

# Determining Who Needs Fluency Training

The following are indications that a student's fluency is low:

- Reads haltingly.
- Reads word-by-word.
- Reads with little or no expression.
- Unable to read an unpracticed grade-level passage at the 50th percentile rate of peers according to the Oral Reading Fluency Norms table.

## Oral Reading Fluency Norms (Hasbrouck/Tindal Table)

The table below shows the oral reading fluency rates of students in grades 1 through 8 as determined by data collected by Jan Hasbrouck and Gerald Tindal. You can use this table to draw conclusions and make decisions about the oral reading fluency of your students. **Students scoring 10 or more words below the 50th percentile, using the average score of two unpracticed readings from grade-level materials, need a fluency building program such as Read Naturally.** In addition, teachers can use the table to set the long-term fluency goals for their struggling readers.

Grade	Percentile	Fall WCPM*	Winter WCPM*	Spring WCPM*	Avg. Weekly Improvement**
1	90	-	81	111	1.9
	75	-	47	82	2.2
	<b>50</b>	-	<b>23</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1.9</b>
	25	-	12	28	1.0
	10	-	6	15	0.6
2	90	106	125	142	1.1
	75	79	100	117	1.2
	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1.2</b>
	25	25	42	61	1.1
	10	11	18	31	0.6
3	90	128	146	162	1.1
	75	99	120	137	1.2
	<b>50</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1.1</b>
	25	44	62	78	1.1
	10	21	36	48	0.8
4	90	145	166	180	1.1
	75	119	139	152	1.0
	<b>50</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0.9</b>
	25	68	87	98	0.9
	10	45	61	72	0.8
5	90	166	182	194	0.9
	75	139	156	168	0.9
	<b>50</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>0.9</b>
	25	85	99	109	0.8
	10	61	74	83	0.7
6	90	177	195	204	0.8
	75	153	167	177	0.8
	<b>50</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0.7</b>
	25	98	111	122	0.8
	10	68	82	93	0.8
7	90	180	192	202	0.7
	75	156	165	177	0.7
	<b>50</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0.7</b>
	25	102	109	123	0.7
	10	79	88	98	0.6
8	90	185	199	199	0.4
	75	161	173	177	0.5
	<b>50</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0.6</b>
	25	106	115	124	0.6
	10	77	84	97	0.6

\*WCPM = Words Correct Per Minute

\*\*Average weekly improvement is the average words per week growth you can expect from a student. It was calculated by dividing the difference between the fall and spring scores by 32, the typical number of weeks between the fall and spring assessments. For grade 1, since there is no fall assessment, the average weekly improvement was calculated by dividing the difference between the winter and spring scores by 16, the typical number of weeks between the winter and spring assessments.

The information in this table is based on an extensive study of oral reading fluency that Hasbrouck and Tindal completed in 2004. The results of their study are published in a technical report entitled, "Oral Reading Fluency: 90 Years of Measurement," which is available on the [University of Oregon's website](#).