

PALS 1-3 High Benchmark Designation

Wisconsin Policy

What are the criteria for PALS 1-3 High Benchmark Designation?

The high benchmark designation exempts students reading well above grade level from future PALS screenings. The High Benchmark Designation is indicated with an up arrow next to a student's name. Students are eligible for the High Benchmark Designation in the spring of first grade or the fall of second grade. In the spring of first grade students must read 18 or more words correctly on the second grade word list, read the second grade passage (or higher) with 98% accuracy or better, and receive a fluency rating of three on that passage. In the fall of second grade students must read 18 or more words correctly on the third grade word list, read the third grade passage (or higher) with 98% accuracy or better, and receive a fluency rating of three on that passage.

Are Wisconsin students who reach the high benchmark designation in the spring of first grade or fall of second grade required to be screened in future administrations?

Students reaching the high benchmark (information on the high benchmark designation can be found on page 18 of the PALS 1-3 Administration and Scoring Guide) during screening in fall of grade 2 are not required to participate in future administrations of PALS 1 – 3. Students reaching the high benchmark during screening in spring of grade 1 are still required to be screened in the fall of grade 2.

Wis.Stats., Ch. 118.016 requires that second grade students be screened annually using a tool selected by the DPI (PALS 1 – 3). As a result, all students (even those reaching the High Benchmark Designation in the spring of grade 1) are required to be assessed in the fall of grade 2.

Use the chart below to determine which students are not required to participate in PALS 1 – 3 administrations. All students will appear in the PALS Online Score Entry & Reporting System; leave a blank score for any student who is not required to be screened in spring of grade 2.

Grade 1, Fall	All students are screened.
Grade 1, Midyear	Students are screened at the discretion of the district.
Grade 1, Spring	All students are screened.
Grade 2, Fall	All students are screened.
Grade 2, Midyear	Students are screened at the discretion of the district.
Grade 2, Spring	Students reaching the “High Benchmark” designation in fall of grade 2 are exempt from screening with PALS.*

** While students reaching “High Benchmark” designation in fall of grade 2 are not required to be screened with PALS 1 – 3 in spring of grade 2, teachers/schools/districts can still choose to administer PALS 1 – 3, as it provides valuable information about a student’s strengths and areas of need.*