

Comparison Summary of Let's Go Learn's DORA and McGraw-Hill's Acuity Assessment

	DORA	Acuity
Theoretical Orientation		
Purpose	Comprehensive diagnostic reading assessment that characterizes the individual reading strategies of students according to cognitive attention to graphophonic, semantic and syntactic cues.	Designed to predict student achievement for grades 3-12 on state learning standards and NCLB tests. Also used as pre-post achievement measures. Used to help schools meet state and federal testing goals.
Use as a pre/post measurement tool	Yes	Yes
Link to differentiated instruction	Assessment generates individualized instructional recommendations in the reports and drives individualized instruction through the Unique Reader program.	Yes, but this process is not automated. Teachers must assign items from a bank of items which follow a structure similar to test items.
Administration		
Test deployment	Internet connected computers automatically guide students through the assessment.	Assessment is delivered completely on-line using an internet connection.
Teacher training	No formal training required.	No formal training required.
Method of scoring	Online system automatically scores subtests and immediately generates a comprehensive report at the completion of the test.	Online system automatically scores subtests and immediately generates a report at the completion of the test.
Ease of use	Online administration except for teacher-administered fluency subtest. Requires very little teacher time	Administration of assessment is performed completely on line. There are only 40 items per assessment. However, it is recommended that the assessment be administered six times a year.
Reporting and Accountability		
Prescriptive reports	Highly individualized reports provide quantitative results and comprehensive narrative on individual student's reading strategies. Individualized instructional recommendations are also provided with each report.	No prescriptive reports. The reports lists individual student's scores on the test, but does not outline an implementation plan for how to help students instructionally.
Aligned to state standards	Yes	Yes
Scientifically-based, valid, and reliable	Based on research, developed by experts, and verified through ongoing reliability studies	Not enough information provided on website. Only info provided was, "Each item is developed by our assessment experts, reviewed for bias and fairness, and evaluated to ensure reliable inferences about student strengths and weaknesses."
Benchmarks	Tests may be given multiple times per year to establish individual student gains and progress toward grade level	Tests may be given multiple times per year to establish individual student gains.

	benchmarks.	
Five key reading skills named by the National Reading Panel (NRP), Center for the Improvement of Early Reading, (CIERA), and the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL)	Covers all five skills: Phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency	Not enough information provided on website.
Assessment Grade Level Specificity		
Adaptive	Tests automatically adapt to student performance	Tests automatically adapt to student performance
Item range	K-12 test item range.	3-12
Multi-level reports	Reports for classroom, school, district, and parents	Yes, reports are available at the student, class, school, and district levels. No parent reports.
Grade level availability	All seven subtests available for grades K-12 depending on individual reading profile of student.	For Reading, grades 2-12. For Language Arts, grades 2-8.
Individual Subtests: Skills Measured		
Phonemic Awareness	Phoneme Isolation; Phoneme Identify; Phoneme Categorization; Phoneme Blending; Phoneme Segmentation; Phoneme Deletion; Phoneme Addition; Phoneme Substitution; Phoneme Rhyming	Not enough information
Phonics	Alphabet/Initial Sounds; Short Vowel Sounds; Silent E Rule; Consonant Blends; Consonant Digraphs; r-Controlled Vowels; Diphthongs; Vowel Digraphs (Long Vowels); Multi-Syllables	Not enough information
Comprehension	Factual Information Recall, Inferencing, Identifying Main Ideas, Instructional Reading Comprehension Level, Fluency Retelling	Not enough information
Word Identification	Timed Sight Word Recognition, Untimed Leveled Word Recognition, Leveled Non-sense and Word Recognition	Not enough information
Spelling	Grade Level Spelling Ability	Not enough information
Vocabulary	Grade Level Oral Vocabulary, Sophisticated Oral Vocabulary	Not enough information
Fluency	Reading Rate in Words Correct Per Minute, Oral Reading Fluency Rating (Prosody)	Not enough information