

Top 6 Revisions of the PARS Fact Sheet

Updated: June 2020

The PARS tool was created by NLPS teachers for NLPS teachers based on the critical skills identified in the 2014 E23 project. This update highlights many of the skills that local teachers value and is intended to encourage meaningful discussions about our learners. Remember, other assessment can be used to assess reading and there are other very important skills that readers need. This fact sheet will highlight some of the changes of the refreshed PARS tool.

1

What's in a name?!...

Prior to being named the PARS (Primary Assessment of Reading Screener), the tool was known to most as the NLPS. This confusion probably started when the district was rebranding itself as Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools, which was around the same time the first edition of the screener was written. Some updates were made in response to feedback from teachers in the field.

2

Inventory of Subtests

On page 1 of the Student Response form, some teachers have found it helpful to keep track of the subtests that have been offered to students. Some teachers offer one subtest to all students in their class and then move onto the next subtest. Other teachers try to complete all subtests for one student and then move onto the next student. Teachers are encouraged to choose their preferred format.

3

Subtest Names

Some of the subtest names have been changed to more accurately reflect the skill being assessed. The questions have mostly stayed the same, but for example, there was a subtest named, "Blends" when the assessment was actually about "Digraphs." "Reading Words" is the new name for the subtest that used to be called, "Sight Words" because not all words on the list are actually *sight words*.

4

Teacher Resources

To reduce paper, instructions, teacher prompts and student-view documents were separated from the 2014 version of the Student Response form. Look for the fun facts and the supplemental pages that include a continuum of phonics and phonological awareness skills, class planning documents, reading targets, definitions as well as implementation guidelines. *Remember, to "View in Slides" to get the *printer-friendly view*.

5

Teacher Resources - Simplified

If you're simply looking for the prompts, look for the simplified version of the Teacher Resources. For most subtests, you will notice this icon, it's a reminder to a max of 30 seconds for a response and to not continue a subtest, if there are 3 or more errors in a row.



6

E-Assess

It is now possible to view directions and record student responses on an iPad or a computer. The link to the EAssess database can be found on the Intranet page or on the Learning Portal. Teachers can sign in using the same username & password as your email, first.last or firstinitiallastname. If you're looking for instructions for EAssess, you may wish to view the 3 minute tutorial on NLPS Learns - coming in September.