The Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act

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The Read Act

Minnesota's BOLD Plan for Literacy Achievement

- Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act, known as the READ Act, was passed and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz on May 24, 2023.
- The READ Act replaces Read Well by Third Grade (RWBTG) in Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.12, effective July 1, 2023.

Literacy Goal

To have every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals.

“Literacy empowers and liberates people. Beyond its importance as part of the right to education, literacy improves lives by expanding capabilities which in turn reduces poverty, increases participation in the labor market and has positive effects on health and sustainable development.”

Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

READ Act

Tonight's Agenda Topics:

- Training in Structured Literacy
- Identification Process: Universal Screening

Training in Structured Literacy

- Structured Literacy is the application of knowledge from the science of reading.

- Time was built into the 2024-25 school calendar for all staff to receive professional development in literacy.

Science of Reading - The "What"

- The Science of Reading is "a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing."
  - The body of evidence come from linguistics, cognitive science, education psychology and neuroscience.
- It is a set of guiding principles that can inform both policy and practice when it comes to teaching literacy.
  - It is not training on the curriculum.
- Five literary practices as necessary ingredients for student reading success:
  - Phonemic awareness
  - Phonics
  - Fluency
  - Vocabulary
  - Comprehension

Source: https://parentpowered.com/science-of-reading/

Reading Comprehension

LC X **WR** = **Reading Comprehension**

Language Comprehension (LC)

- Background Knowledge
- Vocabulary
- Language Structures
- Verbal Reasoning
- Literacy Knowledge

Word Recognition (WR)

- Phonological Awareness
- Decoding
- Sight Recognition

Source: Gough, Scarborough, et al

Science of Reading – The "How"

- **Systematic instruction**
  - There is a logical and specific plan for what should be covered and in what order (scope and sequence), including frequent reviews of knowledge already gained.

- **Explicit instruction**
  - Shows students what they need to know *and* gives them both guided practice (with feedback) and independent practice with each skill.

Source: https://parentpowered.com/science-of-reading/

Professional Development Program
Early Childhood and Elementary

- CAREIALL: Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement Advancing Language and Literacy (University of Minnesota)
  - This course is designed to support educators in operationalizing the science of reading in their classrooms.

- Training Hours:
  - 17 hours of synchronous training (virtual group instruction)
  - 45–50 hours of online modules (estimate)

- Educators identified by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) are required to achieve an 80% passing score.

Source:https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/READ/dev/

Professional Development Program
Grades 6 through 12+

- Online Language and Literacy Academy (OL&LA) – Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education (CORE)
  - This course is designed to support educators in operationalizing the science of reading in their classrooms.

- Training Hours:
  - 3 hours of synchronous training (virtual group instruction)
  - 45-54 hours of asynchronous training (online modules and print reading)
  - Course material *Teaching Reading Sourcebook and Assessing Reading: Multiple Measures*

- Educators identified by MDE are required to achieve an 80% passing score.

Source:https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/READ/dev/

Professional Development Program
Additional Program for Grades 6 through 12+

- CORE's Adolescent Literacy Solutions (ALS) courses address the needs of all learners to equitably access and excel in high-quality tier 1 instruction. These decoding and fluency courses provide intensive intervention-focused practices for educators with students who experience fluency challenges.
- The course modules include:
  - Comprehension
  - Vocabulary Across the Content Areas (2 Modules)
  - Fluency
  - Decoding
- Training Overview
  - 5 Modules of Training
  - Each module is 4 sessions of 90 minutes each = 6 Hours
  - All training is synchronous
  - Course material *Teaching Reading Sourcebook and Assessing Reading: Multiple Measures*

Training in Structured Literacy

- 2024-25 Calendar Implications
  - 5 additional professional development days (compared to 2023-24)
    - Sept. 30
    - Nov. 5
    - Dec. 2
    - Jan. 3
    - Feb. 14
    - April 21
    - May 23
    - June 5

- "Typical" Professional Development Day (exception Adolescent Literacy Solutions Groups)
  - Morning: Work time to complete asynchronous component of module
  - Afternoon: In-person learning with cohort to complete synchronous component

Identification: Universal Screening

- Grades K-3: Twice per year (beginning 2024-2025 school year) must screen every student using a screening tool approved by MDE within the first and last six weeks of the school year.

- Grades 4-12+: Screen students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia; and students in grades 4 to 12 who are identified as not reading at grade level (can be opted out through family and teacher collaboration).

Identification: Universal Screening

- Grades K-5
  - Beginning 2024-2025 school year
  - Leadership and Steering Committees working on:
    - Establishing common understandings and definitions
    - Developing a complete “data” picture of our students
    - Selecting a screener

- Grades 6-12+
  - Waiting for guidance from MDE

Next Steps

- Preparation for Professional Development
- K-5 Elementary Screening Process
- March: New Local Literacy Plan template and data collection process released
  - First submission for Local Literacy Plans will be June 15, 2024

Questions

More Information

https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/READ/