

MSDE PreK to Grade 3 Literacy Policy

CCPS Implementation of the Comprehensive Literacy Policy

Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, Maryland began implementing a new statewide literacy policy designed to ensure all students become strong, confident readers by the end of third grade. The policy emphasizes explicit, evidence-based instruction in foundational reading skills such as phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension—using approaches aligned with the Science of Reading.

Students who experience reading difficulties will be identified early and provided with targeted intervention support. Families will receive clear, accessible communication three times a year, following assessment periods and collaborate with educators to develop individualized reading improvement plans tailored to each child's needs. The initiative will be rolled out in phases, with comprehensive reading support systems and promotion guidelines fully established by the **2027–2028** school year.

Comprehensive PreK-3 Literacy Policy

The Comprehensive Pre-K through Grade 3 Literacy Policy includes the following standards:

- A System of Support for Educators
- Reading Instruction, Assessment and Intervention
- Parent/Guardian Notification and Student Reading Improvement Plan (SRIP)
- Demonstrated Readiness for Promotion

Helping Every Child Become a Confident Reader

Maryland's new literacy policy supports every child from Pre-K through third grade with the instruction and resources needed to become a successful reader, while partnering with families to help students develop confidence in reading.

What is The Purpose of the Policy?

The Maryland State Board of Education developed this policy to ensure that every child reads at grade level by the end of third grade. The policy requires all schools to use research-based instructional practices, known as the Science of Reading, to build strong skills in phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

While CCPS consistently demonstrates strong literacy achievement, with high reading scores, Maryland's reading scores have dropped sharply over the past decade. The new policy tackles this by giving teachers better training, students earlier support, and families clear communication about reading progress.

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What Families Can Expect

- **Early identification:** All Pre-K through third-grade students will be screened three times each year to identify reading challenges as early as possible.
- **Individual Reading Plans K-3:** When a student experiences reading difficulties, the school will develop a Student Reading Improvement Plan (SRIP) following identification, outlining targeted supports and next steps.
- **Family communication:** Families will receive timely, easy-to-understand communication about their child's reading progress (following screening assessment windows), along with guidance on how to support literacy progress at home.
- **Additional support:** Students who need extra help will receive small-group intervention in addition to core literacy instruction.
- **Retention:** Retention will occur only after two years of targeted intervention and ongoing collaboration with families.

CCPS Prepares Teachers and Schools

- Beginning in 2024-2025, all Pre-K through third-grade teachers and administrators will receive training in evidence-based reading instruction.
- Schools will use only high-quality instructional materials.
- Each district will be required to monitor and report on the number of educators trained and the number of students receiving reading intervention support.

Implementation Timeline

- **2024–2025:** Statewide teacher training begins, along with early literacy support efforts.
- **2025–2026:** Approved reading instructional materials and universal screening tools are implemented. Implementation plans are communicated to the CCPS community.
- **2026–2027:** Student Reading Improvement Plans (SRIPs) and updated family notification processes are introduced.
- **2027–2028:** Full implementation is achieved, including third-grade promotion and retention decisions.
- **2028-2029:** The first group of students will be retained to third grade.