

Evaluating Unit Tests

1. Does your core reading program include unit tests? If so, answer the questions below and think about whether or not these unit tests provide adequate information for you to determine if individual students are mastering lesson objectives. If your reading program does not include unit tests, what options should your school consider for determining whether or not students have mastered specific skills that are taught? (Hint: Refer to the National Center on Response to Intervention Progress Monitoring Tools Chart: Mastery Measures at <http://www.rti4success.org/chart/progressMonitoring/progressmonitoringtoolschart.htm>).
2. What are the size of the units covered by unit tests and how many skills are assessed on each unit test? Do the unit tests cover too much material? Do the unit tests provide timely feedback to you regarding students' mastery of skills? Or does the program move on to other essential skills before assessing if students have mastered pre-requisite skills?
3. Do the skills assessed in the unit tests align with the skills taught?
4. Are the unit tests sensitive to student improvement? Do the results of the assessments reflect what students actually can do? Do the results of the assessments differentiate students who have mastered the skills from students who have not mastered the skill?
5. Does the program provide evidence of reliability and validity? Do you think the assessments measure what they intend to measure (i.e., the skills that are being taught)? Are the assessment results consistently indicative of student mastery?
6. Do the assessments provide pass/fail decision rules that are good indicators of student mastery?
7. How do you and other teachers at your school use the information obtained from in-program unit tests?