PreK News You Can Use
2020–2021

Welcome to the Fall Assessment Window!

Check your Home page, Recommendations section for important resources for the Fall.

Assessment Period

The fall testing window for the 2020–2021 school year will be extended to allow for greater flexibility. Score entry is available from Wednesday, July 15, 2020 through Thursday, November 19, 2020. Contact your PALS Division Representative for division-specific guidelines.

Traditionally, the PALS assessment is administered within a two-week (10-instructional-day) window, within a four-week assessment period, dependent upon your school’s start date. Although optional this fall, you may want to use the assessment calendar as a guide for planning. It is located in the Helpful Links section on the Login Page.

We are here for you and will do our best to offer what information we have, knowing that specifics around the fall testing guidance will continue to evolve. Fall resources will be available on your Home page in the Recommendations section.

Reminders

Password Reset: If you forgot your password, you need to reset it. Select Set/Reset Password on the Login page, and a link to reset your password will be emailed to you.

Sensitive Data: For security purposes, do not send any combination of a student’s identifiable information or data via email (e.g., STIs, name, or scores).

Navigation Tabs: Upon logging into your account, the landing page is your Home tab. When hovering on the Assess tab, one of two pages can be selected: PreK–3 or Quick Checks. To generate Class Lists and enter assessment scores, select the PreK–3 page on the Assess tab. To view reports, select the Reports tab. The Resources tab and the Professional Learning tab do not contain student data.

Student Upload: PreK student accounts and classes can be created and students placed on your class list overnight via an uploaded Student Import file. Contact your Division Representative to inquire about/request this feature. The Add/Transfer Students link remains for traditional add/transfer requests.

Assessment Certification Tutorials: Become PALS-assessment certified! Each comprehensive tutorial includes an optional quiz for certification and possible professional development credit. For additional information, select the Professional Learning tab, Tutorials page.

Required Tasks: The Upper-Case Alphabet Recognition task is required. If a student correctly names 16 or more upper-case letters, the Lower-Case Alphabet Recognition task is required. If the student correctly names 9 or more lower-case letters, the Letter Sounds task is required. As long as the student is not frustrated, consider administering each of these tasks. Having a thorough baseline in the fall makes it easier to show growth in the spring.

Update/Confirm Disability Status: Prior to entering scores, check the accuracy of the student’s disability status. Once the first task score is entered, the status cannot be changed by you. (Contact us if the change is needed.)

New This Fall

Verification Page: After clicking on either OAW Score Entry or Traditional Score Entry, you will be directed to select: Conventional: All tasks administered in person or Remote/Hybrid: One or more tasks administered remotely. Select an option; click I Accept on the next page; and proceed to enter scores.

Professional Learning Tab: Assessment Videos, Webinars, Certification Tutorials, and Modules are now all in one place! Check out the new tab in the blue bar at the top of each PALS page.
My Account Tab: This tab used to be called the Manage tab. From the My Profile page you can update/confirm your account information. From the My Classes page you can add or remove classes from your account.

Renamed Reports: We renamed a number of reports to better reflect their contents.

PALS Chat function! One more way to get in touch with your PALS. Once logged in, you will see a small “chat” icon on the bottom right corner of your page. Click on the bubble to initiate a chat with our team.

Resources

PALS PreK Assessment Video Clips: Video clips showing the correct administration of each task are on the Professional Learning tab, Assessment Videos page.

Quick Checks: Plan instruction before the Fall assessment window and between windows by administering PALS Quick Checks! For information on this valuable resource, select the Resources tab, Quick Checks Materials page. To enter Quick Check scores, select the Assess tab, Quick Checks page. To view Quick Check reports and progress, select the Reports tab, Quick Checks section.

Webinars: Webinars-on-demand are always available. For details, select the Professional Learning tab, Webinars page.

Helpful Documents: Select the Administering PALS page and the FAQs & How-To Documents pages on the Resources tab.

Welcome back!

Please do not hesitate to email, call or chat us when you have questions or suggestions. We are here for you!