



READ NC

LEXILE® MEASURES :: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Your role as a parent is critical to the learning success of your child. Studies show that children who read outside of school – and who grow up in active reading environments – study better and perform better on tests. But just as the same shoe size does not fit all children of the same age, not all children read at the same ability level. We want to help you understand The Lexile Framework® for Reading and how North Carolina assessments are using it to further reading education in public schools, and how you can use it to encourage and support your child’s reading success at home.

IN NORTH CAROLINA, WHAT ASSESSMENTS ARE USED TO GET A LEXILE MEASURE?

The Lexile Framework® for Reading, commonly referred to as the Lexile Framework, is linked with the North Carolina End-of-Grade (NCEOG) Tests and the English I End-of-Course Test. The NCEOG Tests are administered each spring to students statewide in grades 3-8.

WHY DID THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION PUT LEXILE MEASURES ON THE NCEOG TESTS?

North Carolina was the first state to report students’ Lexile measures as a supplemental metric on its standardized test report. Now, teachers can contact their county or district testing coordinators for a roster of their students’ Lexile measures. This provides teachers with an actionable tool to better personalize instruction based on each student’s unique reading ability and goals, and to discuss with you the reading needs of your child.

WHAT IS THE LEXILE FRAMEWORK FOR READING?

Simply put, The Lexile Framework for Reading provides a common, developmental scale to describe both the complexity of texts (readability) and the reading level of your child (reading ability).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE ON MY CHILD’S REPORT?

In North Carolina, the Parent/Teacher Report provides information on your child’s performance on the North Carolina End-of-Grade (NCEOG) Tests of Reading Comprehension and Mathematics. The information on the left side of the report describes your child’s performance on the reading test and provides his or her Lexile measure. You can view a sample student NCEOG report online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/testing/eog.pdf>. This PDF includes callouts that help explain the different parts of the Parent/Teacher Report. If you have questions regarding your district’s specific report, your child’s test scores, his or her progress in school, or local policies related to the use of test results, contact your child’s teacher or the guidance counselor at your child’s school.

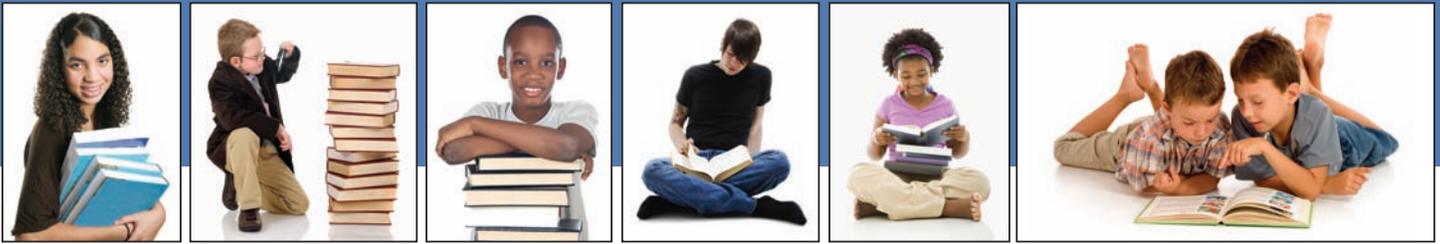
WHAT IS THE LEXILE SCALE?

The Lexile scale is a developmental scale. There is not an explicit bottom or top to the Lexile scale, but rather two anchor points that describe different levels of reading comprehension – beginning readers and beginning-reading text to more advanced readers and text.

The Lexile scale is a valuable tool for parents because it allows you to track your child’s progress over time. For example, books like “Arthur and the Recess Rookie” (370L), “Arthur Goes to Camp” (380L) and “Arthur, Clean Your Room!” (370L) fall within the Lexile range of a typical second grader. These books have shorter sentences and words appear frequently. Conversely, books in the “Harry Potter” series (which range from 880L to 1060L), “Little Women” (1300L) and “Don Quixote” (1410L) contain longer sentences and more complex words.

WHAT DOES A LEXILE MEASURE TELL ME ABOUT WHAT MY CHILD CAN READ?

When Lexile reader measures and Lexile text measures match, the reader is “targeted.” This is the basis for selecting text that is targeted to a child’s reading ability and goals. Targeted readers report competence, confidence and control over the text. When a Lexile text measure is greater than a Lexile reader measure, comprehension drops dramatically, and the subjective experience



is one of frustration, inadequacy and lack of control. Conversely, when a Lexile reader measure exceeds a Lexile text measure, comprehension goes up dramatically, and the reader experiences total control and automaticity.

The Lexile Framework for Reading is a useful tool in designing and managing successful reading experiences for developing readers. The Lexile Framework is not a panacea, and is not the only important consideration. The child's interests, parental views on what constitutes age-appropriate material and teacher's instructional aims are also vital issues in managing a reader's growth. It is important to remember that a child's Lexile measure isn't a measure of his or her intelligence. The Lexile Framework is designed to match a student's reading ability (wherever it falls on the Lexile scale) with a text's readability (likewise, wherever it falls on the Lexile scale) for optimal reading success and enjoyment.

HOW DO I FIND BOOKS THAT WILL HELP MY CHILD?

"Find a Book" (on Lexile.com) is the quickest and easiest way to search the Lexile Book Database for titles at your child's Lexile level. Whether your child is reading for school or for pleasure, this free utility will help you build a custom reading list on the subjects that interest your son or daughter the most. We recommend that you use a Lexile range that spans 100L below to 50L above your child's Lexile measure to help ensure that he or she has a successful reading experience (e.g., if your child is an 880L reader, use a Lexile range that spans from 780L to 930L). In addition, most public libraries have access to Follett, EBSCO and Bigchalk, which you can use to search for article abstracts with Lexile measures. The key is to get your child reading. The Lexile Framework can help you locate books, articles and other texts that he or she is able to read and is interested in reading.

HOW DO GRADE LEVELS AND LEXILE LEVELS RELATE?

Lexile levels do not translate specifically to grade levels. Within any classroom, there will be a range of readers and a range of materials to be read. In a fifth-grade classroom, for example, there will be some readers who are far ahead of the rest and there will be some readers who are far below the rest. To say that some books are "just right" for fifth graders assumes that all fifth graders are reading at the same level. The Lexile Framework matches readers with texts at whatever Lexile level the reader is reading. Just because a student is an excellent reader does not mean that he or she would comprehend a text typically found at a higher-grade level. Without the background knowledge, the words would not have much meaning. A high Lexile measure for a grade indicates that the student can read grade-level appropriate materials at a higher comprehension level. In the classroom, if a teacher is doing a lesson on the solar system, he or she can suggest additional readings at a variety of Lexile levels. Therefore, each child can read additional books, and both below-grade and above-grade readers can find appropriately challenging material.

WHAT TYPES OF MATERIALS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LEXILE MEASURE? WILL MORE BE ADDED?

Many different types of materials have been assigned a Lexile measure. The Lexile Book Database comprises more than 115,000 fiction and nonfiction titles with Lexile measures, and this number continues to grow. The best way to search the Lexile Book Database is with "Find a Book." This free utility allows you to build custom reading lists based on your child's Lexile measure/Lexile range and personal interests. "Find a Book" also includes a link to WorldCat so that you can check a book's availability at your local public library, and Barnes & Noble.com where you can purchase the book.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- The Lexile Framework for Reading
- Sample Student NCEOG Report With Lexile Measure (pdf, 930kb)

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