



*Department of Exceptional Children and Health Services*

# **CLUE Universal Screening Plan for Spring 2021**

For questions, email us at: [clue@scsk12.org](mailto:clue@scsk12.org)

# PROJECT SUMMARY

CLUE (Creative Learning in a Unique Environment) is the gifted and talented program in Shelby County Schools. Since its inception in 1970, the program has expanded to include over 4,000 students in preschool through high school.

The main focus of the the universal screening project is to ensure equitable screening of all students in elementary and middle schools to determine each individual's need for enrichment and above-grade-level instruction. The act of screening employs an intentional search for a student's potential and gifts, and **universal screening** means that all students are included at the same time in the process of examining data that would convey such gifts (Gubbins, et al., 2020).

Given the constraints caused by the current pandemic, revised protocols will be followed to ensure safety for both the test administrators and the participating students. Students in grades 3-8 will continue to be screened using both Illuminate Fastbridge scores from aReading, and iReady benchmark scores will serve as the second phase of screening until all students return to in-person learning. Primary students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will be screened using iReady data using the Overall Grade Placement level on the Reading benchmark assessment.

Students in K-2 who take the iReady Reading benchmark and score **TWO** levels above in the overall score will be assessed using the Instructional Reading Inventory 2.0 (IRI), which requires in-person testing.



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Using the new universal screening protocols in the 2019-20 school year, the CLUE program was able to increase student enrollment by 25%, which is about 900 students. Screening activities were put on hold during the fall of 2020 because students were learning virtually. Now that we have *returned stronger*, we must continue our search for students who need further enrichment to thrive and grow academically, socially, and emotionally. This is a crucial time to add these students to the CLUE program.



Our main objectives of Universal Screening include:

- Creating equitable pathways for students to be identified as gifted and talented.
- Increase the percentage of students identified for the local enrichment program who meet the state requirements for the Intellectually Gifted (IG) disability by grade four.
- Provide equity of access for students to gifted services in every area and neighborhood in Shelby County.

# PROJECT SCOPE

This universal screening project is to be completed within Shelby County Schools in Memphis, TN. The project will utilize the newly adopted benchmark assessment, Illuminate Fastbridge, that will be administered to over 64,000 students in grades kindergarten through eighth, iReady benchmark assessments in the area of reading, and the local CLUE reading assessment, which is the Instructional Reading Inventory 2.0 or IRI.

During designated weeks in the fall, winter, and spring, all students in the district in grades kindergarten through eighth complete an online benchmark assessment for both reading and math. These assessments yield reports that identify the students who test at the 10th percentile or below as needing intervention, or more instructional time in reading and/or math during the school day, in order to catch up to the academic progress being made by peers who are achieving closer to grade level expectations. To align with state requirements for the gifted IEP (TNDOE, 2020), the CLUE Office will use these same data reports to identify students achieving in the 90th percentile or above to screen for students who could potentially need enrichment or above-grade-level instruction.

## Universal Screening Process:



Student completes Illuminate Fastbridge and/or iReady assessments.



Kindergarten-2nd Grades: Students must test in-person and pass the IRI 2.0 to join Primary Enrichment CLUE.



3rd-8th Grades: Students will be screened further to determine the need for a comprehensive evaluation, and students must meet state requirements for the gifted IEP to enroll in Gifted CLUE classes.

# PROJECTED TIME FRAME



## Phase 1: (March 2021)

Screening of Benchmark Scores

- Illuminate Fastbridge Reading
- iReady Reading - Overall Level

## Phase 2: (April -June 2021)

Primary Testing

- Round One: 1st-2nd Grades
- Round Two: Kindergarten

3rd-8th Grade: IG Screening for Comprehensive Evaluation (Placement determined by IEP Team.)

## Phase 3: (Summer 2021)

Comprehensive Evaluations Continue  
(As Needed)

## For more information:

**Visit [www.clue901.com](http://www.clue901.com)**

To access FAQs, required documents for comprehensive assessment, and updates on programming.

**Email us at [clue@scsk12.org](mailto:clue@scsk12.org)**

To ask for help, to ask questions, or to find out which CLUE teacher is assigned to your school.

**Call us at 901-416-0155**

To request screening for a comprehensive evaluation, to ask for help, or to ask questions.

### References

Gubbins, E. J., Siegle, D., Peters, P. M., Carpenter, A. Y., Hamilton, R., McCoach, D. B., Puryear, J. S., Langley, S. D., & Long, D. (2020). Promising practices for improving identification of English learners for gifted and talented programs. *Journal for the education of the gifted*, 43(4), 336–369.  
<http://doi.org/10.1177/0162353220955241>

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<https://www.tn.gov/education/student-support/special-education/intellectually-gifted.html>