

Using Amira Learning for Dyslexia Screening in North Dakota

Overview

North Dakota’s 69th Legislative Assembly has [secured dedicated funding to continue providing for Amira Learning](#) at no cost to students and families in high-use districts through June 2027. As an approved universal and dyslexia screener, Amira directly fulfills the requirements of [NDCC 15.1-32-26](#), allowing districts to streamline compliance while accelerating student growth.

Universal Screening

According to NDCC 15.1-32-26, each school district shall provide universal screening for dyslexia including core components of phonemic awareness, decoding, and spelling for all enrolled children seven years of age and younger. Table 1 displays the Amira tasks that align with the [North Dakota core components](#).

Table 1: Amira Screening Tasks

Screener Tasks	Estimated Time	K	1	2
Rapid Automatized Naming (RAN)	1 min	✓	✓	✓
Letter Naming	1 min	✓	A	
Letter Sounds	1 min	✓	✓	A
Phonological Working Memory	75 sec – 2 min	✓	A	
Phonological Deletion/Elision	1 min	✓	✓	A
Phoneme Segmentation	1 min	O	✓	A
Phoneme Substitution	1 min	O	O	O
Blending	75 sec	✓	✓	A
Listening Comprehension (Retell)	3 – 5 min	✓	A	
Word Decoding	30 – 90 sec	A	✓	✓
Nonsense Word Fluency	90 sec	A	✓	✓
Spelling	2 min	A	✓	✓
Oral Reading Fluency	90 sec – 4 min	A	✓	✓
Reading Comprehension	3 – 5 min	A	✓	✓
Receptive Vocabulary	1 min – 1 min 17 sec	O	O	O
Estimated Total Time (Minutes)		16 min	18 min	17 min

✓ = Required; A = Adaptive; O = Optional

Amira generates a Dyslexia Risk Index (DRI) score by analyzing performance across these tasks, along with any additional tasks configured by the district (“O”) or dynamically added through adaptive screening (“A”). The screener enables LEAs to measure intervention effectiveness through 3x annual screening (Fall, Winter, Spring), and is available for all students in grades K-8.

Benchmarks and Cut Scores

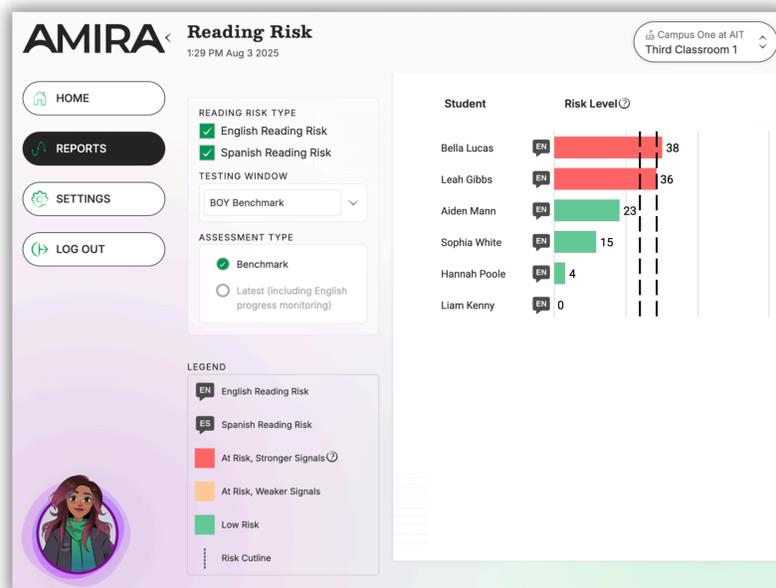
A DRI of greater than 33 (grade K) or 36 (1st-8th) is the cut point for identifying students significantly at risk. Additional measures such as the Amira Reading Mastery (ARM) can be used to determine next steps for intervention and instruction.

Table 2: Benchmarks and Cut Scores

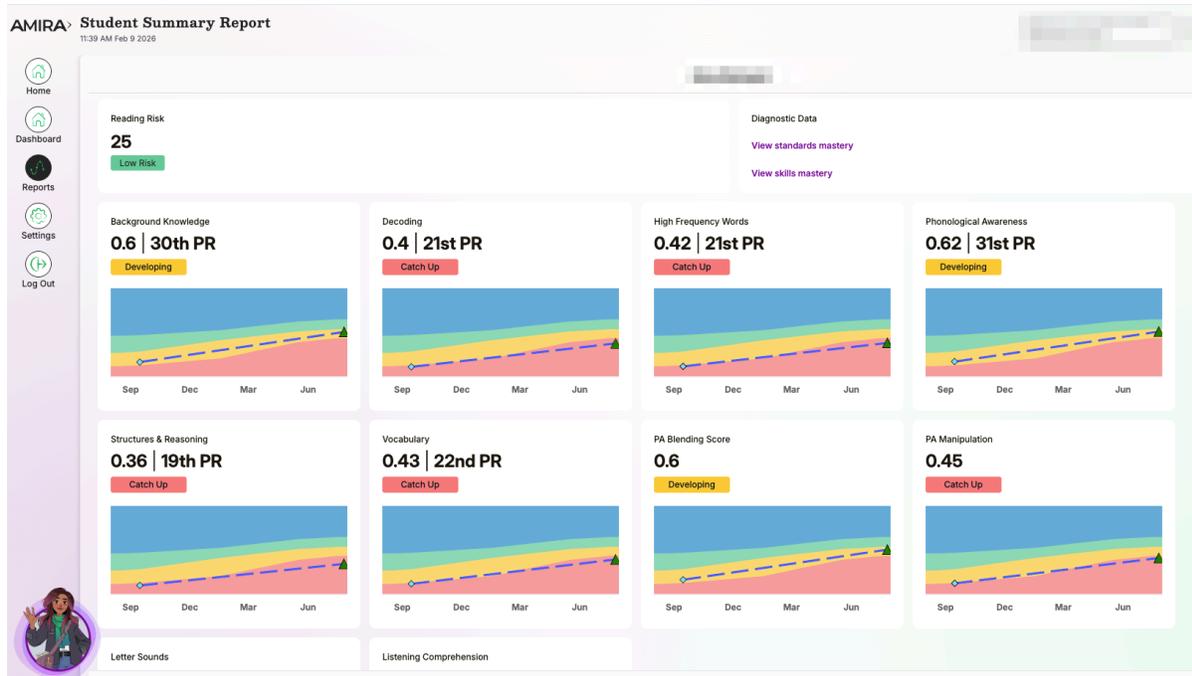
Indicator	Risk Category	At Risk Score
Dyslexia Risk Indicator (DRI)	Scores in this range align most closely to risk for characteristics of reading difficulties such as dyslexia.	> 33 (Kinder) > 36 (1st – 8th)
ARM (Amira Reading Mastery) Score	At Risk of Not Attaining Grade Level Proficiency	< 25th percentile

Interpreting Amira Data and Next Steps

To meet the requirements of NDCC 15.1-32-26, utilize the [Reading Risk Report](#), which generates a Dyslexia Risk Indicator (DRI) score for each student. While Amira does not diagnose dyslexia, this report provides a valuable early-warning tool that flags students who may benefit from further evaluation and support.



Amira supports further evaluation processes for students identified with dyslexia risk factors through detailed diagnostic indicators. The [Student Summary Report](#) provides data for tracking progress across domains of Scarborough’s Reading Rope, including background knowledge, decoding, high frequency words, phonological awareness, structures & reasoning, vocabulary, letter sounds, and listening comprehension.



For more information, please review:

- [Reading Risk Report for Admin](#) | [Reading Risk Report for Teachers](#)
- [Skills Status Report](#)
- [Standards Mastery Report](#)
- [Parent Report](#)

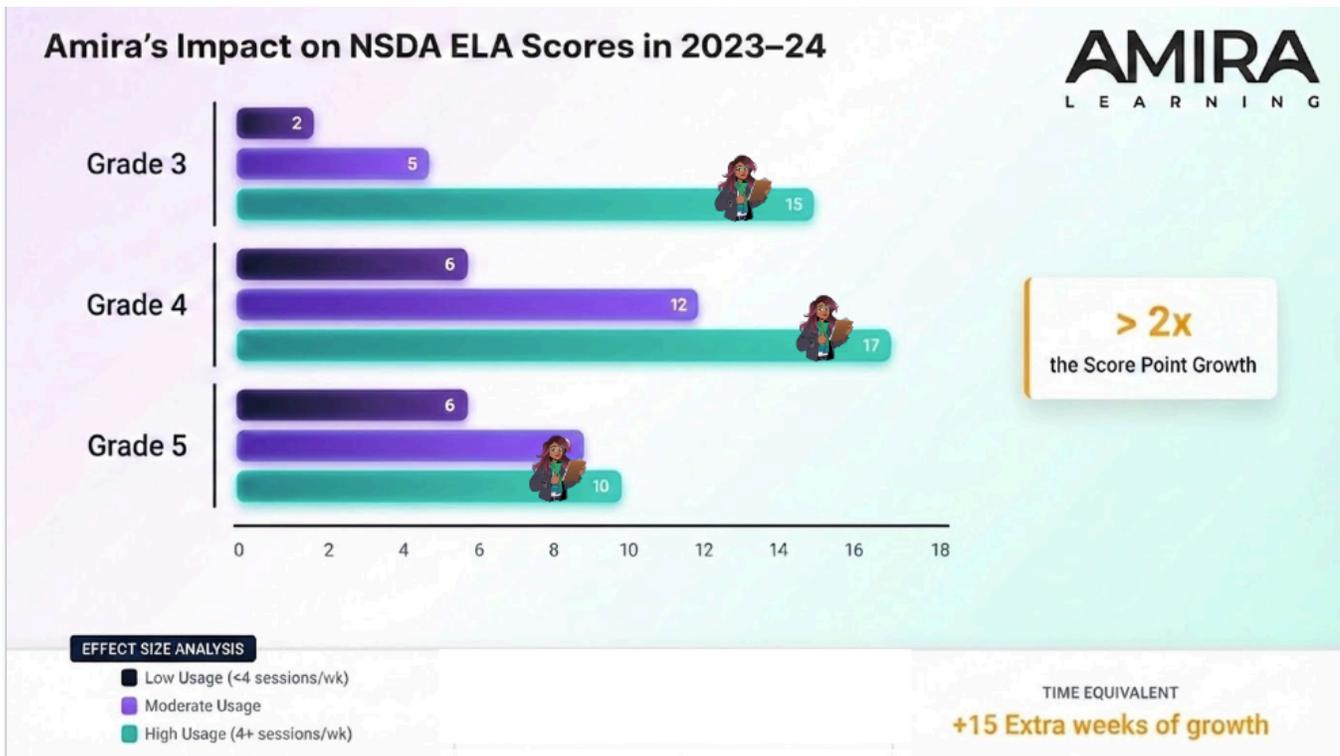
Additional Resources and Support

- Teacher Certification via [Amira Academy](#)
- [Amira ISIP Technical Guide](#)
- The teacher [Resource Hub](#)
- Your Success Manager at northdakota@amiralearning.com

High-Fidelity Amira Users Achieve >2x the Score Point Growth

Students flagged as at-risk receive immediate access to Amira Tutor, available at no cost to all students K-5.

A recent efficacy analysis of Amira found that North Dakota students working regularly with Amira experienced significant performance increases in the 2024 North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA) tests in grades 3, 4, and 5. For example, 3rd-grade students who read with Amira regularly (more than 20 minutes per week) saw an average of a 15-point gain on NDSA, 4th-grade regular users saw a 17-point NDSA gain, and 5th-grade regular users saw a 10-point NDSA gain. You can read more in this [Research Analysis](#).



Contact

- To get started, email northdakota@amiralearning.com.
- For questions, contact **Heidi Oliver**, Success Director, at (580) 515-1505.
- Ongoing support is available via support@amiralearning.com or through live chat at amiralearning.com/support or directly from your Amira dashboard.