



# Lexile® Measures Overview

An Introductory Guide for Assessment Developers  
and Education Companies



# What Is the Lexile® Framework for Reading?

## A Universal Measure for Students and Texts

Lexile measures provide a way to:

- Find just right books.
- Monitor and track growth.
- Communicate with parents about a student's reading ability.

### Lexile Reading Measures for Students

A student's **Lexile reading measure** is the numeric representation of a student's reading comprehension ability. The Lexile scale is a developmental scale ranging from beginning reader measures below 0L to above 1600L for advanced abilities. The higher the student's Lexile measure, the greater their reading ability.



Over **35 million students from 50 U.S. states** receive Lexile reading measures from over **75 popular reading assessments and programs**.

### Lexile Text Measures for Materials

A material's **Lexile text measure** is the numeric representation of a text's difficulty. The higher the Lexile text measure, the more difficult the text is to comprehend. The Lexile scale is a developmental scale ranging from beginning reader texts below 0L to above 1600L for advanced texts.



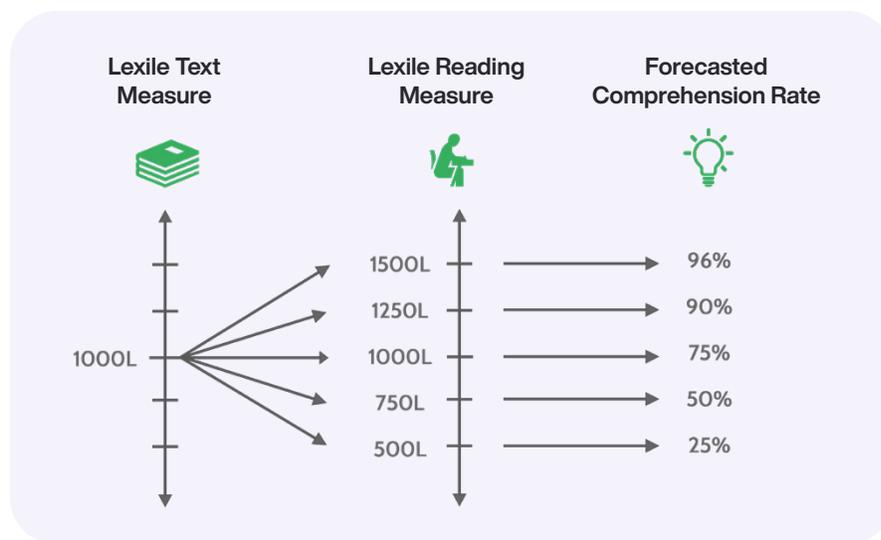
More than **100 million books, articles, and websites** have received Lexile text measures.

# What Makes Lexile Measures Actionable?

The Lexile Framework for Reading is a scientifically valid approach to matching students with reading materials because both students' abilities and text difficulty are measured on the same scale in the same metric. The Lexile scale helps to connect students to reading materials at their unique ability levels—both today and as their reading abilities grow.

Lexile text measures can inform instructional decisions. Connecting students with materials in their Lexile range helps to differentiate instruction. For example, when all students in a classroom are using the same text, Lexile text measures help predict which students might need extra help and which ones might need enrichment.

When a text's measure matches a student's Lexile reading measure, the student is expected to have a 75 percent comprehension rate. This means that a student with a measure of 1000L can read a text measured at 1000L and is expected to comprehend 75 percent of what they have read. This is the "default" rate used for reading instruction within the Lexile Framework. When a text's measure matches a student's reading measure, the student should not be frustrated by losing the meaning thread of the text, but should encounter new vocabulary and sentence structures that promote growth in reading.



## Reflections from the Industry

"It's empowering to align with a universal scale instead of reporting scores from a single program or tests. MetaMetrics' Frameworks connect learners with learning. Test scores become meaningful and actionable."

— Allison Duquette,  
Edtech Executive

# About Spanish Lexile Measures for Reading

Just like the Lexile Framework for Reading, El Sistema Lexile® para Leer is a powerful tool for measuring Spanish-speaking students' reading abilities, personalizing learning, and improving achievement. El Sistema Lexile uses its own scientific, universal scale and metrics to connect readers with Spanish resources at the right level of difficulty.

Linking your Spanish reading assessments to El Sistema Lexile provides progress monitoring and learning resources for Spanish readers similar to those provided to English readers through the Lexile Framework.

Read more about Spanish Lexile measures at [hub.lexile.com/el-sistema-lexile-para-leer](http://hub.lexile.com/el-sistema-lexile-para-leer).

# Why Trust Lexile Measures?

Beginning in 1984, leaders at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) supported the founding mission of connecting test results with instruction by funding MetaMetrics with a series of grants. That work resulted in MetaMetrics' flagship measurement system, the Lexile Framework for Reading. Hundreds of independent studies over the past 35 years have confirmed the Lexile Framework as a trusted, scientific means of measuring reading for English and Spanish text.

## State Education Agencies Rely on Our Metric

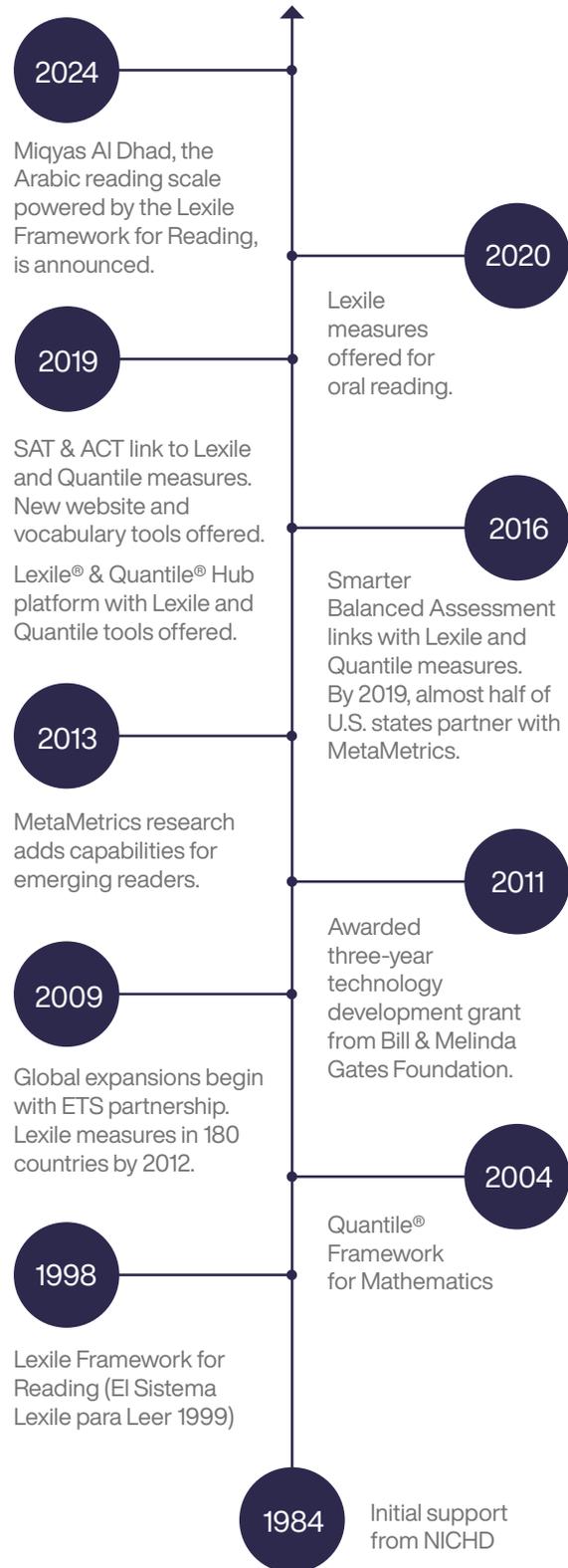
“By providing Lexile and Quantile measures we are able to personalize learning for every child and ensure they graduate prepared for success.”

—Former Superintendent Molly Spearman, South Carolina Department of Education

“We see these measures as being able to help guide educators as they develop these individual learning strategies.”

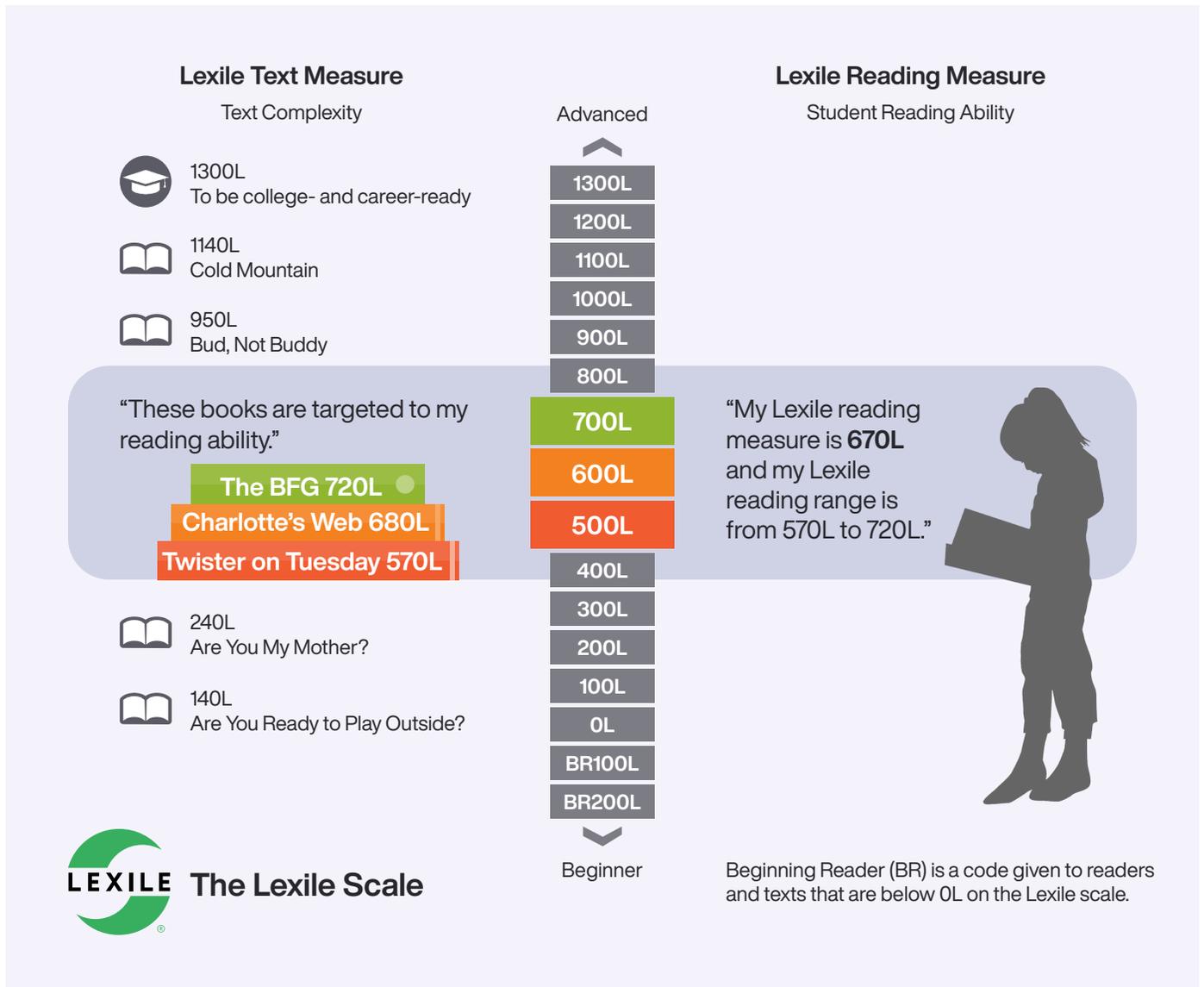
—Dr. Randy Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education

# The History of MetaMetrics



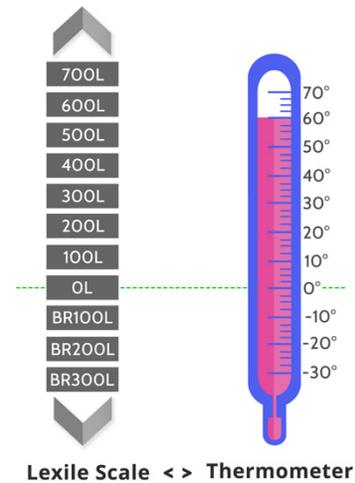
# Matching Students With Text

Lexile measures provide valuable information about a student's reading comprehension. The ideal reading range to encourage growth for a student is from 100L below to 50L above the student's Lexile measure. For example, a student with a Lexile measure of 670L would read books that are between 570L to 720L.

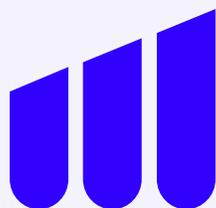


## What About Lexile Measures Below OL?

Beginning Reader (BR) is a code given to readers and texts that are below OL on the Lexile scale. Just like -10 degrees is higher (warmer) than -30 degrees on a thermometer, a BR100L book is more complex than a BR300L book. The lower the number following the BR code, the more advanced the reader or text is. The higher the number, the less complex the text is or less skilled the reader is.



Once students have Lexile measures, they can use Lexile® Find a Book to find books at their reading level and interests at [hub.lexile.com/find-a-book](https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book).



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