

RTI Innovations Conference showcases use of DIBELS to improve student and school outcomes

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Information now available for DIBELS Next Mentors that need to renew their Mentor status

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Upcoming webinar will focus on ways to make DIBELS progress monitoring easier and more effective

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# DIBELS<sup>®</sup> NEWSLETTER

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## DIBELS Next<sup>®</sup> News



### DIBELS Super Institute

The 2015 DIBELS Super Institute will take place July 13–16 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Super Institute features DIBELS Next training directly from the authors, along with training for other DIBELS-related assessments such as DIBELS Survey, DIBELS AD, DIBELS Deep, DIBELS Math, PELI<sup>®</sup>, and IDEL<sup>®</sup>. Opportunities to network with DIBELS experts and other DIBELS users will be plentiful. Register by May 21st to qualify for early bird pricing. For more information or to register, visit <https://dibels.org/super2015/>.

### DIBELS Next in Braille

DIBELS Next student materials are available in Braille from DMG. For ordering information, email [info@dibels.org](mailto:info@dibels.org).

## Pathways of Progress<sup>™</sup>: A research-based goal setting utility from the authors of DIBELS

DIBELS users requesting evidence-based guidelines for establishing goals prompted DIBELS authors Roland H. Good III and Ruth Kaminski to create a novel utility to determine realistic rates of growth for individual students based on the progress they observed by other students with the same beginning-of-year DIBELS Composite Score.

Named Pathways of Progress, the utility takes a student's initial Composite Score for the school year and shows five Pathways that correspond to a potential level of performance: well above typical, above typical, typical, below typical, and well below typical.

The Pathways goal-setting utility shows the expected end-of-year score for a measure for each of the five Pathways and also allows users to set an end-of-year goal and see which Pathway the student would need to follow in order to meet the goal. The "Student Pathways of Progress Graphs" report allows for a visual inspection of the level of progress needed to accomplish ambitious year-end goals. The Pathways

of Progress aimlines can also be displayed on the "Student Progress Monitoring Graphs" report.

The information provided by Pathways allows educators to set ambitious yet realistic goals for students, aiding in the acceleration of progress toward the DIBELS Next benchmark goals. It can also help evaluate the effectiveness of the overall system of support at a classroom, school, or district level.

Dr. Good and DMG Senior Research Scientist Dr. Kelly Powell-Smith presented the methodology behind Pathways of Progress at the 2013 Pacific Coast Research Conference. A copy of the handout from their presentation is available to download. Dr. Good and Dr. Powell-Smith also created a Pathways of Progress overview video. Both can be accessed at [http://dibels.org/pathways\\_of\\_progress.html](http://dibels.org/pathways_of_progress.html).

Pathways of Progress is currently only available to customers of the DIBELSnet<sup>®</sup> data reporting service. For more information about DIBELSnet or to view a sample Pathways of Progress Report, visit <https://dibels.net/>.

Name	BEGINNING OF YEAR	END OF YEAR COMPONENT SCORE PATHWAYS				END OF YEAR OVERALL PATHWAY	
	DIBELS Composite Score	DORF Words Correct Score	Pathway	DORF Accuracy Score	Pathway	DIBELS Composite Score	Pathway
Bleck, Jack	115 ■	88 ■	5	98% ■	5	277 ■	★★★★★
Blin, Sara	121 ■	60 ■	3	98% ■	5	205 ■	★★★★
Bracken, Mary	154 ■	51 ■	1	73% □	1	130 □	★
Clayton, Henry	113 ■	40 □	2	95% ■	4	167 ■	★★★
Colins, Emma	103 □	84 ■	5	99% ■	5	275 ■	★★★★★

# RTI Innovations Conference: A unique opportunity for DIBELS users

**Each fall, the RTI Innovations conference** gathers educators from around the country to share their experiences and further their skills in implementing RTI in school systems. Many participants use DIBELS as a universal screening and progress monitoring tool within their RTI models, giving attendees an opportunity to learn how to maximize the use of DIBELS data.

The conference is “for doers, by doers,” meaning that presenters and participants include many who were

part of the first wave of RTI implementers and have years of practice. A regular presenter is DMG Professional Development Specialist Dr. Stephanie Stollar, who has spent over 12 years supporting schools to use data to improve instruction. When asked about her preference for attending Innovations, she said, “The conference is unique because the presenters are the implementers from around the country—the people who are actually doing RTI in schools. They are highly knowledgeable and willing to share their

experience and resources.” The conference also includes keynotes by renowned RTI experts, such as last year’s keynote by author and educator Anita Archer. The 2015 RTI Innovations conference will take place October 22–23 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Registration will open some time in April. There is a strict limit on the number of attendees, which helps to give the conference an invitation only feel. Registration information and other conference details will be posted at <http://www.rti-innovations.com/>

### Tweets from the 2014 Innovations conference:

@nbucka: Rigor is not making it so hard that kids fail. Rigor is believing kids can reach high AND getting them there #rtiinnovations2014

@KimStMartin: Great two days learning from “doers” across the country! Thanks for all the ideas, energy and passion! #rtiinnovations2014

@emac1227: Loved having other professionals to help me think through essential work in today’s session #rtiinnovations2014

@sharknaea: Learning from one of the best...Anita Archer! Wishing every educator could be given this gift! #rtiinnovations2014

@CCSDrti: Excited to be soaking up knowledge from our nation’s top RTI leaders. #rtiinnovations2014

## DIBELS® People: Mary Abbott

**This edition’s DIBELS Person is Dr. Mary Abbott**, Senior Research Scientist at Dynamic Measurement Group. Dr. Abbott is a former teacher, reading interventionist, and faculty member at the University of Kansas Juniper Gardens Children’s Project. She joined DMG in 2012 to direct research on new DIBELS-related assessments for pre-K (the Preschool Early Literacy Indications, PELI®), and for grades 7–9 (the Content Area Reading Indicators, CARI™; DIBELS 7–9).



**Q:** *What made you want to work with the authors of DIBELS?*

**A:** Through my colleagues at the University of Kansas, I’ve enjoyed a collegial relationship with Ruth Kaminski in the area of early childhood education and with Drs. Kaminski and Good in their DIBELS work. Since I was first introduced to DIBELS in the late 1990s, I’ve been impressed by the quality and vision of their work.

**Q:** *How did your previous work in education prepare you for working to develop literacy assessments?*

**A:** I was one of those teachers who charted out students’ progress on number of words read in a minute, errors made, and comprehension of material. I used these data to determine a student’s instructional level and his or her strengths or deficits of specific reading skills in order to place each student in an individual or small group for instruction. My experiences

in both an urban and suburban school district very much shaped my belief that universal screening and continuous progress monitoring were essential components in the process of accelerating student outcomes. This belief was further reinforced in my work as a clinician working with students who had the greatest reading challenges, and finally as a research scientist. The importance of assessment to help students become proficient readers has been paramount in my educational work through the decades.

**Q:** *Which part of your work do you find most rewarding?*

**A:** I love the development process part of my job. It is quite rewarding to work with a team to develop content and procedures and then find out, through research with students, that our measure identifies students who need additional support and

indicates growth in student skill level.

**Q:** *What are your interests for future research projects?*

**A:** As PELI, our preschool measure, is close to publication status, I look forward to future years of research in monitoring how well PELI is working. I also look forward to continued development of our Content Area Reading Indicators (CARI); DIBELS 7–9. Systematic measurement of middle and high school readers is a relatively new area of assessment. Middle and high school readers definitely have different reading profiles than elementary school readers, and I find measurement of this group of students fascinating. I believe our formula of CARI development moves the assessment field forward to a new way of thinking about middle and high school literacy assessment. It is an exciting time to be part of an excellent team of assessment developers.

# DIBELS® Mentors' Corner

## Process to Renew your Mentor Status

### It is hard to believe that it has been five years since

we celebrated the release of DIBELS Next!

This means that the first group of DIBELS Next Mentors has now spent five years supporting schools as they transitioned to DIBELS Next as well as serving as an ongoing source of support in the DIBELS implementation process. All of us at DMG thank you for your efforts in our mission to ensure that all students become proficient readers.

When you became a DIBELS Next Mentor, you signed a Use Agreement allowing you to use DMG's training materials for a period of five years. We hope that the use of the training materials has been beneficial to you and the schools you support.

DMG would like to invite you to extend your status as a DIBELS Next Mentor for another five years. You can extend your status by participating in a brief training in one of two ways: a free session at the DIBELS Super Institute this summer in

Las Vegas on July 14, 2015 from 4:00–5:00 p.m. If it has been a while since you have completed in-person training from DMG, this is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow DIBELS Mentors and learn about new DIBELS-linked assessments and tools such as DIBELS Next Survey, DIBELS Deep, and Pathways of Progress. For many assessments, you can earn Mentor endorsements that allow you access to those training materials for use in your school or district. You can learn more about the sessions available at

the Super Institute at <https://dibels.org/super2015/>.

The second option for renewal is to view a one-hour, pre-recorded online training. The cost for the online training is \$49.

DIBELS Next Mentors who are due for renewal in 2015 will be notified by email in the next few months. If you have questions about when your Mentor status is due for renewal, or any other questions or concerns related to training or mentoring, please email Dr. Stephanie Stollar at [sstollar@dibels.org](mailto:sstollar@dibels.org).

## DIBELS® in the News

### November 3: Cincinnati, OH

The Library Journal article, "LJ Index 2014: Another Kind of Outcome Data" examines the increase in DIBELS scores for participants attending a summer literacy camp. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/>



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### November 19: Chicago, IL

Sharing improvement in DIBELS scores is the focus of the Hyde Park Herald article, "Ray Elementary Principal Reports Improving Scores at

'State of the School' Address." <http://hpherald.com/>



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### December 2: New Orleans, LA

An increase in students meeting state goals for literacy based on DIBELS scores is the focus of the Time-Picayune article, "More of Louisiana's First, Second, and Third Graders Meet Reading Goals, New Data Show." <http://www.nola.com/>

### December 10: Fort Scott, KS

The Fort Scott Tribune article, "Rockhold Seeks Support for

Bond Issue at USD 235" looks at a series of school improvements including the number of students at benchmark on DIBELS. <http://www.fstribune.com/>

### December 23: Mason County, WV

"Schools Develop Strategic Plans, Goals" in My Daily Register talks about one district's plans to set goals that include having at least 80 percent of students at or above benchmark on DIBELS by the end of the school year. <http://www.mydailyregister.com/>

### January 12: Monticello, MN:

Use of DIBELS in a charter school is mentioned in the

North Wright County's article "New Charter School Will Use Wright County's Natural Resources to Teach Area's Kids." <http://northwrightcounty.today/>

### January 17: Lansdale, PA:

The article, "North Penn School Board Reviews District's Progress, What's Being Monitored in 2015" in The Reporter looks at North Penn School District's attempt to use DIBELS to monitor differences in kindergarten entry literacy skills between children with and without pre-school experiences. <http://www.thereporteronline.com/>

If there is an article you would like to see included in DIBELS in the News, please email [info@dibels.org](mailto:info@dibels.org).

## Progress monitoring workshop will help participants increase successful outcomes, avoid pitfalls

DMG Research Associate Dr. Stephanie Stollar will present a one-hour workshop that will offer tips for making progress monitoring easier for teachers to accomplish, as well as reveal common pitfalls to avoid. Two sessions will be offered on Tuesday, March 3.

### What:

**Progress Monitoring:  
Tips and Pitfalls**

### When:

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015  
3:00–4:00 p.m. and  
6:00–7:00 p.m., EST**

### Where:

**Online**

### Who:

**Presented by  
Stephanie Stollar, Ph.D.**

**Cost: \$25**

Topics will include:

- Reviewing features of DIBELS Next that make it well suited for progress monitoring, and how progress monitoring fits within the Outcomes-Driven Model to answer questions about student progress
- Selecting students for progress monitoring based on classroom outcomes
- Identifying optimal progress monitoring materials, either at or below grade level
- Setting goals
- Making logistical decisions such as who, when, and how often
- Reviewing graphed data to make decisions about instruction

The workshop is designed for all levels of DIBELS users. Additional information and registration details are available at <http://dibels.org/pmwebinar>.

## DIBELS® FAQs

### Q: Where can I find the official DIBELS Next benchmark goals from the authors of DIBELS?

**A:** The official goals from the DIBELS authors are found in a document called "DIBELS Next Benchmark Goals and Composite Score," which is available for free download at <http://dibels.org/papers/DIBELSNextBenchmarkGoals.pdf>. This document includes the benchmark goals and cut points for risk for all measures and grade levels. Also note that if you use DIBELSnet, mCLASS, or VPORT data systems, your reports will only use the official benchmark goals.

### Q: I read about a presentation made by one of the DIBELS authors at a recent conference I was unable to attend. Is there any way to get a copy of the presentation?

**A:** Yes! Handouts from many conference presentations made by DMG Research Scientists are available at <http://dibels.org/pubs.html> in the section titled, "DIBELS Presentations."

### Have a DIBELS question?

Email DMG, home of the authors of DIBELS at [info@dibels.org](mailto:info@dibels.org).

## Coming Events

### Live Online Workshops

For more information or to register, visit <http://dibels.org/training.html>.

#### ***DIBELS Math Essential Workshop***

*March 5, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., EST*

Workshop covers the foundational concepts, administration, and scoring of DIBELS Math.

#### ***DIBELS Math Data Interpretation/ Mentoring Workshop***

*March 12, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EST*

Participants who complete the workshop will receive access to presentation materials for the DIBELS Math Essential workshop to train others. Prerequisite: DIBELS Math Essential Workshop.

#### ***Effective Reading Instruction***

*March, 11, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., EST*

This workshop focuses on essential reading skills to teach and how to enhance delivery of reading instruction to improve outcomes.

### PCRC Conference 2015

DMG Research Scientists will present a session on DIBELS Next Pathways of Progress at the annual Pacific Coast Research Conference in San Diego, CA. The conference takes place February 4–6, 2015. Following the conference, a handout of the presentation will be made available at <http://dibels.org/pubs.html>.

### NASP Conference 2015

This year's conference of the National Association of School Psychologists takes place February 17–20, 2015, in Orlando, FL, and will include presentations by DMG Research Scientists on Pathways of Progress and DIBELS Math. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.nasponline.org/conventions/2015/>.

### DIBELS Next Mentor Renewal Session

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