

Dear Valued Fast ForWord Customer,

Thank you for choosing Fast ForWord as a preferred reading program at your organization! We are sending this message to notify you of changes and improvements to our Fast ForWord programs that use legacy technology (Adobe Flash Player), where some program components have been or will be replaced with new and improved alternatives in 2020-2021.

Fast ForWord Legacy Component End-of-Life Transition Schedule

| Legacy Version Component | New Version Component | New Version Availability | Legacy Version Unassignable | Legacy Version End-of-Life |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Reading Progress Indicator legacy | Reading Progress Indicator | Available now | Currently unassignable | <p>Access to all Legacy versions will stop on Dec 17, 2020</p> <p>NOTE: All learner reports will be available until December 2021</p> |
| Reading Readiness (Legacy) | Reading Readiness | Available now | Currently unassignable | |
| Language v2 | Foundations I | Available now | Currently unassignable | |
| Language to Reading v2 | Foundations II | Available now | Currently unassignable | |
| Reading Level 1 (Legacy) | Reading Level 1 | Available now | Currently unassignable | |
| Reading Level 2 (Legacy) | Reading Level 2 | Available now | Currently unassignable | |
| Reading Level 3 (Legacy) | Reading Level 3 | Available now | Currently unassignable | |
| Reading Level 4 | TBD | 2021 | Currently unassignable | |
| Reading Level 5 | TBD | 2021 | Currently unassignable | |
| Literacy | Elements I Elements II | Available now Spring 2021 | Currently unassignable | |
| Literacy Advanced | Foundations II | Available now | Currently unassignable | |

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is this conversion necessary? What is the difference between the legacy (Flash) and new versions of the Fast ForWord programs?

A: We have made a variety of improvements to many of the Fast ForWord components to improve the learning experience for students and teachers. These changes vary across our programs and include:

- An entirely new design for secondary exercises that promotes greater student motivation and engagement.
- Improved “Today’s Report” screens that provide students with greater agency through views of their daily progress and usage.
- Updated progression rules that improve program adaptivity for learners.

- Dynamic in-line interventions that deliver timely corrective feedback to students and result in faster progress.
- Pre-teaching scaffolding activities to support English Language Learners.
- Reduced number of exercises to ensure struggling readers spend more time in exercises focused on reading comprehension.
- Labeling and navigation enhancements to reports to improve accessibility for teachers

Finally, legacy versions of the Fast ForWord programs use Flash Player, a technology that is being discontinued by its parent company, Adobe. This is due to an improved technology called HTML5, which has become the new standard of web interactivity. The new version of Fast ForWord will be powered by HTML5, which improves usability by eliminating the need to install third-party plugins and enables easy switching between different browsers and devices. Gone are the days where you have to “allow Flash” before using Fast ForWord!

Q: What does “New version availability” mean in the chart above?

A: These are the dates when the new HTML5 versions of the Fast ForWord program components will be available for student use. Some, like Reading Progress Indicator and Reading Readiness, are already available, while others will become available in 2020-2021.

Q: What does “Unassignable” mean in the chart above?

A: Unassignable means you can no longer assign the legacy program component to your students. After the unassignable date, only the new HTML5 versions will be assignable.

Q: What about students who are currently working on legacy program assignments?

A: Students currently working on legacy program assignments will still be able to use those programs until December 17, 2020, and instructors will still be able to edit and manage these assignments as well as access mobile apps if needed. Large districts that use the Import feature should remove any legacy program assignments from the import CSV file before using it again.

Q: What does “Legacy version end-of-life” mean?

A: As of December 17, 2020, students will no longer have access to any legacy assignments in both the browser and iPad apps. Students who log in to mySciLEARN after December 17, 2020, will not see assignments available for any legacy versions of Fast ForWord. The View Assignments screen will show “No Assignments available”.

Q: Will I still have access to student data for the legacy components?

A: Reports will be available until December 2021 for all legacy components.

Q: When should I stop assigning the legacy Flash version of Reading Level 3 to avoid having my students start over in the new HTML5 version?

A: Each student progresses at their own rate and assigned schedule. If you anticipate that a student will not complete Reading Level 3 by December 17, 2020 (which takes ~25-35 hours to complete), you may want to consider waiting to begin this component until the HTML5 version is available by Winter 2020.

Q: When should I stop assigning the legacy Flash version of Literacy to avoid having my students start over in the new HTML5 version?

A: Each student progresses at their own rate and assigned schedule. If you anticipate that a student will not complete Literacy by December 17, 2020 (it takes ~25-35 hours to complete), you may want to assign Foundations I instead or wait to begin this component until its HTML5 version, Elements I, is available by Summer 2020.

Q: When should I stop assigning students to Reading Level 4, Reading Level 5 and Literacy Advanced?

A: If you anticipate that a student will not complete Reading Level 4 or Reading Level 5 by December 17, 2020, you may want to consider assigning Reading Assistant Plus instead. If you feel that a student will not complete Literacy Advanced by December 17, 2020, assign the student Foundations II instead.

Q: What will happen to Reading Levels 4 and 5, and Literacy Advanced after December 17, 2020?

A: We are working on an updated component to replace the Reading Level 4 and Reading Level 5 programs, and anticipate it being available in 2021. Teachers and students are encouraged to use Reading Assistant Plus as an alternative to Reading Level 4 and Reading Level 5 after December 17, 2020. Students who would be assigned Literacy Advanced should be assigned Foundations II.

Q: What will happen with Auto Assign for the next component to which students advance?

A: The Fast ForWord Auto Assign rules will be modified to advance students to the new HTML5 available program components.

Over the coming months, we will make this information readily available in the Toolbox section of mySciLEARN and on our company website.

Please contact Support if you have any questions:

Phone Support Hours: Monday through Friday 5 AM – 4 PM PT
Chat/Email Support Hours: Monday through Friday 5 AM – 5 PM PT

Phone: 888-358-0212 (US & Canada)
Phone: 520-917-1200 (International)

Email: support@scilearn.com
Text Support: 207-292-7193

<https://help.scilearn.com/toolbox/support.htm>

We appreciate your patience and hope you'll share in our excitement in transitioning to this new phase of Fast ForWord.