

# PALS Remote, Nonstandard Administration: An Overview

PALS was designed to be administered in an in-person setting, with a teacher or reading specialist directly observing students engaging in reading and spelling activities in order to collect information about the student's current literacy knowledge and skills. **For situations in which teachers find that standard administration is not possible and that the only way to assess a student is remotely via video conferencing, we are providing the following suggestions and materials.**

**Remote administration is a nonstandard form of assessment;** while useful information may be gleaned for instructional planning purposes and to help identify students who need additional literacy instruction support, scores entered as nonstandard in the PALS Online System will not trigger any change in the K-8 "ID" status for a student, which indicates whether or not s/he is at risk for a reading difficulty. Shading features have been added to the PALS Online System to indicate whether nonstandard scores fall below the typical K-8 benchmark for a skill in order to help teachers and administrators gauge areas of instructional need.

**Teachers have several options for recording scores during remote assessment:** (1) Record in writing on a printed version of the Student Summary Sheet (available in the "Materials" section of your PALS Online account), (2) Enter directly into the PALS Online System in a separate window, taking care that this window is not being projected to the student (if sharing task items on screen, select "share window" rather than "share entire desktop" in share screen options), or (3) if dual monitors are available, access PALS Online score entry on a separate monitor while sharing other screen with student.

| PALS PreK  |  |
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| <i>PALS-PreK support materials will be available by the end of September 2020.</i> |  |
| Task   | Notes About Remote Administration  |
| <b>Name Writing</b>  | Child will need blank paper and a pencil. Follow the task prompts as usual, then ask child or parent to hold up paper so that it's visible to the teacher. Teacher can then take a screen shot, or record the assessment session, in order to have a record of the child's effort and for reference while scoring.                                   |
| <b>Alphabet Knowledge</b>  | Use the PPT slides or PDF document provided for either Uppercase Alphabet Recognition, Lowercase Alphabet Recognition, or Letter Sounds task. This will enable the teacher to display only one letter at a time in the correct order for this task. Administer task as usual, except that child will not have to point.                              |
| <b>Beginning Sound Awareness</b>   | Use the PowerPoint file provided to administer the sorting task. This file is editable and will allow you to move the pictures to the correct column as the student tells you where to sort each picture. Be sure to return the pictures to their original spot, or to download a new version of the file, before administering to the next student. |
| <b>Print &amp; Word Awareness</b>  | This task cannot be easily administered remotely, as it requires teachers to observe student physically pointing to text features in a printed booklet. School districts may choose to allow teachers to skip this task if in-person administration is not possible.   |
| <b>Rhyme Awareness</b>   | Use the PPT slides or PDF document provided to display one task item at a time. Ask the child to tell you which picture rhymes with the target picture, rather than pointing.  |
| <b>Nursery Rhyme Awareness</b>   | This is an aural task and can be administered as usual, via video chat.  |

**PALS-K***Materials provided for Fall 2020 are for Form B.*

| Task  | Notes About Remote Administration  |
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| <b>Rhyme Awareness, Group or Individual version</b>                           | Use the PPT slides or PDF document provided to display one task item at a time. Ask the child to tell you which picture rhymes with the target picture. (Student will not need a printed booklet copy if the task is administered in this way.)  |
| <b>Beginning Sound Awareness, Group version</b>                               | Use the PPT slides or PDF document provided to display one task item at a time. Ask the child to tell you which picture has the same beginning sound as the target picture, rather than pointing. (Student will not need a printed booklet copy if the task is administered in this way.)  |
| <b>Beginning Sound Awareness, Individual version</b>                          | Use the PowerPoint file provided to administer the sorting task. This file is editable and will allow you to move the pictures to the correct column as the student tells you where to sort each picture. Be sure to return the pictures to their original spot, or to download a new version of the file, before administering to the next student.   |
| <b>Lowercase Alphabet Recognition</b>   | Use the PPT slides or PDF document provided for either Lowercase Alphabet Recognition or Letter Sounds task. This will enable the teacher to display only one letter at a time in the correct order for this task. Administer task as usual, except that child will not have to point.   |
| <b>Letter Sounds</b>  |  |
| <b>K Spelling</b>   | The student will need paper (either lined or blank) and a pencil. Teacher will need to have a white board or chart paper for modeling spelling during the practice items, and to be visible to the student via video chat during these items. During administration of the scored items, use the PDF document provided in order to display the Spelling task alphabet strip to the student for reference. Follow the task prompts as usual, then ask student or parent to hold up paper so that it's visible to the teacher. Teacher can then take a screen shot, or record the assessment session, in order to have a record of the child's effort and for reference while scoring. |
| <b>Concept of Word</b>  | This task cannot be easily administered remotely, as it requires teachers to model, guide, and observe physically pointing to each word in a printed text. School districts may choose to allow teachers to skip this task if in-person administration is not possible.  |
| <b>Word Recognition in Isolation</b> <i>(optional, for beginning readers)</i> | This task can be administered as usual using the eWRI feature.   |

# PALS Plus for grades 1-8

Materials provided for Fall 2020 are for Form B.

| Task  | Notes About Remote Administration  |
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| <i>The Entry Level and Level A tasks below are typically required for initial screening and diagnosis of instructional reading level / spelling stage for most students. Letter Sounds is a standard screening requirement only during fall of first grade.</i> |  |
| <b>Spelling</b>   | The student will need paper (either lined or blank) and a pencil. Follow the task prompts as usual, then ask student or parent to hold up paper so that it's visible to the teacher. Teacher can then take a screen shot, or record the assessment session, in order to have a record of the child's effort and for reference while scoring. |
| <b>Word Recognition in Isolation</b>  | This task can be administered as usual using the eWRI feature.   |
| <b>Letter Sounds</b>  | Use the PPT slides or PDF document provided, which will enable the teacher to display only one letter at a time in the correct order for this task. Administer task as usual, except that child will not have to point.  |
| <b>Oral Reading in Context</b>  | Use the PDF documents provided to display the correct passage while the student reads from the screen. Teacher can record errors in a separate window not visible to the student, or using a printed copy of the corresponding running record form, also provided.   |
| <i>The Level B tasks below are typically only administered to students who do not meet the 1st grade fall benchmark, or who score &lt;15 on the Word Recognition in Isolation - Preprimer Word List in spring of 1st grade or in grades 2-8.</i>                |  |
| <b>Lowercase Alphabet Recognition</b>   | Use the PPT slides or PDF document provided for either Lowercase Alphabet Recognition or Letter Sounds task. This will enable the teacher to display only one letter at a time in the correct order for this task. Administer task as usual, except that child will not have to point.   |
| <b>Letter Sounds</b>  |  |
| <b>Concept of Word</b>  | This task cannot be easily administered remotely, as it requires teachers to model, guide, and observe physically pointing to each word in a printed text. School districts may choose to allow teachers to skip this task if in-person administration is not possible.  |
| <i>The Level C tasks below are typically only administered to students who do not meet the benchmark for Level B tasks above, or who are required to take these tasks according to state assessment requirements.</i>   |  |
| <b>Blending</b>   | This is an aural task and can be administered as usual, via video chat.  |
| <b>Sound-to-Letter</b>  | This is an aural task and can be administered as usual, via video chat.  |