

# Universal Screeners for Number Sense Launch Guide



## Overview

Since 2007, the Universal Screeners for Number Sense (USNS) project has helped educators assess numeracy in meaningful ways. The USNS assessments target fundamental skills necessary for success in mathematics, including verbal counting, reading numbers, and solving problems with materials.

Each grade level has three assessments: a fall, winter, and spring assessment. Fall assessments are entirely are interview-based. Winter and spring assessments include both an interview and a pencil and paper component.



## Assessment Windows

**Fall Screeners**, ideally, are done in the first weeks of school. The goal is to finish before the end of September for schools with July/August start dates, and before the end of October for districts with September start dates. This helps teachers to respond promptly to the information and get necessary supports in place promptly.

**Midyear USNS** assessments should be conducted starting late November / early December and conclude before the end of January.

**Spring USNS** assessments should be conducted early April through the end of the school year.

[Click to learn more about assessment windows.](#)



## Duration of Assessments

The USNS assessments are not timed, but general guidelines about the time to devote to each **fall interview** follow below:

Kindergarten - 3-5 min. per interview

1st Grade - 4-6 minutes per interview

2nd Grade - 5-7 minutes per interview

3rd Grade - 6-8 minutes per interview

4th Grade - 6-9 minutes per interview

5th Grade - 6-10 minutes per interview

[Click to learn more about assessment duration.](#)



## Assessment Guide

Download the full assessment guide from the Forefront Education website, as well as grade-level specific versions to facilitate printing in advance of an administration.

[Click here to download.](#)



## Training Needs

Forefront provides professional learning opportunities for districts looking to train teachers and/or math leaders on the USNS assessments, as well as training on how to look at USNS results in the Forefront software.

[Click to learn more about the USNS Essentials PD.](#)

[Click to learn more about the USNS Results PD.](#)

[Click to access free training resources are shared on the USNS Resources page.](#)



## Collecting Data in Forefront for the First Time

Learn how to collect data via the interview tool or spreadsheet tracker [in this knowledge base article](#). Teachers can view a quick, video overview of logging in and collecting data in our [Teacher Overview Video](#).

Building leaders, including math coaches or interventionists entering results for teachers, should [watch the Getting Started for Leaders video here](#).



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