

# Florida's Web-based Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network: An Overview

Joseph Torgesen and Karl Hook

Florida Center for Reading Research

## *Overview and Purpose*

The most important purpose of Florida's *Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network* (PMRN) is to make reliable information about student progress in learning to read easily available to teachers. Teachers need timely and accurate information about each of their student's progress in acquiring critical reading skills in order to effectively plan their classroom instruction. Information about individual progress is also essential in helping teachers provide timely and appropriate interventions for students that are lagging behind.

Research has demonstrated the value of reliable and valid assessments of reading growth beginning as early as kindergarten. As we begin to do more frequent assessment in the early grades, there is a critical need for methods to help organize this assessment data and make it more easily available to teachers, principals, and support staff. Florida's *Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network* will be the primary tool for making available the assessment data from screening, progress monitoring, and outcome assessments. This information will be presented in a useful way to all those who need the information to guide instruction and provide support for teachers and schools.

## *How will it work?*

The system will be secure and password protected, and each individual who is authorized to use the system will have a password that gives a specific level of access. For example, teacher passwords will give them access to their classroom and student data, but they will not be able to access data from other teachers' classrooms. Principals will be able to access all of the student and classroom data in their schools. Certain District level staff will be able to access classroom and school data, but not the data for individual children.

The system will initially be available to schools that have received Reading First grants, but the goal is to eventually make it available to all schools in Florida. In Reading First schools, the school based assessment team will administer progress monitoring tests in reading four times a year. Each time assessments are given, the data will be entered into the PMRN by a school level data entry person. As soon as the data is entered into the system, teachers will be able to obtain reports about their individual students, as well as their entire classroom. Anyone who has a password for the system will be able to access their reports anyplace they have access to the web.

The operation of the Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network can be summarized as a four-step process:

1. **Assess** – Assessment teams monitor progress four times a year, and teachers assist with some end of year outcome assessments.
2. **Enter** – Designated data entry personnel enter data into the user-friendly website of the PMRN.
3. **Compute**– The PMRN quickly aggregates the data and computes reports.
4. **Report** – Teachers can quickly obtain their reports from any computer with web access.

*What kind of reports will be available?*

The first report that a teacher will see describes the performance of all the children in the classroom at a single glance. This is called the *Class Status Report*, and it shows how well every child in the classroom did on the current assessment. It will be very easy to see which children are struggling, and which ones are doing well. Children who are at high risk and need immediate intensive interventions will be shown in red. Those who are at moderate risk and need extra instruction and support to catch up to grade level will be shown in yellow. Those who are doing well on the tests and are at low risk for reading difficulties will be shown in green. A child's performance on each test will be shown, and there will also be a summary graph showing a child's risk status when all the tests are combined.

Another kind of report available is called the *Class Progress Report*. This shows the progress of the class since the last assessment on an individual test (i.e. oral reading fluency), and it also shows how the class did in relation to the benchmark for that test at that point in the year. Teachers will be able to use this report to judge the progress of their entire class in the critical reading skills assessed by the *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*, which are the tests that will be used to provide data for the PMRN.

The teacher will also have available a progress report for each child, called the *Student Progress Report*, that will show that child's progress in each area of reading skill since the last assessment. The teacher will be able to use the report to examine the progress of children who are receiving interventions to see if the interventions are strong enough to help the child achieve grade level performance by the end of the year.

The teacher will also be able to easily print out *Parent Reports* for each progress monitoring interval and at the end of the year. These reports will contain detailed information about each child's progress and risk status, and will also provide suggestions for parents to help them support their child's reading development.

A variety of other interesting and useful reports will be available from the system, such as reports that will provide a child's complete history from the time they entered the system, and reports that allow teachers to compare their classroom's progress to that of other classrooms serving children with similar demographic characteristics. We expect

that, as teachers, principals, and district level staff become more familiar with the system, they will find increasing uses for the range of reports that will be available from the system.

*How will the system be affected by student mobility?*

Students will be identified within the PMRN by their Florida Student Identification Number. Data entry personnel within a school district will be able to search the system for the data of any child that moves into their school at any time during the year. An ongoing help desk at the Florida Center for Reading Research will be available to help resolve questions about students that are not automatically identified and moved within the system when they move from one school to the other.