

Determining Reading Levels of Texts

The TEKS identify reading levels that you can use to determine the readability of texts for a particular student.

These reading levels include:

INDEPENDENT LEVEL: text in which no more than approximately 1 in 20 words is difficult for the reader.

Accuracy level: 95-100%

Independent-level texts are appropriate if students are reading independently with little or no instructional support. Independent-level texts are often used to build fluency.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL: text in which no more than approximately 1 in 10 words is difficult for the reader. Students need instructional support from the teacher.

Accuracy level: 90-94%

Instructional-level texts are appropriate for small-group instruction when teachers provide assistance as students read.

FRUSTRATIONAL LEVEL: text in which more than 1 in 10 words are too difficult for the reader.

Accuracy level: less than 90%

Frustrational-level texts can be used when extensive support and instruction are provided by the teacher during one-on-one instruction.

Reading levels can be determined by calculating the student's accuracy when reading text.

1. Calculate the Percent Accuracy Level.

Divide the number of words read correctly by the total number of words read to calculate the percent accuracy level.

$$\frac{\text{Number of Words Read Correctly}}{\text{Total Words Read}} = \text{Percent}$$

For example, if a student reads 120 words correctly out of a passage of text that contains 125 words, the accuracy level is 96%.

$$120 \div 125 = (.96) \text{ or } 96\%$$

2. Determine the reading level of the text for the student.

96% accuracy means that the text is at the student's independent reading level.