



Benchmark Study Information Sheet

Consistent with our [mission](#), Acadience Learning continually conducts research that moves education forward. Accordingly, Acadience Learning is conducting a study during the 2025–2026 school year to establish benchmarks for a future version of Acadience Reading. Participants will be among the first to see Acadience Learning’s updated and expanded measures and will contribute to our understanding of how these measures function as indicators of early reading development.

A short overview of study requirements is below, followed by a set of frequently asked questions.

- Study will be conducted in grades K–6 during or near the fall, winter, and spring benchmark testing periods.
- Districts may continue to administer their current Acadience assessments in addition to the Acadience Reading Benchmark Study Version (AR-BSV) measures.
- Districts will also administer the reading subtests of the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT10) to all students participating in the study.
- Schools may be selected to administer additional assessments to some students (e.g., additional SAT10 subtests, additional AR-BSV measures).
- Assessors must already be trained in Acadience Reading K–6.
- Assessors must complete additional training prior to the beginning of the study.
- Districts must identify a study coordinator who is responsible for managing the study.
- Incentives will be offered for participation.

If you are interested in being considered as a study participant, please complete the application here:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/131e68caf2ad18e5909a3dc4db7607fc?r=use1>

If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr. Kelly Tuomikoski at ktuomikoski@acadiencelearning.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will the study occur? The study will take place during or near the beginning-, middle-, and end-of-year benchmark testing windows for each site in the 2025–2026 school year.

How many students? We are interested in partnering with districts that can support a minimum of 100 students per grade, kindergarten to sixth, but we will consider groups of any size.

Which students may participate? Any student in kindergarten through sixth grade receiving English language reading instruction may participate, including students with disabilities and students who are English Language Learners, provided they have the response capabilities to participate, and provided their parents have not indicated that they do not want their child to participate.

What will ALL participating students be asked to do? At three time points during the school year, each participating student in grades K–6 will be asked to complete multiple measures of early literacy and reading skills that are similar to measures they are already completing. Students will complete most of these additional measures individually with a trained assessor in a quiet location, taking anywhere from 6 to 13 minutes, depending on their grade and time of year. Students will also complete one measure (i.e., Maze) in their classroom as a group, taking approximately 5 minutes to complete.

In the spring, each participating student in grades K–6 will complete the reading subtests from the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT10). These subtests will take 70 to 115 minutes to complete based on the student's grade and the number of subtests that need to be completed. Students will answer multiple choice questions about their knowledge of letters, sounds, their ability to accurately read words, and their understanding of word meanings, short stories, and passages.

What will SOME participating students be asked to do? Some schools will be selected to participate in "special samples" that require participating students to complete additional assessments beyond those described above.

- In the *Early Grades Sample*, kindergarten and first grade students will complete measures of phonological awareness, rapid automatized naming and spelling. Second and third grade students will complete measures of rapid automatized naming and spelling.
- Schools that already use the Acadience Math K–6 measures in addition to the Acadience Reading K–6 measures may be selected to participate in the *Math Sample*. Students participating in this sample will complete the math subtests on the SAT10 in addition to the reading and spelling subtests, adding 30 to 80 minutes to SAT10 testing time in the spring, depending on grade.
- In the *Reliability Sample*, participating students will be administered alternate forms of some of the AR-BSV measures within two weeks of their standard administration. This will add 3–5 minutes to their testing time at the beginning of the year and possibly at the middle of the year.

What will school personnel be asked to do? School personnel will be asked to complete training, demonstrate reliability in scoring, administer the assessments to students, score student responses, and enter students' scores into a secure spreadsheet. (School personnel from districts with digital ALO licenses will be able to administer *some* of the assessments digitally with scores generated automatically and stored within ALO for research access only.) Personnel from schools participating in the *Reliability Sample* may also be asked to shadow-score other assessors or allow others to shadow-score them.

What will district personnel be asked to do? District leadership will participate in an initial partnership discussion with Acadience Learning leadership to review commitments from both parties, ask questions, and sign a participation agreement letter. District leadership will ensure time is allocated for training of school personnel and that adequate staffing is in place for the assessments to be completed throughout the year with minimal disruption to instruction. District personnel, with support from Acadience Learning staff, will ensure that student demographic data is included in ALO for students participating in the study. District personnel will also work with Acadience Learning staff to securely share local- and state-performance data for students participating in the study. District personnel are requested to continue sharing data from state-performance tests for an additional three years beyond the study year.

What will Acadience Learning do? Acadience Learning will ensure timely access to training and study coordination support as well as data-collection materials. Acadience Learning will ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for protecting student data. Acadience Learning will also cover the cost of the assessments used in this study, examiner materials, and scoring protocols. Acadience Learning research staff will be available to present to school and district leaders about the study plan, as well as to troubleshoot with districts throughout the study year to support them with executing the study plan.

Will we send out Parent Information letters? A letter that contains information regarding the study will be provided for participating districts. Districts may choose to send a Parent Information letter at least two weeks before the first data-collection window begins. As per our study requirements, parents/guardians are not required to consent to the study but may request to opt out.

What information will you need us to share with you about our students? We require that your district share demographic information with us for students participating in the study. Specifically, we require gender, race and ethnicity, English language status, special education status, and disability category. Collecting this information allows us to analyze our study results by shared group characteristics to explore if our measures work equally well across groups. We request that your district also share with us state and local assessment results so that we can study the relationships between our measures and other commonly used assessments. We are also interested in understanding how well our measures predict academic performance in future years; therefore we request that your district continue to share state-required test results for an additional three years beyond this study.

How will you protect our students' data? We take data privacy very seriously and have procedures in place to ensure that any personally identifiable information is

removed from our data sets before any data is shared with our research scientists and analysts. Our staff has received training in human subjects research, and this study has been approved by our Institutional Review Board.

Will participating districts need a study coordinator? Yes. Each district is responsible for specifying a coordinator to facilitate the study. Coordinators will be responsible for the following tasks:

- distributing Parent Information letters,
- ensuring assessors participate in the required trainings,
- coordinating assessments onsite so that assessments are administered in accordance with the study plan,
- ensuring that the designated number of students at their site are assessed, and
- communicating with Acadience Learning as needed about the study.

Are there incentives for participating? Yes. Districts will receive access to incentives for their participation. More information on incentives will be provided during the application process.

Will there be training required? Assessors and study coordinators will be provided with training that will cover study procedures, administration directions, scoring rules, and data-entry instructions.

Will we be able to use any of the data we collect? We will share results from the SAT10. These results will be shared with the study coordinator to distribute to classroom teachers. Parents will be able to request copies of these results from their student's teacher.

May we continue to use the Acadience Reading Benchmark Study Version (AR-BSV) measures beyond this research study? No. The AR-BSV measures should only be used for this research study during the 2025–2026 school year and appropriately disposed of at the completion of the study. Please keep in mind that this is active research. The final version of these measures will not be determined until after the study is completed.