



Handout #6: Using the Tools Chart to Evaluate Screening Tools

Directions: With a partner, pick a screener from the tools chart. Investigate it for the criteria in the chart below. Determine whether the tool meets sufficient evidence for use.

	Classification Accuracy	Generalizability	Reliability and Validity	Efficiency
Criteria				
	Classification accuracy indicates the extent to which a screening tool is able to accurately classify students into “at risk for poor learning outcomes” and “not at risk for poor learning outcomes” categories.	Generalizability is the extent to which results generated from one population can be applied to another population. A tool is considered more generalizable if studies have been conducted on larger, more representative samples.	Reliability is the consistency with which a tool classifies students from one administration to the next. A tool is considered reliable if it produces the same results when administering the test under different conditions, at different times, or using different forms of the test. Validity is the extent to which a tool accurately measures the underlying construct that it is intended to measure.	Administration format: Is the tool designed to be administered to an individual or to a group or both? Administration and scoring time: How long does it take to administer and score the tool? Scoring key: Is a scoring key provided? If not, is it scored by a computer? Norms/benchmarks: Are benchmarks and/or norms available for reference?