framework is linked with the North Carolina end-of-grade (EOG) tests and the English II end-of-course test. The EOG tests are administered statewide to children in grades 3-8 each spring.

WHY DOES NCDPI REPORT LEXILE MEASURES FROM EOG TESTS?

North Carolina was the first state to report a child’s Lexile measure as a supplemental metric on its standardized test reports. (Teachers can contact their county or district testing coordinators for a roster of their students’ Lexile measures). Lexile measures provide teachers with actionable information that they can use to better personalize instruction based on your child’s unique reading ability and goals, and to discuss with you the reading needs of your son or daughter.

WHAT IS THE LEXILE FRAMEWORK FOR READING?

Simply put, the Lexile Framework provides a common, developmental scale to describe both the complexity of texts (readability) and the reading level of your child (reading ability).

WHAT LEXILE INFORMATION IS INCLUDED ON MY CHILD’S REPORT?

The Parent/Teacher Report provides information on your child’s performance on the EOG tests of reading comprehension and mathematics. The information on the left side describes your child’s performance on the reading test and provides his or her Lexile measure. You can view a sample EOG report online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/uisrs/eogisr15.pdf>. If you have questions regarding your district’s specific report, your child’s test scores, his or her progress in school, or local policies related to the use of test results, contact your child’s teacher or guidance counselor.

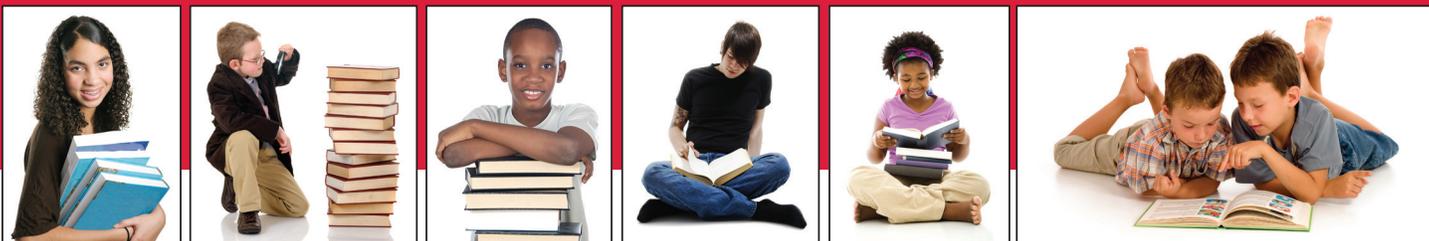
WHAT IS THE LEXILE SCALE?

The Lexile scale is developmental in nature. There is not an explicit bottom or top to the Lexile scale, but rather two anchor points that describe different levels of reading comprehension – from beginning readers and beginning-reading texts to more advanced readers and texts.

The Lexile scale is a valuable tool because it allows you to monitor your child’s progress over time. For example, books like “Arthur and the Recess Rookie” (370L), “Arthur Goes to Camp” (380L) and “Arthur, Clean Your Room!” (370L) fall within the Lexile range of a typical second grader. These books have shorter sentences and words appear frequently. Conversely, books in the “Harry Potter” series (which range from 880L to 1060L), “Little Women” (1300L) and “Don Quixote” (1410L) contain longer sentences and more complex words.

WHAT DOES A LEXILE MEASURE TELL ME ABOUT WHAT MY CHILD CAN READ?

When a Lexile reader measure and a Lexile text measure match, the reader is “targeted.” This is the basis for selecting text that is targeted to your child’s reading ability and goals. Targeted readers report competence, confidence and control over the text. When a Lexile text measure is greater than a Lexile reader measure, comprehension can drop dramatically and the subjective experience is likely one of frustration, inadequacy and lack of control. Conversely, when a Lexile reader measure exceeds a Lexile text measure, comprehension can go up dramatically and the reader is likely to experience total control and automaticity.



A Lexile measure is a useful tool for managing successful reading experiences for your son or daughter. But it is not the only consideration when selecting a book. Your child's interests, your opinion on what constitutes age-appropriate material, and instructional goals are also important in managing your child's reading. It is also important to remember that your child's Lexile measure is not a measure of his or her intelligence. The Lexile Framework is designed to match your child's reading ability (wherever it falls on the Lexile scale) with a text's readability (wherever it falls on the Lexile scale) for optimal reading success and enjoyment.

HOW DO I FIND BOOKS THAT WILL HELP MY CHILD GROW AS A READER?

"Find a Book" (at www.lexile.com/fab/NC/) is the quickest and easiest way to search for books at your child's Lexile level. Whether your child is reading for school or for pleasure, this free utility will help you build a custom reading list on the subjects that interest your son or daughter the most. We recommend using a Lexile range that spans 100L below to 50L above your child's Lexile measure to help ensure a successful reading experience. For example, if your child is an 880L reader, use a Lexile range that spans from 780L to 930L. In addition, most public libraries have access to Follett, EBSCO and Bigchalk, which you can use to search for article abstracts with Lexile measures. Remember, the goal is to get your child reading. The Lexile Framework can help you locate books, articles and other texts that your child is able to read and is interested in reading.

HOW DO GRADE LEVELS AND LEXILE LEVELS RELATE?

Lexile levels do not translate specifically to grade levels. Within any classroom, there will be a range of readers and a range of materials to be read. In a fifth-grade classroom, for example, there will be some readers who are far ahead and some readers who are far below the rest. To say that some books are "just right" for fifth graders assumes that all fifth graders are reading at the same level. The Lexile Framework matches readers with texts at whatever Lexile level they are reading. Just because a student is an excellent reader does not mean that he or she would comprehend a text typically found at a higher-grade level. Without the background knowledge, the words may not have much meaning. A high Lexile measure for a grade indicates that the student can read grade-level appropriate materials at a higher comprehension level. In the classroom, if a teacher is doing a lesson on the solar system, he or she can suggest additional readings at a variety of Lexile levels. Therefore, each child can read additional books, and below-grade and above-grade readers can find appropriately challenging material.

WHAT TYPES OF MATERIALS HAVE A LEXILE MEASURE? WILL MORE BE ADDED?

Many different types of materials have been assigned a Lexile measure. "Find a Book" comprises more than 200,000 fiction and nonfiction titles with Lexile measures, and this number continues to grow. "Find a Book" allows you to build custom reading lists based on your child's Lexile measure and personal interests. It also includes a link to WorldCat so that you can check a book's availability at the local public library, and on Barnes&Noble.com where you can purchase the book.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- The Lexile Framework for Reading at www.Lexile.com
- NCDPI's *Give Five – Read Five* website at www.ncpublicschools.org/give5read5/
- Sample student EOG test score report with Lexile measure (pdf, 930kb) at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/uirs/eogisr15.pdf>

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