

Needs Assessment Questions

A needs assessment supports schools to systematically examine system strengths and weaknesses. This allows leaders to understand key needs and prioritize actionable steps to improve outcomes for all students.

IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Does your school have an improvement plan for developing student reading outcomes? Does your board? If yes, describe the plan, how it translates to reading instruction, and how the effectiveness of the plan is evaluated.

TIERED INSTRUCTION

Instructional intensity varies depending on the tier of instruction or intervention. Describe tiered instruction at your school: what does instruction at each tier look like? How much instructional time is allocated to each tier? Does this instructional time overlap, or is it additive?

SCHOOL-WIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

A cohesive assessment system plays a key role in driving student outcomes by informing instruction. What reading assessments are used in your school?

- Screener:
- Diagnostic:
- Progress Monitoring:

ANALYSING SCREENING DATA

Universal screening is a system of brief assessments given to every student to quickly and reliably understand risk for reading difficulty. Data from screening data don't just tell us about individual student risk, but they also allow us to understand the needs of a school and make good decisions.

Describe your school's data collection process and overall data management system. How is this system scheduled and coordinated? How are screening data analysed and used to make decisions?

TEAMING STRUCTURES

A key element of an effective system is collaborative data analysis and planning within teams. Consider the teams that support reading instruction in your school.

	School Level Teams	Grade Level Teams	Student Level Teams
Members			
Meeting frequency			
Coordination with other teams			
Data sources			

INTENSIFYING INSTRUCTION

How is instruction intensified for students who are not making adequate progress? How are instructional resources selected? How frequent is student progress monitored, and how are decisions made about intensification?

FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS

How are parents and caregivers involved in their child's reading instruction/intervention?

EDUCATOR COACHING & SUPPORT

Describe how staff members are supported to use instructional materials effectively and with fidelity, including coaching, professional learning, and written guidelines. How are these supports aligned with screening data?

INSTRUCTIONAL & ASSESSMENT INTEGRITY

Describe your school leadership's fidelity checks of (1) assessment processes and data, (2) implementation of tiered instruction.