



DRC BEACON Early Years

Classroom Planning and Guidance
for Student Success

DRC BEACON Early Years is an online, computer-adaptive assessment designed to meet the needs of young learners during the critical early years of their educational journey. It provides teachers with high-quality tools to help them screen, determine needs, monitor progress, and evaluate assessment outcomes for students in grades K–2 in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA).

DRC BEACON Early Years can be administered throughout the school year as often as needed to support instruction and learning. When used with DRC BEACON Grades 3–8, it satisfies Georgia’s Universal Screener (HB 538, 2023) and Dyslexia (SB 48, 2019) requirements for grades K–3 and will be provided at no cost to Georgia districts and schools beginning in August 2024.

BENEFITS OF DRC BEACON EARLY YEARS IN GEORGIA CLASSROOMS



Computer-adaptive K–2 formative assessment that complements DRC BEACON 3-8 assessment



Measures the early literacy and early numeracy skills of young learners



Includes teacher-administered Fluency and Oral Language assessments for K–3 students



Can be used for universal and dyslexia screening, progress monitoring, goal setting, and more



Satisfies Georgia's Universal Screener (HB 538) and Dyslexia (SB 48) requirements



In its work, the National Reading Panel¹ identified five pillars that are necessary for teachers to explicitly instruct on: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Each of these pillars are important building blocks toward the ultimate goal of literacy instruction: deep reading comprehension on grade-level and beyond.

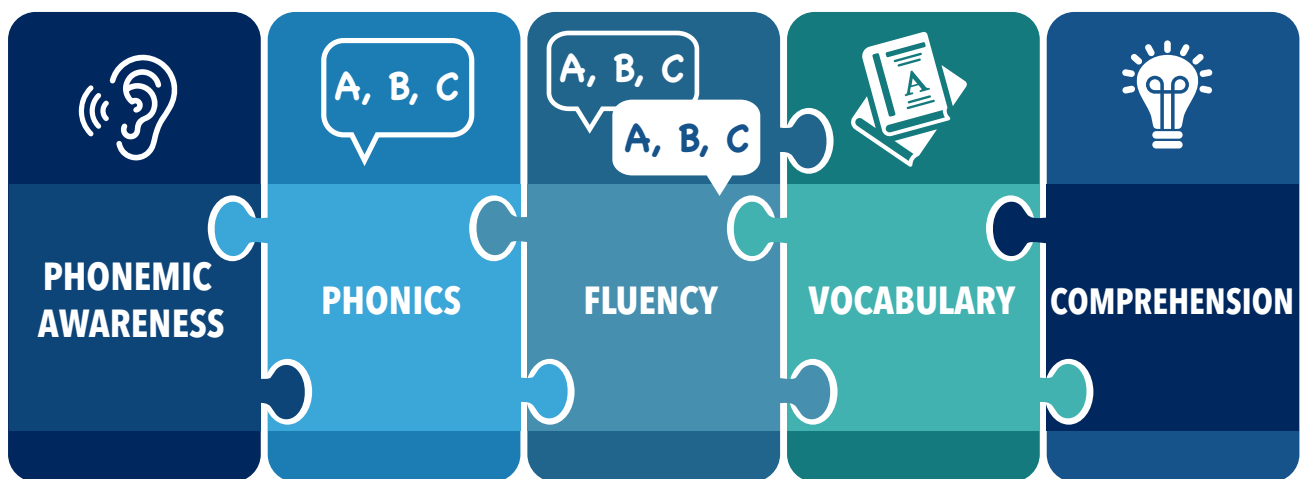


DESIGNED TO MEASURE THE EARLY LITERACY AND MATH SKILLS OF YOUNG LEARNERS

Early assessment is an important guiding tool for instructional success in grades K–2*. DRC BEACON Early Years helps identify literacy and math skills and needs at an early age, which is the critical stage in learning and development. It builds on the five essential science of reading literacy skills—phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency—and provides guidance in understanding students who may need intervention or extra support. Additionally research suggests that a student’s early math skills are a strong predictor of both future math and reading achievement.² DRC BEACON Early Years helps teachers understand early math learning and student needs for intervention or acceleration in support of their numeracy development.

Using the data from DRC BEACON Early Years, teachers can create instructional and intervention plans that target a student’s needs for improving specific literacy and math skills, or provide opportunities for students who are ready for accelerated learning.

FIVE ESSENTIAL SCIENCE OF READING LITERACY SKILLS



¹ National Reading Panel (U.S.) & National Institute of Health and Human Development (U.S.). (2000). Report of the National Reading Panel: Teaching children to read: an evidence-based assessment of the scientific research literature on reading and its implications for instruction.

² Claessens, A., & Engel, M. (2013). How Important is Where you Start? Early Mathematics Knowledge and Later School Success. Teachers College Record, 115(6), 1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1177/016146811311500603>

* While DRC BEACON Early Years is designed for K-2, the literacy screening component will also be available in grade 3 as part of DRC BEACON 3-8.

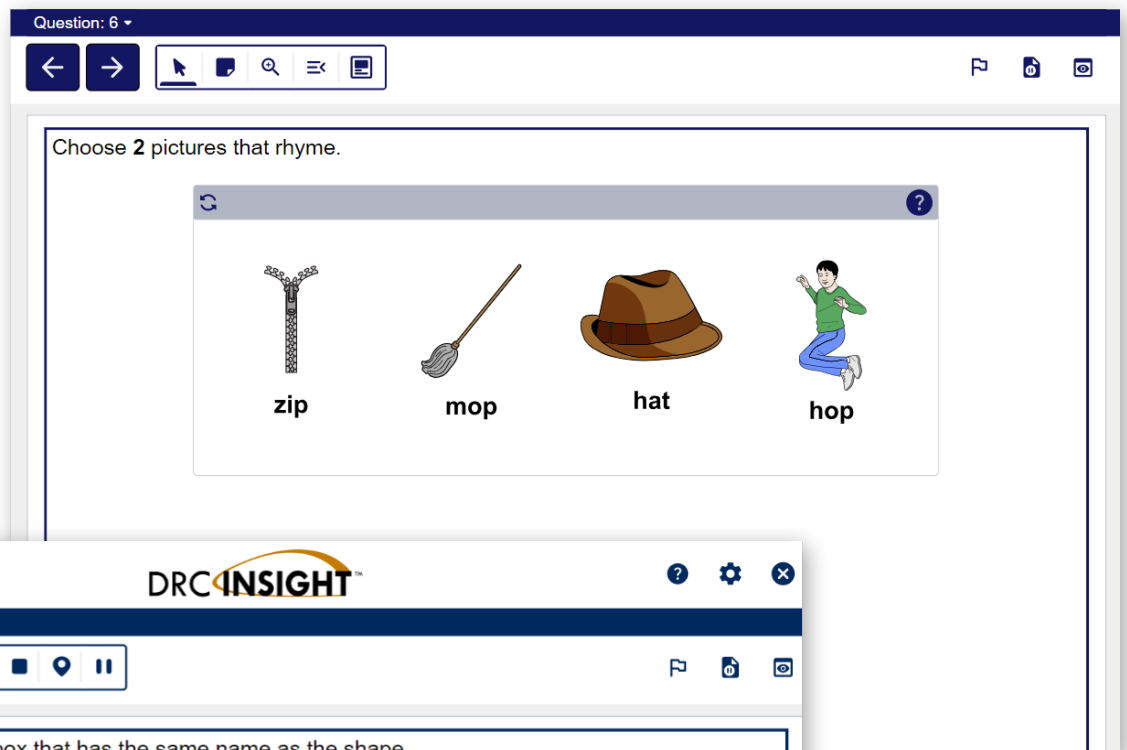
AGE-APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENTS AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

DRC BEACON Early Years captures the attention of young students with interactive, engaging, and developmentally appropriate test questions. The testing platform's tools and navigation are intuitive to use and offer practice opportunities for students. This ensures that technology does not impede a student's ability to show what they know and can do while completing the actual assessment. Age-appropriate audio supports are provided for K–3 students as needed. An optional readiness pretest is included for kindergarten students, designed to gauge their readiness to participate in a computerized testing administration.

DRC BEACON Early Years provides one-on-one Fluency and Oral Language assessments. This offers teachers another glimpse into a student's performance ability within the skills and expectations of early literacy. To support educators, DRC BEACON Early Years provides individual and group literacy activities including DRC BEACON Educator Instructional Strategies (BEIS) that help students work towards areas of need or reinforce areas of concern at each grade.

Question: 6

Choose 2 pictures that rhyme.



zip mop hat hop


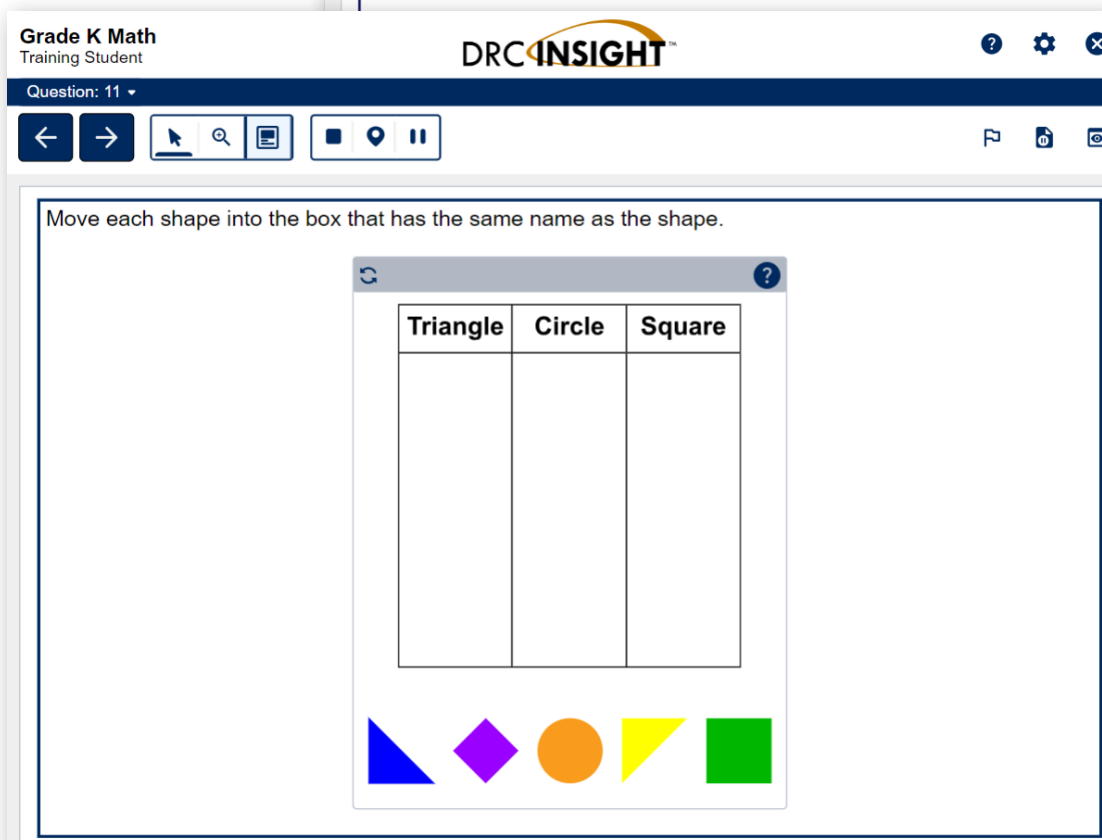
Grade K Math
Training Student

DRC INSIGHT™

Question: 11

Move each shape into the box that has the same name as the shape.

Triangle	Circle	Square





MULTI-STAGED COMPUTER ADAPTIVE MODEL

DRC BEACON Early Years uses a multi-staged computer-adaptive (CAT) model for the ELA and math assessments, where sets of questions are assigned to a student based on their performance on a previous set of questions. Each set of questions a student sees is individualized based on their previous set of answers. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions. This allows for greater precision in determining a student's needs and progress.

Because the test adapts to the student's level, fewer test questions are needed to accurately measure student learning. This means less time testing for young students, and more time for instruction and learning.

ALIGNMENT WITH GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSAL AND DYSLEXIA SCREENING

DRC BEACON Early Years provides universal screening, progress monitoring, and curriculum supports in alignment with Georgia's Universal Screener (HB 538) and Dyslexia (SB 48) requirements.

To satisfy state universal reading and dyslexia screening requirements, teachers will administer Fluency and Oral Language assessments to students in the first 30 days of school, followed by an online assessment in ELA in grades 1–3 (fall) and K-3 (winter and spring). There are three seasonal administrations in the school year so that student progress can be monitored throughout the year and meet the state requirements for screening three times annually.



DRC BEACON Early Years Assessment

Multi-Staged
Computer Adaptive
Test (CAT)

Fluency and Oral
Language
Assessment (FOLA)

Literacy Screener

Uses information
from the CAT and
FOLA

Assesses students in
kindergarten through
grade 3 multiple
times per year

Satisfies the state's
Universal Screener
(HB 538) and Dyslexia
(SB 48) requirements

PARENT- AND TEACHER-FRIENDLY REPORTS

DRC BEACON Early Years provides teachers with timely, insightful data and useful reporting tools. A K–3 student-specific dashboard will be available in DRC’s interactive reporting system to provide literacy-specific information. Individual student reports provide results of the online and teacher-administered assessments, with guidance as to student performance. Classroom roster reports will also be useful to educators as they consider differentiation configurations and strategies.

DRC BEACON Early Years helps educators screen, determine needs, monitor progress, and evaluate assessment outcomes of young learners in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

Name: SAMPLE STUDENT
Student ID: 2140618254
Birth Date: 06/18/2018

Student Grade: K
School: MAIN STREET ELEMENTARY
District: Fifth

STUDENT REPORT

FLUENCY AND ORAL LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

The DRC BEACON Early Years Fluency and Oral Language Assessment (FOLA) is a teacher-administered, one-on-one assessment of a student's early literacy skills. It helps measure a student's literacy development and provides concrete results to focus instruction on individual student needs. For more information, see the Fluency and Oral Language Assessment Benchmarks at www.drcbeacontraining.com.

PHONICS	
Uppercase Letters	Names uppercase letters of the alphabet
Lowercase Letters	Names lowercase letters of the alphabet
Letter Sounds	Identifies the sounds for the letters of the alphabet
Vowels	Identifies the vowels in a list of letters
Real/Nonsense Words	Decodes real words/nonsense words
High Frequency Words	Reads regularly and irregularly spelled High Frequency Words

ORAL READING FLUENCY	
Reading Rate	Reads at an appropriate rate
Reading Accuracy	Reads accurately and clearly
Reading Expression	Reads with meaning, inflection, and sensitivity to punctuation
Reading Comprehension	Demonstrates understanding of what has been read
Oral Expression	Retells text and responds with varied vocabulary

RAPID AUTOMATIZED NAMING TASK

Quickly names familiar items, such as objects, colors, letters, or symbols.

Student Performance Key

- Meets Expectations
- Below Expectations
- Well Below Expectations

STUDENT REPORT

Name: SAMPLE STUDENT
Student ID: 2140618254
Birth Date: 06/18/2018

Student Grade: K
School: MAIN STREET ELEMENTARY
District: Fifth

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS SCALE SCORE 618

Support Needed | Near Target | Prepared

240 424 585 880

MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORE 540

Support Needed | Near Target | Prepared

240 470 621 880

The student's English Language Arts scale score is indicated by ●. If this student were to test again under similar circumstances, the student's projected score would likely range from 266–342.

The student's Mathematics scale score is indicated by ●. If this student were to test again under similar circumstances, the student's projected score would likely range from 380–400.

LITERACY SCREENING PROFILES

The DRC BEACON Literacy Screener measures foundational literacy skills and identifies learners, satisfying Georgia's Universal Reading Screener (HB 538, 2023) and Dyslexia use this data to set and monitor literacy goals, provide instructional support, and refer necessary. Literacy Screening Profiles are provided based on a set of measures from the Fluency and Oral Language Assessment that assess various literacy skills. For visit www.drcbeacontraining.com.

UNIVERSAL READING SCREENING PROFILE

Universal reading screening measures a student's performance in foundational literacy skills - phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, spelling, oral language, and the intersection of reading and writing - and identifies students who may be at risk for experiencing reading difficulties.

CHARACTERISTICS

Dyslexia screening identifies students demonstrating difficulties in phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, alphabetic knowledge, and spelling skills, which may be associated with reading difficulties.

Literacy Screening Profiles Key

- Not at Risk
- At Risk
- Significantly At Risk

ELA REPORTING CATEGORIES

ASSESSMENT LEVEL: GRADE 1	Date Tested	SUPPORT NEEDED	NEAR TARGET	PREPARED
Foundations	04/01/25			590
Language	04/01/25		470	
Texts	04/01/25		485	
Interpreting Texts (Reading and Listening)	04/01/25		588	
Constructing Texts (Writing and Creating)	04/01/25			597

MATH REPORTING CATEGORIES

ASSESSMENT LEVEL: GRADE 1	Date Tested	SUPPORT NEEDED	NEAR TARGET	PREPARED
Numerical Reasoning	04/01/25		540	
Patterning & Algebraic Reasoning	04/01/25		590	
Measurement & Data Reasoning	04/01/25		520	
Geometric & Spatial Reasoning	04/01/25		550	

ELA GROWTH

MATH GROWTH

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² Education Commission of the States (ECS) (2013). Math in the Early Years: A Strong Predictor for Later School Success. The Progress of Education Reform, 14(5). <https://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/09/46/10946.pdf>

WHY CHOOSE DRC BEACON EARLY YEARS IN GEORGIA?

DRC BEACON Early Years incorporates an online assessment for ELA and mathematics that will help educators determine each student's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. DRC BEACON Early Years allows teachers to meet their students exactly where they are and provides data that allows for understanding student learning gains.

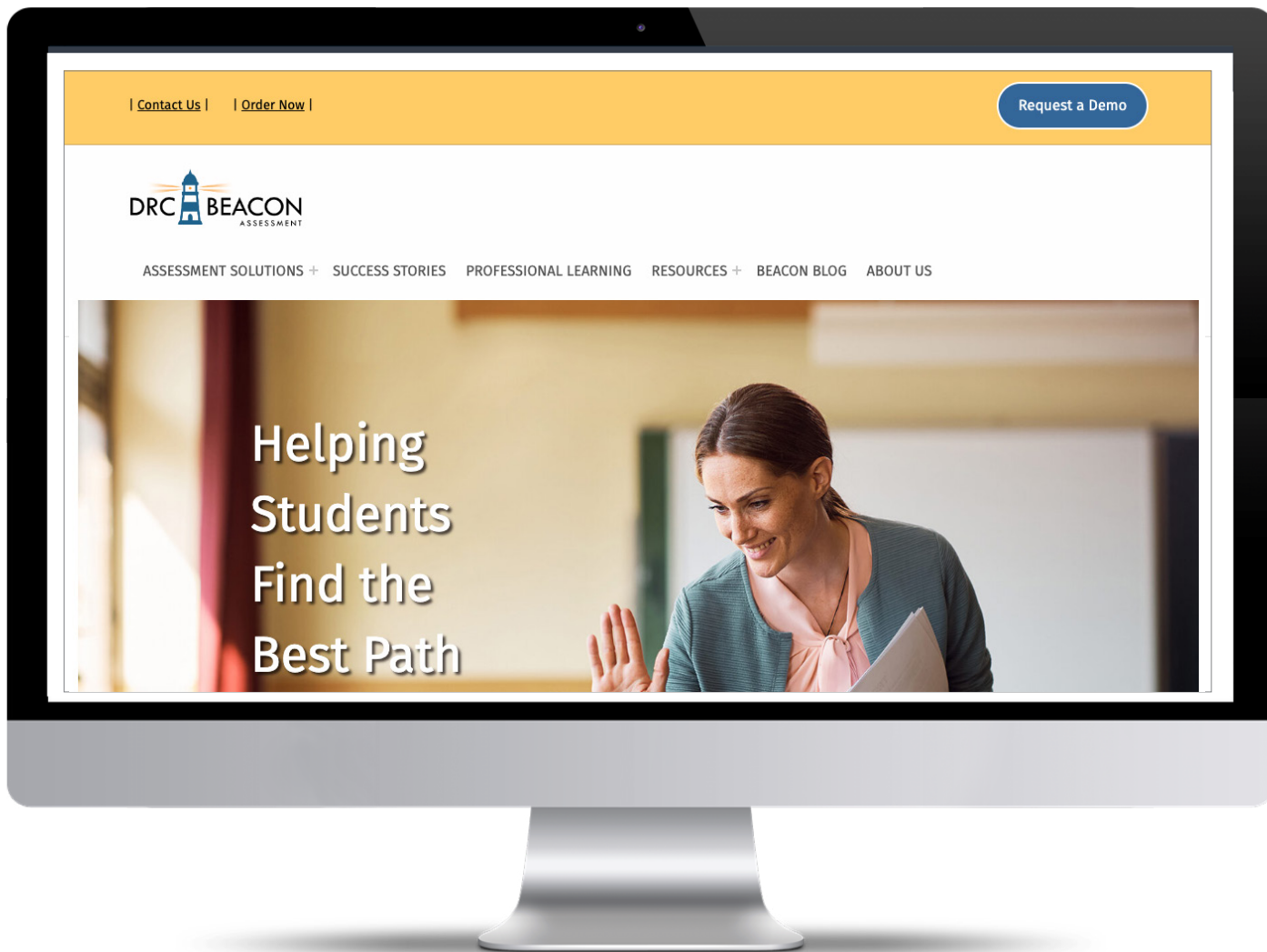
When used together with the DRC BEACON 3–8 assessments, DRC BEACON Early Years gives Georgia educators a comprehensive view of each student's learning journey from kindergarten through eighth grade. And just like DRC BEACON 3–8, the new Early Years assessment is available to use multiple times throughout the school year, delivered on the student-friendly DRC INSIGHT platform, and provided at no cost to Georgia districts and schools.

DRC BEACON Early Years provides educators with detailed information about a young learner's current level of understanding of early literacy and numeracy skills.

READY TO GET STARTED?

The new DRC BEACON Early Years assessment will be available in August 2024 in Georgia schools!

TRAINING MATERIALS AND A TRAINING WEBINAR WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SUMMER 2024.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DRC BEACON, VISIT [DRCBEACON.COM](https://drcbeacon.com)

