

Colorado Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project *Frequently Asked Questions/Resources*

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ELAT and the Read Act

The 2012 School Finance Act required the Colorado Department of Education to issue a competitive request for proposals (RFP) for state purchase of an early literacy assessment tool that teachers may use to obtain real-time assessments of the reading skill levels of students in kindergarten through third grade. The intent was to support state purchase of software that provides individualized assessments with immediate results, stores and analyzes those results, and recommends activities based on those results. In January, the contract was awarded to Amplify (formerly Wireless Generation) for its DIBELS Next system and Burst diagnostic reading assessments. The funding covers the cost of the online software license and training. Hardware was not included.

[Application](#)

Components of the ELAT project

The ELAT project provides teachers with an interim assessment, a diagnostic assessment, and action planning tools to assist with instruction for all students:

- mCLASS®:DIBELS Next®
 - The interim assessment to be used with all students. The benchmark assessment is given to all students three times each year. Students scoring below benchmark will be administered progress monitored on a regular schedule (please see the section 'Assessment Calendars' for detail).
- mCLASS®: Burst Assessments
 - Students scoring 'Well Below Benchmark' on the DIBELS Next Benchmark assessment and the follow-up progress monitoring probe will be identified as having a Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD). The Burst diagnostic

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measures will then be used to collect further information on specific reading skill deficiencies with these students.

- Now What? Tools: Home Connect; Small Group Advisor; Item-Level Advisor
 - The tools provided within the Amplify system are designed to assist educators to communicate with parents, group students based on similar strengths/skill gaps, and identify error patterns. Suggested activities are provided based on student performance within the Small Group and Item-Level Advisors.
- Publisher partner editions
 - Several publishers have partnered with Amplify to provide specific reporting that links student performance to suggested activities within the core materials. If your school uses one of the following core programs, please contact our customer care center (help@amplify.com) to have this activated for your school and/or district: Reading Street (2012), Treasures (2011), Imagine It! (2011), or Trophies (2009).
- Associated Links (click for additional information):
 - [mCLASS:DIBELS Next Overview](#)
 - [Home Connect User Guide](#)
 - [Small Group Advisor User Guide](#)
 - [Item Level Advisor User Guide](#)

Materials Provided by ELAT

The program will provide both kit materials and downloadable training materials to be used onsite for staff.

- Assessment Kit Materials Provided:
 - One DIBELS Next assessment kit per grade per school (4 total for a K-3 building).
 - One Burst assessment kit per grade per school (4 total for a K-3 building).
- Training Materials: For each Training of Trainer session that is provided by the program (with the intent of the material to be shared with all staff at the school), a link will be provided to your Local Trainers (those that attend the Amplify training) to download the presentation materials to use with school staff. The link is provided during the training led by Amplify.
- Associated Links:
 - If your school decides to acquire additional assessment kits, you can either download or purchase additional kits; please see links below. (Note, DIBELS Next kits that you may have on hand from administering the assessment via paper/pencil will work for the Amplify platform – you would not need additional kits).
 - [Click to order kits from Amplify](#)
 - [Download DIBELS Next kits from DMG](#)

Accessing the Amplify mCLASS Platform

Educators will access the Amplify platform through two different websites depending upon whether the intent is to assess students or to view data. Please note that the same username and password is valid for both sites.

- www.mclasshome.com/assessment: This site is designed exclusively to assess students on DIBELS Next or Bursts.

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- www.mclasshome.com: This site serves as the primary source of reporting for educators. From here, you will be able to view class, student, and item level reporting. Staff with sufficient access privileges in the system will also be able to access aggregate reporting for either the school or district.
- Whether you are accessing the assessment or the reporting website, you will want to ensure that you are using a compatible device and/or browser. Additionally, Amplify has identified best practices for using devices for assessment.
- Associated Links:
 - [Device Compatibility with mCLASS](#)
 - [mCLASS Best Practices for iOS \(Apple products\)](#)
 - [mCLASS Best Practices for Android](#)
 - [mCLASS Best Practices for Windows XP and Windows 7](#)
 - [mCLASS Best Practices for Windows 8](#)

Managing Data in Amplify

Two primary questions arise in terms of managing the data in the Amplify system. First, districts will manage the roster data (to include staff, students, and classes). This will need to be done before teachers can assess students (and should be updated regularly to facilitate progress monitoring and benchmarks occurring throughout the school year). After assessing has been completed, many districts want to extract the assessment data to upload into other systems (e.g. Alpine Achievement, SchoolNet, PowerSchool, etc...).

- Managing Roster Data
 - Staff, Student, and Class data can be entered into the Amplify platform either through district/school uploads or through manual entry.
 - When possible, the use of file uploads is preferable to manual entry as it will keep the data more consistent with reporting needs (and facilitates easier updates throughout the year).
- Extracting Assessment Data
 - Amplify provides a function that allows districts to download csv files that contain all student assessment data for mCLASS:DIBELS Next.
 - To access this feature, the staff member will need to have either 'Full' or 'System' access with Amplify.
 - For assistance in downloading the files, please contact Amplify's customer care center at help@amplify.com or by calling 800-823-1969 option 3.
- Associated Link
 - For assistance in uploading staff, student, and class files, download the [Self-Service Enrollment Guide](#).

Training Opportunities

The ELAT project will provide thorough and timely professional development throughout the 2013-2014 school year for both local trainers and principals. A complete schedule of trainings is included at the end of this document as Appendix A.

- Principals
 - Program Overview (webinar)
 - Data Analysis for Instructional Leaders after Beginning of Year Benchmark (in-person)

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- Further Data Analysis (in conjunction with Local Trainers) after Middle of Year Benchmark (in-person)
- Local Trainers
 - Initial mCLASS:DIBELS Next training (in-person)
 - Data Analysis and Burst Assessment Administration (in-person)
 - Further Data Analysis (in conjunction with Principals) after Middle of Year Benchmark (in-person)
 - Webinar Series: Sessions occurring in October, November, and March.
- Associated Link
 - Training information, registration for in-person trainings, and recorded webinars can be found on the [CDE link for the ELAT project](#).

Assessment Calendars

- DIBELS Next Benchmarks and Progress Monitoring:
 - Beginning of Year Benchmark Window: First 30 instructional days of school.
 - Middle of Year Benchmark Window: Districts to choose a two week window between December 9th and January 22nd.
 - End of Year Benchmark Window: April 28th to May 16th.
 - **Progress Monitoring** for students not achieving Benchmark:
 - 'Well Below Benchmark' Students – once every 5 instructional days
 - 'Below Benchmark' Students – once every two weeks
- Use of DIBELS Next and Burst Assessments to establish SRD:
 - DIBELS Next Benchmark to be given within first 30 days of school.
 - Students scoring 'Well Below Benchmark' to be given a progress monitoring with DIBELS Next within 30 days after the benchmark (to determine if student has made progress, or is still below expectation).
 - If student is still showing below benchmark on the progress monitoring assessment, administer the Burst Assessment as a diagnostic measure for additional data to inform READ Plan and student instruction.

Additional Resources:

- [CDE Website for ELAT Program](#): CDE maintains a site specifically for this project, and includes news and updates to the program on a regular basis. Bookmark this site for future reference.
- [mCLASS:DIBELS Next Online Help](#): This link will provide online assistance for the administration of each measure, the entry of the DAZE scores for 3rd grade, and accessing web reporting at the class, student, and item level.
- [mCLASS:Home Support](#): If your questions are not answered by this FAQ, you can find additional support materials at this link.
- Amplify provides a customer care center that is accessible from 5am-5pm Mountain Time (at no cost to the district). They can be reached via phone at 800-823-1969 option 3 or via email at help@amplify.com

Contact Information:

Both CDE and Amplify will communicate program information to participating districts. Please look for emails sent by one of the following staff. Additionally, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out for assistance.

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- Donna Bright, CDE, Principal Consultant
 - Bright_D@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6002
- Eric Howey, Amplify, Associate Director of Account Management and ELAT Project Manager
 - ehowey@amplify.com; 972-341-1394
- Karen Cushman, Amplify, Senior Account Manager
 - kcushman@amplify.com; 765-625-1105
- Jamie Gansmann, Amplify, Director of District Partnerships
 - jgansmann@amplify.com; 303-870-7078

Early Literacy Assessment Tool Project Professional Development Schedule

Amplify, in conjunction with CDE, will be providing a comprehensive set of professional development opportunities throughout the 2013-2014 school year for all schools participating in the Early Literacy Assessment Tool (ELAT) project. Many of the opportunities are for the local trainers (those that attend the training of trainers during the summer), with the understanding that the local trainers (LTs) will replicate the training at their campuses. Additionally, please note that some sessions are specifically designed for Principals and School leaders. Below is a schedule for the professional development for this upcoming year. Specifics regarding logistics (webinar links, regional training registration, etc...) will be provided well before the event.

Date	Activity	Audience	Overview
June-August	Regional mCLASS:DIBELS Next TOT Trainings	Local Trainers	These in-person trainings are designed to ensure that local trainers have the materials and expertise to train the remaining staff at their campus to administer mCLASS:DIBELS Next and access planning tools and reports on the Amplify platform.
Aug 1	Principal Webinar: Intro to the program	Principals	This is an introduction webinar for school principals that will provide an overview of the assessments and tools, the available reporting, and how the program fits with the READ Act.
Sept 12 – 18	Regional Instructional Leaders Sessions	Principals	Amplify will conduct a series of in-person sessions across the state for principals that focus on the reporting capabilities after the BOY benchmark window and using that data to drive change at the school level. <i>The training on the administration and appropriate use of the Burst Reading Assessment Measures (the diagnostic tool for the ELAT program) will also be provided at this time.</i>
Sept 19 – Oct 1	Regional Onsite Trainings: BOY Data; Class Reports; Aggregate Reports; Burst Reading Assessment Measures	Local Trainers	Just after the beginning of year assessment window, Amplify will conduct another series of in-person trainings around the state that will focus on using the BOY data for instructional purposes, accessing class and student reports, and accessing the aggregate reports on the Amplify website. <i>The training on the administration and appropriate use of the Burst Reading Assessment Measures (the diagnostic tool</i>

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			<i>for the ELAT program) will also be provided at this time.</i>
Oct 1 1pm-2pm	Webinar: BOY Data; Class Reports; Aggregate Reports	Local Trainers (only those that are unable to attend a regional in-person training for this topic)	This webinar is designed for LTs that are unable to attend one of the regional trainings provided Sept 19-Oct 1. It is highly recommended that the LTs attend the in-person training, as much more individualized attention can be provided in-person.
Late Sept– Nov	Onsite Support Visits Late Sept	Varies	Amplify and CDE will work with districts to identify sites that would benefit from additional sessions with an Amplify consultant. The topic of the session will vary based on site need.
Oct 9 1pm-2pm	Webinar: Now What Tools; Progress Monitoring; Parent Involvement	Local Trainers	The session will focus on the use of the Now What Tools (to include the parent letter, item-level analysis tool, and the small grouping tool), the importance of progress monitoring, and involving parents in data-driven literacy conversations throughout the year. <i>All local trainers are encouraged to attend this webinar 'live'; however, it will also be recorded and posted to the CDE website.</i>
Nov 20 1pm-2pm	Webinar: Prepare local trainers for MOY window	Local Trainers	This session will address items that LTs will want to manage at their sites to ensure a successful middle of year benchmark. <i>All local trainers are encouraged to attend this webinar 'live'; however, it will also be recorded and posted to the CDE website.</i>
Jan 22 – Feb 12	Regional Data Analysis Sessions (in conjunction with Principals)	Principals Local Trainers	These in-person trainings will be held regionally throughout the state. LTs are to attend with their principals. The focus of the session is to review data analysis practices that incorporate progress monitoring data as well as reports in the Amplify system that rely on having two benchmark data sets (BOY and MOY results).

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February - April	Onsite Support Visits	Varies	Amplify and CDE will work with districts to identify sites that would benefit from additional sessions with an Amplify consultant. The topic of the session will vary based on site need.
March 5 1pm-2pm	Webinar: Parent conversations around data; other content determined by interest/need; prep LTs for EOY window	Local Trainers	This session will focus on using data to hold conversations with parents (particularly difficult conversations that may include recommendations for retention and/or summer school). <i>All local trainers are encouraged to attend this webinar 'live'; however, it will also be recorded and posted to the CDE website.</i>