



# Meet Amira ISIP FAQ's

## Is the new Amira assessment given monthly or just a few times a year?

The Amira Assessment is not administered monthly by default. Idaho SDE typically designates the required benchmark period twice a year (BOY and EOY). However, progress monitoring or more frequent assessments can be configured at the district level if desired.

## How long does the assessment take, and is it timed?

Amira's assessment is timed, but it is designed to be flexible based on task type and student performance, with most students completing the assessment within 10-15 minutes. Amira uses adaptive logic to determine when enough data has been collected to produce accurate scores, so the duration may vary slightly based on each student's performance.

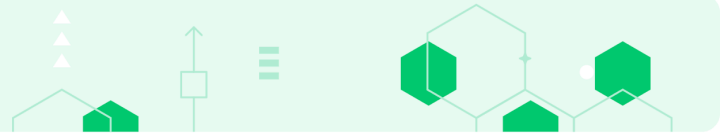
## How does this assessment support dyslexia screening?

Amira was designed with scientific screening principles for dyslexia in mind.

- It assesses a broad range of foundational reading skills, including phonological awareness, rapid naming, decoding, and oral reading fluency.
- It delivers voice-based and print-based tasks aligned to early dyslexia risk factors.
- It shows high reliability and validity across subgroups, including ELLs and students with speech variations.
- It has been reviewed and approved by various state-level reading screener panels.

## What research supports the validity of the new assessment?

Amira's assessment validity is supported by research showing its AI scoring closely matches expert human scoring—achieving 96% agreement at the item level and 98–99% correlation on overall reading fluency measures like WCPM. Studies also show consistent accuracy across subgroups, including English learners and students of color, and extensive DIF (Differential Item



Functioning) analyses confirm that items do not exhibit bias. This research has been reviewed and approved by state-level psychometric teams and panels like the Reading Difficulties Screener Selection Panel.

### What are the key differences between Amira and ISIP? See Chart

Feature	Amira	ISIP (Traditional Istation)
Modality	Primarily voice-based	Primarily click-based
Scoring	AI-driven using RED (Reading Error Detection) models	ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) and human review for oral components
Focus	Reading error detection, real-time fluency	Broad literacy with modular focus
Student Voice	Yes, audio recorded	Limited audio capture

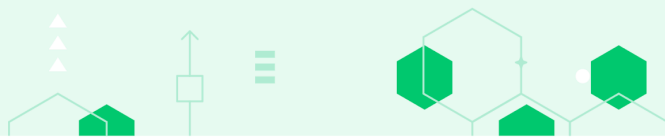
### Will student voices be recorded? Can educators access them?

Yes, students' voices are recorded during the Amira assessment as they read aloud. These recordings are securely stored and used to power Amira's reading error detection system. Educators can listen to student recordings and review Amira's scoring through the Progress Report.

### What accommodations are in place for students with IEPs or speech challenges?

Amira supports accommodations including:

- Taking breaks between tasks or splitting up the assessment into multiple administrations by exiting out and logging back in when students are ready
- Adjustments in environmental setup (e.g., noise levels, spacing)
- Emphasis on not penalizing dialect or accent differences
- Human annotation that excludes speech deviations not related to reading errors
- Teachers can flag sessions where accommodations are necessary
- Paper-Based Administration if needed



## How user-friendly is it for younger students and virtual learners?

Amira is highly user-friendly for younger students and virtual learners. It features a simple, intuitive interface with clear visual prompts and verbal instructions. The system guides students through tasks step-by-step, minimizing the need for adult support. It's also designed to work well in both classroom and remote settings, with built-in checks for audio quality and engagement.

## What technology is required? Do students need special headphones?

The Amira ISIP assessment requires a device with a microphone (like a Chromebook, laptop, desktop, or iPad) and a stable internet connection. No additional software, downloads or headphones are needed beyond accessing the platform through a supported browser. Adherence to recommended setup protocols (quiet space, spacing students out, etc) improves accuracy.

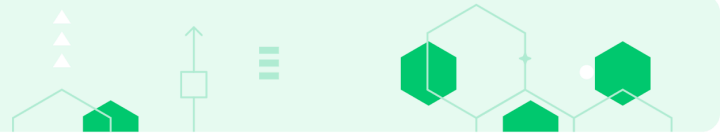
## What grade levels are included on Amira ISIP?

Idaho SDE will be providing the Amira ISIP assessment for all K-5 students. K-3rd grades will be required to test during benchmark periods, while 4-5th grades can utilize the assessment for dyslexia screening and progress monitoring.

## How are scores calculated and reported?

Amira ISIP scores are calculated using AI that analyzes students' spoken reading to detect specific errors and reading behaviors. It measures skills like accuracy, fluency (WCPC), decoding, and phonological awareness. Included on your reports will be:

- **Criterion-Referenced Scores:** Reading Risk Identification (DRI) & Standards Mastery Score (MAST)
- **Norm-Referenced Scores:** Percentile scores tracking growth over time & Amira Reading Mastery Score (ARM) that displays in the form of a grade-level equivalent (GLE).



### Is there a cost for the Amira Tutor portion? Is it included?

Amira Tutor provides real-time, AI-driven reading support through micro-interventions as students read passages aloud. Amira Tutor is not provided with the Idaho IRI, however it can be purchased through your district or campus. Please check with your Amira representative for specific details on cost.

### How are we going to test an entire classroom of students who are all speaking at the same time?

Amira offers flexible test administration options: one-on-one, small group, or whole group based on student needs and classroom logistics. Things to consider:

- **One-on-One Testing** is ideal for younger students, English Learners, or students requiring accommodations.
- **Small Group Testing** allows for some teacher facilitation while Amira automates most of the assessment process. Teachers may stagger logins and provide light monitoring while Amira proctors.
- **Whole-Class Testing** is designed for efficiency, allowing teachers to assess multiple students simultaneously. Space students apart to avoid microphone interference and to ensure Amira can accurately capture each student's reading performance. Amira is designed to pick up the voice talking directly to the device in front of the student.