By the time students reach upper elementary school, they are expected to have mastered foundational reading skills. By fourth grade, students should be “reading to learn,” not learning to read. But this is not the reality for many students who continue to struggle with basic reading skills well beyond the elementary grades. The ETS ReadBasix™ assessment was developed to help identify these students and provide teachers with detailed information to target the specific areas in which students are struggling.

Test Content and Format
The ReadBasix assessment is a web-browser assessment for students in grades 3–12, composed of six subtests:

1. Word Recognition & Decoding
2. Vocabulary
3. Morphology
4. Sentence Processing
5. Reading Efficiency
6. Reading Comprehension

Each subtest looks at a specific foundational reading skill that may be affecting a student’s success. These foundational reading skills are often not measured by other assessments that focus only on reading comprehension.

The first five subtests each take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete. The Reading Comprehension subtest takes 20–30 minutes. You can administer all six subtests at once, or you can administer any of the subtests individually to target certain skills. The assessment is browser-based, so no installation is required.

Performance Levels and RTI Framework
For each subtest, the ReadBasix assessment provides scaled scores, grade-level percentiles and grade-band equivalents. The reports indicate student performance levels, making it easy to determine the skill areas in which a student may need extra instruction. Score reports include Response to Intervention (RTI) tier assignment and activity suggestions.

Over time, these results can help monitor a school’s progress toward improving student reading skills and evaluate the effectiveness of a reading program.

Research Behind the Assessment
The ReadBasix assessment is based on the RISE/SARA research, which has been shown to predict state reading scores and performance on other standardized measures of reading comprehension. This research has also been used to identify students who are likely below proficient on a state test.