

# A CLOSER LOOK AT DIBELS & SRI

Oakland Literacy Coalition, January 22, 2014

# Why Look At DIBELS?

- First fall DIBELS assessment is our best window into our Kindergartners' pre-kindergarten learning experiences



# DIBELS Assesses Reading Readiness

- “First Sound Fluency” assesses students basic phonemic or sound awareness
  - ▣ Can child hear sounds?
  - ▣ Does child understand that a word is a combination of sounds?
- Skill comes from a language-rich environment
- **Foundational skill for reading – predictive of later literacy**
- Huge **inequity** is evident from the moment children enter Kindergarten

# DIBELS Assesses Reading Readiness

- DIBELS is a Screener that can be used with diagnostic assessments such as Fountas & Pinnell or DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) that include reading comprehension.
- In Kindergarten, DIBELS assesses First Sound Fluency (Phonemic Awareness) and Letter Naming.
- Phonemic Awareness is **a skill that can be taught**. DIBELS tells us immediately which children need to learn it.
- By end of Kindergarten, we want to see 80% of students in all subgroups scoring At or Above Benchmark on First Sound Fluency and Letter Naming.
- By Grade 1, we want to see students At or Above Benchmark on Phoneme Segmentation as well.

# DIBELS Assesses Reading Readiness

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- DIBELS helps us to see which students have the foundational skills to decode text.
- DIBELS does not tell us whether the students understand what they are reading/decoding.

# SRI: A Screener

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- SRI is a vertically scaled assessment that assesses a student's ability to comprehend increasingly complex words and sentences in fiction-based text. A student's level is represented by a Lexile.

# A Look At a Sample SRI Gr 3 Question:

Cody loved the art room. It was a sunny room with long tables. In the center of each table was a cluster of baby-food jars filled with paint. A brush waited at each place.

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Here they could make pictures.

- lunch
- waves
- pictures
- clothes

# SRI

- Transition from DIBELS (decoding skills) to SRI (text complexity, comprehension) at **Grade 2**
  - Computer-adaptive assessment (almost all schools)
  - Requires technology skills
  - Requires reading plain screen with text
  - Very young students
  - Relatively large number of Beginning Readers in Fall administration could be attributed to multiple factors
  - By end of Grade 2 or Grade 3, most students have learned to take the SRI

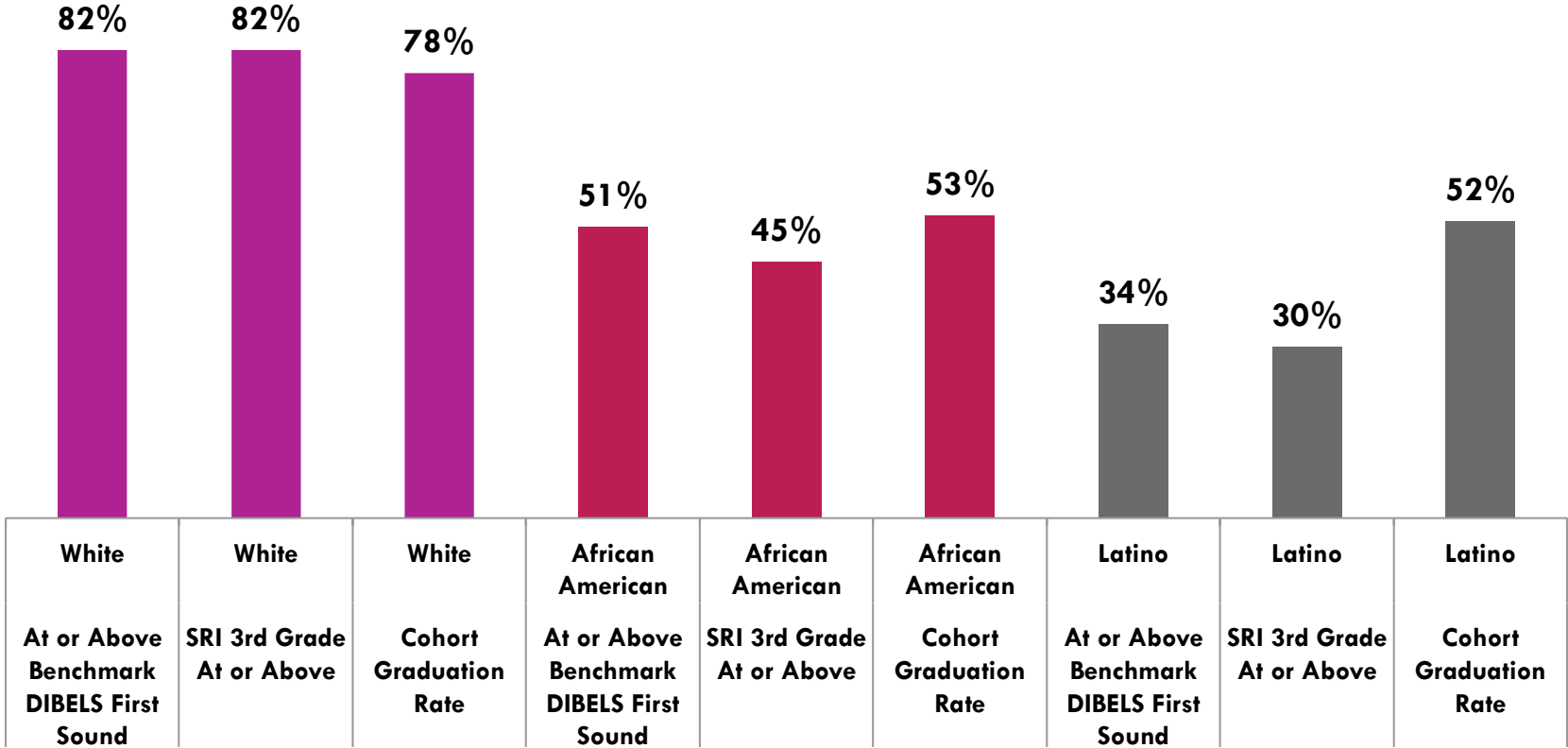


# Early Years – PreK, TK, K-3

- **Implications for Teacher Placement in K-1:** CST in Grades 2-5 sometimes resulted in more effective teachers being placed in the tested grades
- **Transitional Kindergarten** provides system-wide attention and a new opportunity to pay attention to early literacy.
- **P-1 PLC**

# Long-term Implications

**DIBELS First Sound Fluency Kindergarten Fall 2013, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade SRI Fall 2013, and Cohort Graduation Rates by Student Group 2011-12**



# African American Cohort Analysis: 3rd Grade SRI Fall 2013 & Kindergarten Fall 2010

