The Ontario Human Rights Commission's "Right to Read" report released early 2022 may have raised questions with education leadership—not only in Ontario, but across Canada. While the response to the report and its recommendations are likely a part of a spirited and ongoing conversation, what's not in question is the importance of every individual's fundamental need for literacy as a means to function in school and in life.

Pearson Clinical Assessment is pleased to journey through this inquiry together with you; sharing the common goal of achieving well-being for our students' future.

Every student experiences learning—including learning to read—differently

While solutions to the suggested recommendations may be resourced from a variety of tools, allow us to introduce aimsweb®Plus Canadian Edition—an evidence-based universal screener and progress monitoring system. Pearson Clinical Assessment Canada is pleased to offer this curated collection of FAQs about aimswebPlus; you may also learn more at PearsonClinical.ca.

Does this screening tool meet the criteria for Universal Screening recommendations from the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read Inquiry?

The reports suggests using a reliable, valid screener for grades K-2, twice a year. It suggests that the measures be grade specific and that they should observe the following criteria:

- **Kindergarten:** letter knowledge and phonemic awareness
- **Grade 1 (beginning):** phonemic awareness, decoding, word identification and text reading
- **Grade 1 (second semester):** decoding, word identification and text reading, and should include speed as well as accuracy as an outcome
- **Grade 2:** timed word reading and passage reading

Based on this information, aimswebplus is a tool that may be considered.

What is the difference between **aimswebPlus** and **aimswebPlus Canadian Edition?**

aimswebPlus can be used for K-8 (and up to grade 12 using grade 8 norms) for both reading and math.

aimswebPlus Canadian Edition for literacy and reading has all the functionality of aimswebPlus, as well as:

- Relevant Canadian content for grades K-2
- Canadian spelling for grades K-2
- Software and data resides on servers in Canada

Is this screening tool digital or paper-pencil?
aimswebPlus is exclusively a digital platform. Should you wish to use paper/pencil administration, however, stimulus books for select measures —housed within the digital platform—are downloadable and may be printed.

Are interventions embedded in the aimswebPlus platform? How can the platform be used to measure an intervention's impact?
Interventions are not embedded in the aimswebPlus platform. aimswebPlus can be layered into existing interventions, strategies and processes that districts/schools already have in place, however, and can monitor their effectiveness. Because aimswebPlus' measures are designed with sensitivity to detect change, the scores reflect progress that can occur over relatively short intervals. The **progress monitoring** functionality in aimswebPlus allows you to determine if your interventions are effective, or if adjustments are required.

Progress monitoring enables more frequent assessment to track individualized rate of improvement, and documents each student's response to instructional changes. Curriculum-based measures that are used for progress monitoring are quick to

administer, simple to score, and are regularly delivered to provide continuous student progress data.

Where does the normative data come from?
aimswebPlus is a US norm-referenced tool (similar to many widely-used assessments in Canada). With use of the aimswebPlus platform, users are able to create local norms over time—allowing for cultural and inclusive considerations.

What is the process for adding rosters?
Can individual teachers add classess as needed?
For large adoptions, *Roster Imports* are recommended to create the account structure (Districts, Schools, and Classes) by importing teachers and students, updating student demographics, and rostering students into classes to establish the records. For small adoptions, there is an option to manually add, edit, and delete Districts, Schools, Classes and Students, one by one, on individual screens. To maximize efficiency, it is our recommendaction to *Roster Import* even with smaller districts.

Our technical team is available for support when needed.

Where is student data stored?
In accordance with PIPEDA, aimswebPlus Canadian Edition resides on Canadian servers located in Canada.

What is the research behind aimswebPlus and the development of the program?
aimswebPlus is a compilation of 20 years of research, re-evaluation, and best practices. Our Technical and Development manuals are available on the platform; each measure is addressed in these resource manuals.

Designed by educational experts, aimswebPlus has undergone a stringent development and standardization process. The system uses proven, standards-based assessments to screen and monitor student performance with real-time data collection and on-demand reporting. Its secure, web-based system can be integrated with student information systems for ease of access. These assessments are built upon brief, valid, and reliable skill measures.

Are there screening tools that can be used for older students—those who may have been missed in younger grades, and struggling today? Will you expand to grade 12?
The screening tools can be used up to grade 12 for intensive support and for on-grade level forms and norms through grade 8. Students can be assigned a progress monitoring schedule for measures on- or off-grade level.

Is aimswebPlus Teacher-friendly?
Yes. aimswebPlus Canadian Edition is teacher-driven for flexibility in instructional and assessment practices, and can be used to quickly screen and monitor student progress at any point. The regular use of this platform encourages quick and easy administration and accurate results.

How much does aimswebPlus cost? Does the cost of the tool include both literacy and numeracy screeners?
aimswebPlus is available as an annual per-student subscription for reading and/or math. For information about pricing, please see ordering information on PearsonClinical.ca, or feel free to contact an Assessment Consultant for your region.

Does aimswebPlus screen for Dyslexia?
Available as an optional add-on to aimswebPlus, the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen puts the power of reliable and efficient dyslexia screenings directly into the hands of educators using the aimswebPlus platform.

Created by Dr. Sally Shaywitz—a global leader in dyslexia—the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen emphasizes phonological, linguistic, and academic performance based on teacher observations providing an evidence-based, user-friendly observational rating scale for grades K–2. It is intended for mass screenings to sort students—those at risk and those not at risk for dyslexia—quickly. The data can be used to set direction for intervention and instructional planning for all students.

For information about options and pricing, please visit PearsonClinical.ca or feel free to contact an Assessment Consultant for your region.

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Is there training available? How is it delivered? Does Pearson provide the training, or is it a district-level train-the-trainer format?

As with any new software, curriculum, or program, the best way to ensure success with your investment is to consider how your staff will be trained, and the overall implementation. Onsite, web-based, and self-paced professional development offerings are available to meet the learning needs of your school or district.

We highly encourage you to consider Professional Development offerings as they are the final step to implementing aimswebPlus with full fidelity.

Do you offer a demonstration account for potential users to try the platform before committing to a purchase?

Yes, your Assessment and Technology Consultant will be pleased to assist you with setting up a demonstration account to experience the power of aimswebPlus. Please contact a consultant for your region to make arrangements.

Are there plans to translate aimswebPlus for use in French Immersion classrooms?

There are no plans at this time to adapt aimswebPlus for French Canada nor French Immersion. We encourage you to visit the Assess Press page on our site periodically to check on new publishing projects!

More questions about aimswebPlus?

Please feel free to submit any additional questions you may have using our online form

See the webinar "Addressing Reading & Literacy Needs with aimswebPlus Canadian Edition"

Recorded May 31, 2022
Request recording

866-335-8418 | PearsonClinical.ca

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