



Purpose

The [Adolescent Assessment of Literacy \(AAL\)](#) is a **free**, computer-adaptive screening tool designed to measure reading and language skills that are critical for students' overall literacy development. Designed for grades 3-12, the AAL generates a scoring report with probability-based scores to help teachers identify which students are not likely to meet benchmark expectations. The assessment also provides percentile ranks so that users may see how the student performs relative to their grade-level peers at a national level.

The AAL was produced by the National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL) based on content originally developed by faculty at the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) at Florida State University. For more details and specifications, view the technical manual on the Learn More page at [aaliteracy.com](#).



Key Features

Students select their grade and proceed through 4 tasks:

- **Syntactic Knowledge Task (SKT):** Measures understanding of sentence structure and grammar using verbs, pronouns, and connectives.
- **Vocabulary Knowledge Task (VKT):** Assesses morphological awareness and word meaning comprehension through sentence completion.
- **Word Recognition Task (WRT):** Tests phonological decoding and orthographic knowledge through real and non-word identification.
- **Reading Comprehension Task (RCT):** An optional reading comprehension diagnostic task, this task measures reading comprehension using passages of varying length and difficulty, with multiple-choice questions.

The scoring report offers three key insights: the **Probability of Risk**, which predicts the likelihood of not meeting the benchmark by the end of the school year; **Ability Scores**, which reflect the student's performance level; and the **Percentile Ranking**, showing how the student's performance compares to their peers. We strongly recommend that a caregiver or teacher reviews the scores with the student. Results are available for print but will permanently disappear when you leave the scoring page.

The **Learn More** and **Resource** pages include a feedback form, detailed technical manual, and resources to use that are tailored by grade range and audience.

Technical Information

Reliability: Empirical reliability across grades and tasks range from 0.84 to 0.93.

Classification Accuracy: Sensitivity values across tasks and grades range from .81 to .84.

Administration

The assessment can be taken independently by the student, with instructional videos available to guide them through each task. While there is not time limit to the assessment, the screening portion of the assessment (WRT, VKT, SKT) usually takes 10-15 minutes to complete. The optional reading comprehension task may take 20 minutes to complete due to the nature of the assessment.

