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RESEARCH BEHIND LEXILE® MEASURES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In this section, you will find answers to FAQs about the research behind Lexile measures.

Why is the *Lexile*® Framework for Reading a trusted measure?

Leaders at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) in the United States supported the founding mission of connecting test results with instruction by funding MetaMetrics® with a series of grants over the course of a decade beginning in 1984. That work resulted in our flagship measurement, the Lexile Framework for Reading. Hundreds of studies over the past 35 years have confirmed the Lexile Framework as a trusted, scientific means of measuring students' reading comprehension ability and text complexity.

To establish the scale for students' reading comprehension ability, numerous linking studies were done with established standardized tests of reading comprehension such as The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Stanford Achievement Test. In these studies, students were administered a Lexile assessment and another assessment of reading comprehension. There was a strong relationship between reading comprehension ability as measured by the Lexile Framework and as measured by the other assessments. For each of the tests, student reading comprehension scores could also be reported as Lexile measures. This dual reporting provides a rich, criterion-related frame of reference for interpreting the standardized test scores and validates that the use of the Lexile Framework describes text complexity and reader ability.

Lexile student norms are based on a study that included a sample of 3.5 million students from all 50 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands who were administered tests that reported Lexile measures from 2010 to 2016.

The Lexile Framework makes it possible to measure both text complexity and an individual's reading ability on the same scale and connect to the real world. Other readability measures are constrained to text evaluation and are often instrument dependent (available only through a single test).

The academic research community continues to examine and support the validity of our metrics. There are hundreds of independent research studies on Lexile measures. We support researchers studying our measures with access to our data and tools.

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