

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) 2018-19 Academic Year

What is it?

PALS is a reading readiness assessment given by all educators of 4K, K, 1st, and 2nd grade students. PALS fulfills the state requirement for a reading readiness test. PALS identifies those students who meet minimum competency in early literacy skills and those who do not, and provides indications for specific instruction and for which students may need intervention.

Why is this assessment given?

PALS is given to identify early literacy standings and needs of individual students, to communicate the problem-solving process for effective instruction, to modify classroom instruction and tailor it to individual needs, to evaluate the efficacy of instruction at different levels within the district, and to comply with WI state statute 166.

Who takes this assessment?

All students of MMSD in the grades of 4K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd, shall be administered the PALS assessment in their classroom.

How is the test given?

PALS is a paper and pencil assessment, administered in the classroom by a teacher and/or proctors. The test will take approximately 25-35 minutes to administer, per student.

When is the test given?

PALS is administered in the fall and spring of each school year, and at the same point within the district assessment window (i.e. beginning, middle, or end of the district window) in both the fall and spring. The fall 2018-19 window is scheduled to open **September 10th- October 5th for 1st and 2nd grade**, with score reported no later than October 19, 2018, and **October 8th-November 2nd for 4K and Kindergarten** students, score reported no later than November 16, 2018. The testing window in the spring must correspond to the window tested in the fall, as there needs to be equal length periods of classroom instruction for all 4k-2nd grade students between each PALS testing window.

Please refer to the assessments calendars at mmsd.org/assessment for more information.

How will results be shared?

Results become available after the testing window has closed and all results are entered, and data is collected. Results will be shared with parents (and students) at parent/teacher conferences. (Please refer to "PALS Discussion Points" for conversation starters and points of interest for parents regarding their child's scores.)

Data will not be shared with the community at large, but will be shared to all parents/students and any district staff requiring literacy information.

How does this assessment reflect my child's performance?

As with any assessment, this is only one measure of your student's academic performance. It is only through *multiple* assessments (for example, teacher developed assessments, state and district assessments) that we are able to develop a clearer picture of your student's current level of performance as well as their growth over time.

For more information, contact:

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mmsd.org/assessment

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