

The Office of Head Start requires programs to conduct standardized and structured assessments that provide ongoing information to evaluate each child’s developmental level and progress across outcomes aligned to the goals described in the *Head Start Early Learning Child Outcomes Framework (HSELOF): Ages Birth to Five*. Such assessments must result in usable information for teachers, program staff, and parents, and must be conducted with sufficient frequency to allow for individualization throughout the program year.

The City of San Antonio Department of Human Services (DHS) Head Start Program utilizes the CIRCLE Progress Monitoring System Pre-K (CIRCLE), a standardized, criterion-referenced measure that relates well to established standardized tests and is sensitive to growth in skills over time for children ages 3-5 years old. The results of CIRCLE are used to generate a detailed picture of each child's growth and development across 15 areas so that individualized, developmentally appropriate activities can be planned and implemented. The 15 areas are listed below in *Table 1*. Students are assessed three times during the program year, Beginning of the Year (BOY), Middle of the Year (MOY), and End of the Year (EOY).

Table 1: *CIRCLE Dimensions*

Assessment Areas		
Rapid Letter Naming (RLN)	Book & Print Awareness	Speech Production & Sentence Skills
Rapid Vocabulary	Story Retell & Comprehension	Motivation to Read
Phonological Awareness (PA)	Science	Early Writing
Mathematics (Math)	Social Studies	Approaches to Learning
Letter-Sound Correspondence	Social & Emotional Development	Physical Health & Development

Proficiency

The CIRCLE Progress Monitoring System provides a score for each area assessed. Children are described as *PROFICIENT* if they score at or above the cut point, or threshold, listed in accordance with their age. This indicates if the child is on track and has a developed understanding of the measure. Children are described as *NOT PROFICIENT* if they score below the cut point, or threshold, listed in accordance with their age. This indicates an underdeveloped understanding of the measure and a need for more skill development or intensive intervention. The threshold, or cut point, increases at each assessment. Children may be described as *OUT OF RANGE* if they are not within the specified age range for the measure, or if there are no established cut points or thresholds for the area assessed. San Antonio ISD does not require teachers to conduct the Social Studies assessment. In addition, San Antonio ISD does not require teachers to conduct the Social-Emotional Development, Early Writing, Approaches to Learning, Physical Health & Development, Speech Production & Sentence Skills, and Motivation to Read assessment during the MOY assessment window.

Student Outcome Results

The tables below provide student outcome data for CIRCLE for the 2024-2025 school year. Table 2 shows the percentage of children identified as *PROFICIENT* in each assessment area for all children enrolled in the program. The percentage of students identified as *OUT OF RANGE* are not included in percentage.

Table 2: All Children enrolled in the program - Percentage identified as *PROFICIENT*

Program Total Percentage of children PROFICIENT												
CIRCLE Assessment Areas	2021-2022			2022-2023			2023-2024			2024-2025		
	BOY	MOY	EOY	BOY	MOY	EOY	BOY	MOY	EOY	BOY	MOY	EOY
RLN	32%	53%	68%	35%	63%	77%	43%	62%	77%	36%		
Rapid Vocabulary	53%	68%	69%	48%	66%	70%	52%	68%	71%	47%		
PA	60%	65%	70%	59%	74%	77%	65%	76%	77%	61%		
Math	74%	77%	73%	69%	79%	81%	76%	80%	83%	68%		
Letter-Sound Correspondence	NA	81%	82%	NA	86%	87%	N/A	86%	89%	N/A		
Story Retell & Comp.	51%	75%	83%	47%	86%	81%	51%	75%	87%	48%		
Book & Print Knowledge	79%	77%	71%	74%	71%	74%	79%	80%	74%	73%		
Science	83%	84%	79%	57%	83%	82%	83%	83%	81%	77%		
Social Studies	85%	80%	77%	79%	80%	77%	80%	79%	83%	76%		
Social & Emotional Dev.	98%	90%	85%	95%	89%	84%	92%	88%	84%	94%		
Early Writing	93%	85%	85%	87%	85%	84%	94%	84%	84%	88%		
Approaches To Learning	92%	88%	85%	88%	88%	85%	92%	85%	86%	87%		
Physical Health & Dev.	88%	87%	85%	84%	86%	84%	90%	85%	86%	86%		
Speech Production & Sentence Skills	89%	86%	85%	86%	85%	84%	91%	83%	81%	85%		
Motivation to Read	93%	87%	90%	91%	87%	88%	89%	85%	85%	87%		

Data Analysis

The DHS Head Start Program began using the CIRCLE Progress Monitoring System Pre-K during the 2020-2021 school year. The information provided below includes program outcomes and information for the 2024-2025 program year.

At the Beginning of the Year (BOY), the percentage of children assessed that were identified as *PROFICIENT* is lowest for Rapid Letter Naming (RLN). The percentage of children identified as *PROFICIENT* is highest for Social & Emotional Development. There is not an established BOY cut-point, or threshold, for Letter-Sound Correspondence for BOY.

Additionally, fidelity to the assessment and training related to assessment protocols to ensure all children receive an assessment continue to be areas of focus for the program.