



Science

of

Reading

Citizens Advisory Council

October 5, 2026



Tonight's Agenda

01

What is SoR?

What is the Science of Reading?

03

Classroom Impact

What's happening in classrooms?

02

State Literacy Policy

What is Maryland requiring around literacy?

04

Now What?

What are our next steps with Science of Reading?





What is Science of Reading ?

Definition

Science of Reading is an interdisciplinary body of research spanning cognitive science, educational psychology, and instructional design to examine how humans acquire, retain, and utilize knowledge (Heal & Lee, 2026)



ZB Zaner-Bloser

The Simple View of Reading

The Simple View of Reading

WR

*Word
Recognition*

x

LC

*Language
Comprehension*

=

RC

*Reading
Comprehension*

(Gough & Tunmer 1986, 1990)

SCARBOROUGH'S READING ROPE (2001)*

Language Comprehension

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE
(facts, concepts, etc.)

VOCABULARY
(breadth, precision, links, etc.)

LANGUAGE STRUCTURE
(syntax, semantics, etc.)

VERBAL REASONING
(inference, metaphor, etc.)

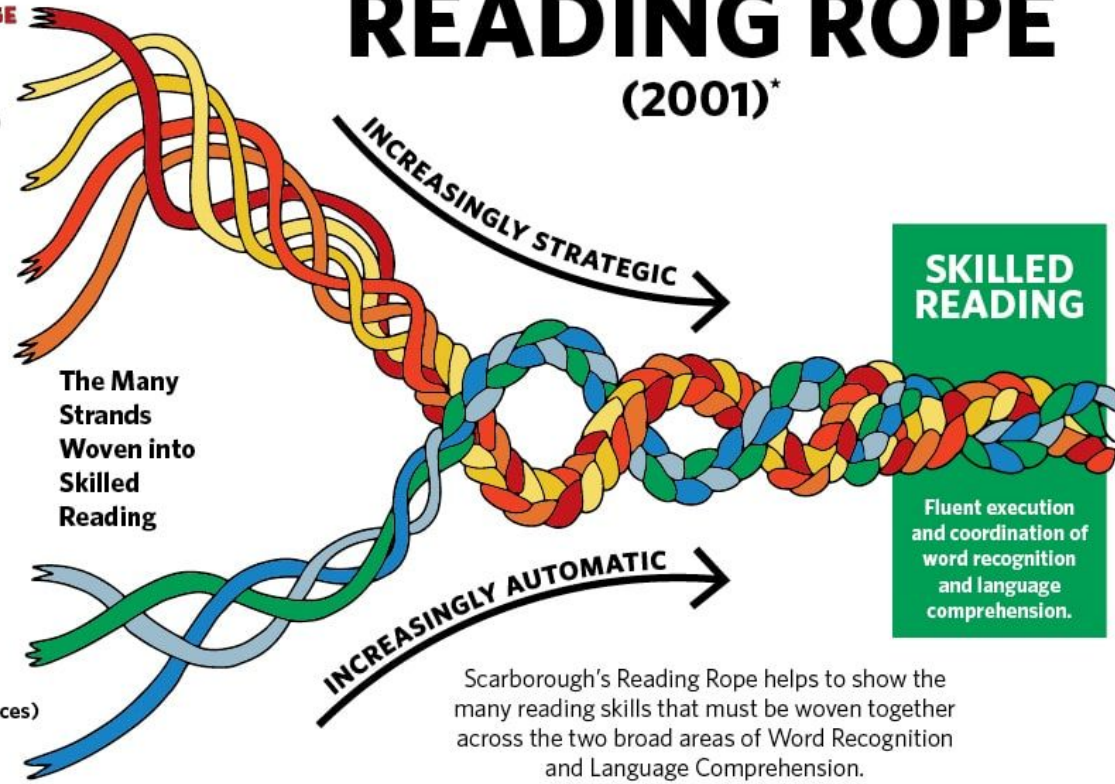
LITERACY KNOWLEDGE
(print concepts, genres, etc.)

Word Recognition

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS
(syllables, phonemes, etc.)

DECODING
(alphabetic principle,
spelling—sound correspondences)

SIGHT RECOGNITION
(of familiar words)



Scarborough's Reading Rope helps to show the many reading skills that must be woven together across the two broad areas of Word Recognition and Language Comprehension.

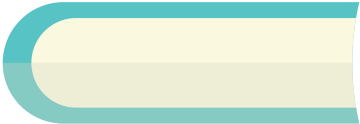
*What is the Reading Rope? (n.d.). Braintrust Tutors. March 16, 2023
<https://braintrusttutors.com/what-is-the-reading-rope/>



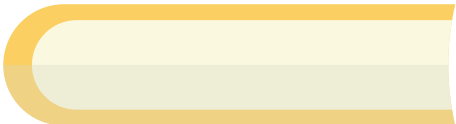
Maryland's Literacy Policy



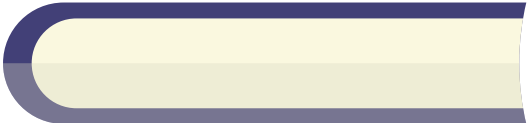
Key Components of the MD Policy



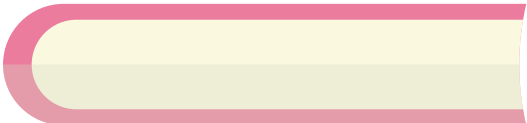
System of support for educators (both preservice and inservice)



Instructional supports like coaching, co-planning, job-embedded professional learning



Reading instruction, assessment, and intervention (Ready to Read Act)



Parent Involvement, possible student retention based on proficiency



Classroom Impact

Classroom **Impact**



Instruction

Explicit instruction on
foundational skills



Tiered Support

Supplemental
instruction as needed



Evidence-Based

Utilizing materials that
show results



Differentiated Support

Assistance for all
student groups (SWD,
ML, etc)





Next Steps

Where do we go from here?

Continued teacher
and admin learning
on Science of
Reading

Provide interventions
and report progress to
families

Adopt and implement
State Policy (pending
final approval)





Questions

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