



**CHEROKEE COUNTY**  
**mCLASS CIRCLE: SOUTH CAROLINA'S EARLY LITERACY ASSESSMENT**  
**PUBLIC-PRIVATE BASELINE DATA (BEGINNING OF THE YEAR) - 2014-2015**

*mClass Circle* is a **computer-based early literacy assessment** administered to all publicly-funded **4- and 5-year-old kindergartners** in South Carolina. Enabled by the South Carolina Read to Succeed Act in June 2014, the instrument was procured by the SC Department of Education via competitive bid in August 2014.

**438 Cherokee County four-year-olds** were assessed in September and October of 2014, with 416 of these students served in the Cherokee County School District and 22 enrolled in private, faith- and community-based preschool settings via South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness. The *baseline data* below reflects **student competencies at the time of enrollment** within all Cherokee County programs, both public and private.

**Letter Naming**



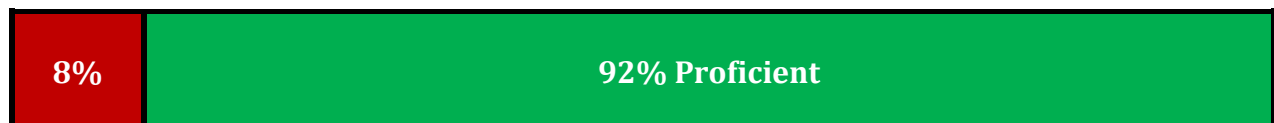
This timed test assesses the number of upper/lower case letters the child can identify. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly name at least 9 (for children 4.0-4.5 years of age) or 11 (4.5+ years of age) letters shown in 60 seconds.

**Vocabulary**



In this timed test students are shown pictures of objects and asked to provide the names of each. Baseline proficiency reflects an ability to correctly name 17 (for children 4.0-4.5 years of age) or 21 (4.5+ years of age) items in 60 seconds.

**Phonological Awareness Composite**



“Phonological awareness” is a set of listening skills related to the child’s ability to distinguish and manipulate the component sounds of spoken language. Circle’s phonological awareness composite summarizes the results of seven individual subtests (below), each of which measures a distinct aspect of this important and reliable predictor of reading success. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects the accumulation of at least 11 (4.0-4.5 years of age) or 14 (4.5+ years of age) points across these seven subtests.

### **Phonological Awareness: Listening**

**48% Emerging**

**52% Proficient**

The listening subtest assesses the child's ability to selectively focus on an individual sound. (Teacher speaks two words, child determines whether the words are "the same" – e.g. one word repeated twice or two different words.) Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to respond correctly to 5 of 5 items.

### **Phonological Awareness: Rhyming 1**

**80% Emerging**

**20% Proficient**

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to determine whether two words spoken words rhyme. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly distinguish on at least 7 of 9 questions.

### **Phonological Awareness: Rhyming 2**

**88% Emerging**

**12%**

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to independently provide a word that rhymes with a prompt. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability correctly identify at least 3 rhyming words given five prompts.

### **Phonological Awareness: Alliteration**

**94% Emerging**

**6%**

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to identify whether two spoken words begin with the same sound. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly distinguish on at least 6 of 7 items.

### **Phonological Awareness: Words in a Sentence**

**84% Emerging**

**16%**

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability identify the number of words in a short sentence. Students use counting toys, sliding one item forward for each word spoken. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability correctly identify the number of words in at least 4 of 5 sentences.

### **Phonological Awareness: Syllabication**

**91% Emerging**

**9%**

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to separate a spoken word into syllables. Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly clap/count syllables in at least 6 of 7 words provided.

### **Phonological Awareness: Onset-Rime**

**83% Emerging**

**17%**

This untimed subtest assesses the child's ability to blend two parts of a word together when provided by the teacher. (e.g. "mmm" + "om" = mom) Baseline proficiency in 4K reflects an ability to correctly blend at least 3 of 5 examples provided.