



Foundation Paper

Supporting Special Education Students with *Scholastic Reading Inventory™* *Enterprise Edition*

OVERVIEW OF *Scholastic Reading Inventory™*

Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) Enterprise Edition is a research-based, computer adaptive assessment for Grades K-12 that allows educators to quickly and accurately assess reading comprehension over the course of a student's education to inform instruction and match students to text using the Lexile Framework® for Reading. This assessment is used to set growth goals, monitor progress, forecast performance, and help place students at the best level in a reading program so they will read with success. SRI allows educators to place students, measure reading progress, forecast performance, and differentiate instruction.

THE SRI PROCESS

SRI can be administered independently to students in 20 minutes. SRI follows this process:

1. The student selects areas of reading interest.
2. The student spends approximately 20 minutes taking the test.
3. The student receives a personalized reading list based on areas of interest and measured reading ability.
4. Educators have immediate access to over 20 reports that facilitate targeted decision-making at every level.

A computer-adaptive algorithm continually adjusts the difficulty of passages based on student responses, allowing SRI to produce highly accurate measures of text comprehension. SRI passages are derived from authentic text, sampled from “real world” media such as best-selling literature, curriculum texts, and familiar periodicals.

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Lexile Framework® is a research-proven system for measuring students' reading levels and matching readers to text. The Lexile Framework uses a common metric—a Lexile measure—to evaluate both reading ability and text difficulty. By placing both reader and text on the same scale, the Framework allows educators to forecast the level of comprehension a student will experience with a particular text, and to evaluate curriculum needs based on each student's ability to comprehend the materials.

A Lexile measure is a number followed by an “L.” The Lexile scale typically ranges from 200L to 1700L, although actual Lexile measures can be lower or higher. Students' Lexile measures are the level at which they read with moderate success, or about 75% comprehension. When given books with Lexile measures slightly below their Lexile measure, students are likely to experience greater success; books with higher Lexile measures are likely to be challenging or even frustrating. The Lexile Map is a graphical representation of the way that readers and texts can connect using the Lexile Framework. It lists the typical grades, sample titles, and benchmark text passages that correspond to each Lexile Range.

The Lexile Framework was developed by Metametrics, an independent education company after fifteen years of research funded by the National Institutes of Health. More than 44,000 books and 40 million articles have a Lexile measure, and most major standardized tests report student reading scores in Lexiles. The Framework has been linked to many national and state norm-referenced assessments, including the SAT-10, SAT-9, SDRT-4, MAT-8, TerraNova Assessment Series, and the Iowa Tests (ITBS and ITED). By utilizing the Lexile Framework, SRI provides educators with the unique opportunity to bridge the gap between high-stakes assessment and instruction, and indicates future performance on such tests.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL)

The Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) has defined three facets of content to support the Universal Design Principles for Learning (UDL).

As a normative assessment, *Scholastic Reading Inventory* (SRI) measures how well students comprehend as they read independently. For each of the following facets, SRI meets the criteria of Universal Learning for Design in the following ways:

1. *Multiple Means of Representation*, to provide students a variety of ways to learn.

SRI was created to assess the reading ability of students from broad and diverse backgrounds through comprehension questions drawn from children’s literature, textbooks, and other materials that they may encounter in their daily lives. To reduce bias, test takers have the option to skip up to three questions per test administration without penalty. In this way students do not need to guess on topics for which they have no background. Additionally, while SRI uses authentic literature for testing, it does not ask questions that reinforce stereotypes based on gender, race, religion, physical appearance, and physical and mental abilities.

2. *Multiple Means of Expression*, to offer students alternatives to show what they know.

SRI presents a clean and consistent user interface that is simple to use. Directions are voiced, and a non-scored practice test ensures that students can use the keyboard and mouse effectively before they can take the test. By its simple, consistent design, SRI reduces user error. SRI is an assessment and does not correct students’ errors. However, it does provide students with immediate feedback in the form of a Lexile score. SRI provides a suggested reading list that is prescriptively based on the Lexile Framework for Reading. Additionally, in SRI teachers may remove any assessment that is believed to be administered under less than optimal circumstances, such as a fire drill or a classroom disruption that interrupted the testing session.

3. *Multiple Means of Engagement*, to motivate and challenge students appropriately.

As a computer-based assessment with wireless capabilities, SRI can be taken in any location in the school at anytime. SRI engages students by asking their preference of literary genres and then providing personalized reading selections based on their stated preferences and reading abilities. SRI is available in both electronic and print formats. With permission, it may be translated into Braille.

ASSESSMENT

SRI focuses on the skills readers use when studying written materials sampled from various content areas. These skills include referring to details in the passage, drawing conclusions, and making comparisons and generalizations. SRI does not require prior knowledge of ideas outside of the passage, vocabulary taken out of context, or formal logic. SRI is built from authentic passages that are typical of the materials students read both in and out of school.

- The “embedded completion” item format used with SRI has been shown to measure the same core reading competency that is measured by norm-referenced, criterion-referenced, and individually administered reading tests.
- The calibration equation used to calibrate SRI test items is the same equation that is used to measure books and texts. Thus, readers and texts are placed on the same scale. A multi-stage review process was used to ensure conformance with the text sampling and item writing specifications.
- SRI uses a Bayesian scoring algorithm, which provides a paradigm for combining prior information with current data, to come up with an estimate of current reading level. This methodology connects each test administration to every other administration and thus produces a highly precise measurement.

SRI is designed to measure a reading ability with texts of increasing difficulty. Once this measure is obtained, SRI can be used to set growth goals, monitor progress, inform instruction, and predict state test outcomes. SRI helps to ensure that every student becomes a competent and motivated reader by individualizing their learning experience based on their specific abilities.

PROGRESS MONITORING

SRI provides continuous assessment and immediate feedback for teachers, parents, and administrators. The most powerful feature of SRI is its ability to organize and analyze data based on student test results. In a series of reports, SRI provides concrete reliable feedback that is used to differentiate instruction and help all students achieve their goals. These clear, meaningful reports are available immediately and provide actionable data to evaluate progress toward proficiency goals, identify situations that call for intervention, and track reading growth over time.

1. Progress Monitoring Reports let teachers and administrators detect trends in reading growth for individuals, groups, and classes.
2. Instructional Planning Reports help teachers plan targeted data-driven instruction, place students into flexible groups, and assign materials.
3. Management Reports make it easy to administer the program effectively across schools and districts.
4. School-to-Home Letters, available in English and Spanish, include student-specific progress information as well as suggestions to help students at home.

Classroom-level data allows for differentiated instruction. Teachers use SRI data to set growth goals, inform and differentiate instruction, and monitor performance over time. Accurate Lexile measures enable students to be properly placed in appropriate instructional groupings and give teachers the ability to provide reading materials at the appropriate levels to each student.


MOTIVATION & ENGAGEMENT

SRI provides each student with a *Recommended Reading List*, based on his or her reading level and interests. As students independently read engaging, leveled books that are available from their list, they practice and develop their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency skills leading to increased reading proficiency. SRI uses Lexile measures to match students to books so they can read without frustration. When students enjoy reading they are motivated to read more.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Scholastic offers a full-day SRI Implementation Training for teachers and administrators. This optional training provides tips for administering the classroom-based SRI test and using the data to target instruction and monitor reading progress. Participants will learn how to effectively use SRI, including:

- Understanding the Lexile Framework® for Reading and how to use Lexiles in the classroom
- Experiencing the SRI software and hands-on practice with the management system
- Analyzing report data to plan instruction, match students to books, and monitor progress
- Exploring strategies for conferencing and motivating independent readers

 For additional information about *Scholastic Reading Inventory* visit www.scholastic.com/sri.