



Lexiles® in Education

“Lexiles” defined

The Lexile Framework® for Reading matches reader ability and text difficulty, allowing individualized monitoring of progress. The Lexile Framework is a scientific approach to reading and text measurement. It includes the Lexile measure and the Lexile scale. The Lexile measure is a reading ability or text difficulty score followed by an “L” (e.g., “850L”). The Lexile scale is a developmental scale for reading ranging from 200L for beginning readers and text to above 1700L for advanced readers and text. All Lexile Framework products, tools and services rely on the Lexile measure and scale to match reader and text.

Widely adopted and easily used

Lexiles are the most widely adopted reading measure in use today. Tens of thousands of books and tens of millions of newspaper and magazine articles have Lexile measures—more than 450 publishers Lexile their titles. In addition, all major standardized reading tests and many popular instructional reading programs can report student reading scores in Lexiles.

As a result, Lexile measures tie day-to-day work in the classroom to critical high-stakes tests. This provides interim assessment and feedback while using the same consistent measurement to easily track progress, all without additional testing. Each year, millions of students receive a Lexile measure at school.

Different from other reading measures

Lexiles are uniquely independent, accurate and actionable:

Lexiles are instrument independent. A wide variety of test, instructional software, book and article publishers have adopted Lexile measures. States and districts are not limited to a single supplier.

Lexiles use the same method and scale to measure readers and text. The same measurement approach and a common scale means greater accuracy in matching readers with text.

Lexiles apply to everyday reading. A student’s Lexile measure is more than a test score. It applies to books and articles that a student encounters daily—at school, home and in the library—creating a strong school-home connection.

A foundation built on decades of research

The Lexile Framework has a strong research pedigree. Beginning with a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in 1984, the nationally-known psychometric research team at MetaMetrics® continually refines the underpinnings of the Lexile Framework. Lexile measures are the result of more than 20 years of ongoing research.

Lexile measures are based on two well-established predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: semantic difficulty (word frequency) and syntactic complexity (sentence length). In order to Lexile a book or an article, text is split into 125-word slices. Each slice is compared to the nearly 600-million word Lexile corpus—taken from a variety of sources and genres—and words in each sentence are counted. These calculations are put into the Lexile equation. Then, each slice’s resulting Lexile measure is applied to the Rasch psychometric model to determine the Lexile measure for the entire text.

Flexibly manage comprehension

Lexile measures allow educators to manage reading comprehension. Matching a reader’s Lexile measure to a text with the same Lexile measure leads to an expected 75-percent comprehension rate—not too difficult to be frustrating, but difficult enough to be challenging and to encourage reading progress. Educators can further adjust anticipated comprehension for reading instruction and for better understanding of other curriculum materials simply by choosing more or less difficult texts.

The Lexile Framework family

The Lexile Framework is supported by many MetaMetrics products, tools and services:

Lexile Analyzer® allows licensed customers to analyze text, literature and supplementary materials and generate a Lexile measure. (A free, limited version is available at www.lexile.com.)

Lexile Book Database contains tens of thousands of English and Spanish fiction and nonfiction books with Lexile measures.

Lexile Calculator is a free online tool for calculating text comprehension at various Lexile measures.

Lexile LingosSM measures the English vocabulary development of students for whom English is a second language.

Lexile Map provides a graphic representation of texts and titles matched to appropriate levels of reading ability.

Lexile Power Vocabulary™ offers a systematic and individualized series of vocabulary development activities to improve reading comprehension.

Lexile Professional Development develops and delivers workshops and online courses to help educators implement Lexiles in the classroom.

Lexile Reader/Writer allows teachers to assign material to students for reading and then audit their reading comprehension, and writing and summarization skills.

Lexile Reading Pathfinders are book lists that help readers select texts that relate to particular topics within their Lexile range.

Lexile Vocabulary Analyzer generates a Lexile for individual words so educators can match vocabulary words to the student’s Lexile level.

The Lexile Framework for Reading

The Lexile Framework is an indispensable part of any reading-measurement program. Lexile measures give educators the confidence to choose materials that will improve student reading skills. As a result, Lexiles are part of reading and testing programs at the district and state levels. To find out more about The Lexile Framework for Reading, visit the Lexile Web site at www.lexile.com.

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Dear Educator:

Beginning with the 2006 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) reports, which are provided to parents, students, and schools, you will find Lexile measures of students’ reading levels. The Lexile Framework is a developmental scale for matching reader ability and text difficulty.

Thousands of books and articles have been given Lexile measures. Matching student reading levels to the Lexile Framework enables educators, parents, and students to select targeted materials that can help improve reading skills and monitor reading growth across the curriculum.

The attached Lexile map shows a sampling of reading material matched to corresponding levels of reading ability. We hope you find this map useful as a valid resource to support students’ learning and to monitor their progress.

To learn more about Lexile measures and to access the Lexile Book Database, please go to www.lexile.com. We believe this additional information on ISAT reports will prove beneficial to educators, parents, and students in your effort to improve reading performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky McCabe".

Becky McCabe
Division Administrator
Student Assessment Division