AMIRA LITERACY

Frequently Asked Questions for Families

Las Cruces Public Schools is committed to helping every student become a confident, successful reader. AMIRA is one of the tools used to help teachers understand how students are developing early reading skills and where they may need additional support.

Is the AMIRA assessment required?

Yes. During the 2026–27 school year, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) requires all K–2 students and students in grades 3- 5 in a designated structured literacy school*, to participate in early literacy interim assessments at three points during the school year:

- Beginning of Year (BOY)
- Middle of Year (MOY)
- End of Year (EOY)

Families may request that their child take a paper-based assessment instead of the computer-based AMIRA assessment.

*Designated structured literacy schools for 2026-27 are: Alameda, Booker T. Washington, Desert Bloom, Conlee, Fairacres, Hermosa Heights, Loma Heights, MacArthur, Tombaugh, Valley View.

What is AMIRA?

AMIRA is the platform selected by NMPED for early literacy assessment. It uses technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), to listen as a student reads aloud and evaluates reading skills.

AMIRA creates a digital running record, similar to the type of reading record teachers have traditionally used to understand a student's reading. This information can help teachers identify:

- Words a student reads correctly
- Words or reading skills that may be difficult
- Reading fluency and accuracy
- Areas where a student may benefit from additional instruction or practice

AMIRA is a tool to provide teachers with information about student reading. It does not replace instruction or the important role of the classroom teacher.

The AMIRA Tutor feature **will not** be utilized, limiting student use of the platform to the 3 interim assessments. Teachers will continue to monitor progress and provide support for students to become proficient readers.

Does AMIRA record my child's voice?

For the 2026–27 school year, LCPS will administer the computer-based AMIRA assessment with audio recording disabled.

AMIRA must briefly process a student's voice to score the reading assessment. Once scoring is complete, the audio is immediately deleted and is not stored by AMIRA.

LCPS has also requested and received confirmation that previous voice recordings of LCPS students have been deleted from the AMIRA platform.

Can I request a paper-based assessment for my child?

Yes. Students are required to participate in the state-required interim assessments, but families may request a paper-based assessment instead of the computer-based AMIRA assessment.

Parents or guardians who prefer the paper-based option should contact their child's school for assistance.

How is my child's information protected?

Las Cruces Public Schools takes student privacy seriously. AMIRA is required to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and uses security measures, including encryption, to protect student information.

LCPS maintains ownership and control of student data. Student information may be used only to provide educational services and support student learning.

Student reading data may be maintained while a student's account is active, so teachers can monitor progress over time. District administrators may also request deletion of student records.

Under the district's current 2026–27 configuration, student audio is deleted immediately after the assessment is scored and is not retained.

How will teachers use the results?

Teachers can use assessment results to better understand each student's reading development. The information can help teachers:

- Identify reading strengths
- Determine skills that may need additional instruction
- Plan appropriate classroom instruction and intervention
- Monitor student reading growth throughout the school year

Assessment results are one source of information teachers use when making instructional decisions about students.

Still have questions?

We value our partnership with families and appreciate your support as we work together to help every child become a strong reader.

If you have questions about AMIRA, the paper-based assessment option, or how the assessment is being used, please contact your child's school.