Determining Reading Levels of Texts

The TEKS identify reading levels that you can use to determine the readability of texts for a particular student.

These reading levels include:

**INDEPENDENT LEVEL:** text in which no more than approximately 1 in 20 words is difficult for the reader.

- Accuracy level: 95-100%

  Independent-level texts are appropriate if students are reading independently with little or no instructional support. Independent-level texts are often used to build fluency.

**INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL:** text in which no more than approximately 1 in 10 words is difficult for the reader. Students need instructional support from the teacher.

- Accuracy level: 90-94%

  Instructional-level texts are appropriate for small-group instruction when teachers provide assistance as students read.

**FRUSTRATIONAL LEVEL:** text in which more than 1 in 10 words are too difficult for the reader.

- Accuracy level: less than 90%

  Frustrational-level texts can be used when extensive support and instruction are provided by the teacher during one-on-one instruction.
Reading levels can be determined by calculating the student’s accuracy when reading text.

1. **Calculate the Percent Accuracy Level.**

   Divide the number of words read correctly by the total number of words read to calculate the percent accuracy level.

   \[
   \text{Number of Words Read Correctly} \quad \text{Percent}
   \]

   \[
   \text{Total Words Read}
   \]

   For example, if a student reads 120 words correctly out of a passage of text that contains 125 words, the accuracy level is 96%.

   \[
   \frac{120}{125} = 0.96 \quad \text{or} \quad 96\%
   \]

2. **Determine the reading level of the text for the student.**

   96% accuracy means that the text is at the student’s independent reading level.

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