

SPRING 2022 ASSESSMENT PERIOD

April 25 – May 20

All spring scores **must** be entered into the PALS website by **June 3, 2022**.

Virginia Public Schools/EIRI Spring Screening Requirements

All students *may* be assessed. The following are required:

- Kindergartners
- First graders
- Second graders without a *PALS High Benchmark* designation

Consult your *PALS Division Representative* for any additional requirements.

Spring Testing Notes

Change in Modify Student Information page. The *Disability Designation* has been REMOVED from the *Student Information* page. You will **no longer report a student's disability designation** in *PALS*; you will ONLY report the *Administration Conditions* (Standard, Non-Standard, or Exempt). Please remember that changes in *Administration Conditions* must be made before scores are entered.

Remote/Hybrid. You will be prompted to indicate and confirm your choice after selecting the score entry link. PLEASE choose carefully so scores will not have to be re-entered. The majority of students are now **in-person**.

COW. Like last year, teachers will not be administering COW this spring. As soon as the first task is entered, Kindergarten COW will populate with 3s and 1–3 will populate with 0s. This means the max score in K will be 95, and the Summed Score Benchmark is 83 — just like last Spring.

Level C: Blending and Sound-to-Letter tasks are:

- Optional for Kindergarten
- Only required in 1–3 if:
 - A student is required to complete *Level B (Alphabets)*, or
 - You optionally enter *Alphabet Recognition* and *Letter Sounds*.

Materials. Continue with **Form A (GREEN)** *PALS* materials for Spring 2022

- Spring 2022 consumable materials can be downloaded from within your *PALS* account.

Reports. Fall and Mid-Year reports are now in the *Previous Terms* section of the *Reports* page. The *Assess* page shows reports from the current assessment period only. Examine your Fall and Mid-Year reports to decide which, if any, additional tasks to administer to best show progress.

Quick Checks. Hover over *Assess* and select *Quick Checks* to access all *Quick Checks* materials, actions, and reports.

SO MUCH New and Noteworthy

Revised Literacy Screener. We are excited to share news about our literacy screener being updated and expanded. Check your *Home* tab, *Recommendations* section for updates. Please note (and don't panic!) we are only in the piloting stage. The new screener will not be released prior to Fall 2024. As always, we will keep you fully informed and more importantly **prepared** for any changes.

New Homepage. You may notice that our homepage has a new look. We are giving the site a Spring makeover while improving our ability to keep you up-to-date.

New Help Center. Answers to the most common *PALS* questions at your fingertips! You may search the new *Help Center*, accessible on the navigation bar in your *PALS* account. It may save you a call or an email!

New Webinar. Learning from the Science-Based Reading Research is located on the *Home* tab, in the *Recommendations* section.

Looking at Data

- Meeting the *Task or Summed Score Benchmark* does **not** imply that a student is on grade level. The *Below Summed Score Identification (ID)* status indicates that a student is at **significant risk** of ongoing reading difficulties. Students who score just above the *Summed Score Benchmark* and/or who do not meet *Individual Task Benchmarks* are also in need of additional classroom instruction.
- Spring is a season for progress! Most often, when students have stalled in reading, the culprit is phonemic awareness or phonics and is demonstrated in phonics/spelling scores. Use the *Spelling/Phonics Knowledge* report found on your *Reports* tab to see which features students still need. *There is still time to solidify crucial spelling features this spring!*

Professional Learning Resources

Highlights from The Hub. Spend some time with a collection of carefully vetted resources and websites, located under your *Resources* tab, *PALS Resource Hub* page. Highlights include:

- *PALS Resource Library.* These resources and websites have been carefully vetted and can be useful to support children’s literacy skills. The resources are not intended to replace curricula but can be used as tools to support the use of evidence-based instructional techniques and/or to supplement instruction in the classroom.
- *Evidence-Based Literacy Practices.* These are curated ideas and activities in *Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, Alphabet Knowledge, Encoding, Decoding,* and so much more!
- *Structures to Organize Literacy Instruction.* Includes sample lesson structures, resource guides for *Literacy Centers,* and sample *Literacy Block Structure and Time Allotment Guide.*

New Module Series, Coming Soon. *VALUE: Virginia Assessment for Literacy Updated & Expanded* series. Learn about topics grounded in science-based reading research. This series scaffolds learning about each topic by presenting short introductory videos, as well as infographics, recorded webinars, instructional resources, and additional readings for each of the key components of effective instruction.

Suggested Reading. *How Does the Science of Reading Inform Early Literacy Screening?* This timely article can be found on your *Home* tab, *Recommendations* section.

Looking Ahead (Fall 2022)

Reports. Print or save any necessary 2021–2022 class/student reports for your files. When the website moves to the next school year, student accounts move into the “School Pool”. **Your Class Summaries and all your class-view reports will only be available until June 30th.**

- *Administrators.* Consider printing/saving *Class Summaries* for your files. When the website moves to the next school year, it will be impossible to see former class summaries. **Reports are available through June 30th.**

Materials. In the 2022–2023 school year **Form B (BLUE)** materials will be used. We will be mailing schools a few pages to add to each existing *PALS-K* binder. Each set contains administration instructions for the optional *Blending* and *Sound-to-Letter* tasks. **The “Newly Expanded PALS” will not be in circulation until at least 2024, so your blue binders are all up to date.**

The *PALS Office* would like to extend our greatest thanks and appreciation for the herculean efforts of educators in the field this year. We see you, we hear you (all day, every day), and we applaud you. You are innovators and creators, and we are in awe of your dedication and spirit.

Contact the *PALS Office* with questions regarding the assessments, website, ongoing instruction, or anything else. We are here to help!

Questions?

Website: <https://pals.virginia.edu>
 Email: pals@virginia.edu
 Phone: 1-888-UVA-PALS (1-888-882-7257)

Fax: (434) 982-2793
 University of Virginia
PALS Office
 P.O. Box 800785
 Charlottesville, VA 22908-8785