

READ Act Summary

The “READ Act” replaces “Read Well by Third Grade” as of July 1, 2023.



Acronym Cheat Sheet

READ Act: Reading to Ensure Academic Development

MDE: Minnesota Department of Education

CAREI: Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement, University of Minnesota

Universal Screening

By the 2024-25 school year districts must adopt and administer an evidence-based reading screener from the list of MDE Approved Literacy Screening Tools to **all students in K-3 within the first six weeks and last six weeks of school.**

MDE Approved List:

- DIBELS 8th Edition
- FastBridge

Screening tools approved by MDE include subtests to measure foundational reading skills as well as characteristics of dyslexia. Guidance will be forthcoming from MDE about screening for characteristics of dyslexia.

Students above grade 4 (including multilingual learners and students receiving special education services) who do not demonstrate mastery of foundational reading skills must be screened for characteristics of dyslexia and must continue to receive evidence-based instruction, interventions, and progress monitoring until grade-level proficiency is achieved.

Use and Purchase of Evidence-Based Literacy Curricula

By January 1, 2024, MDE/CAREI must identify at least 5 evidence-based literacy curriculum for use in grades K-3.

Starting July 1, 2023, when a district purchases new literacy curriculum, intervention or supplementary materials, the resources purchased must be evidence-based as defined in the READ Act.

- Vendors must submit curricular materials for review by Oct 16, 2023
- MDE/CAREI will also identify literacy intervention materials to use with students
 - in grades K-12
- Guidance on reimbursement for curriculum purchased after July 1, 2023, AND reconsideration of the list will be forthcoming

Educator Professional Development Requirements

By August 15, 2023, MDE/CAREI must identify at least 3 state funded professional development programs that focus on the five pillars of literacy and the components of structured literacy.

The list currently includes:

- Advancing Language and Literacy (CAREIALL) – University of Minnesota
- CORE Learning – Online Elementary Reading Academy
- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling – LETRS (Lexia)

Beginning July 1, 2024, each district must provide the following education professionals with one of the above professional development training opportunities.

- intervention teachers working with students in grades K-12
- all classroom teachers of students in kindergarten through grade three and children in prekindergarten programs
- special education teachers
- curriculum directors
- instructional support staff who provide reading instruction; and
- employees who select literacy instructional materials for a district
- *all other teachers and instructional staff required to receive training under the READ Act must complete the training no later than July 1, 2027*

Once the Regional Literacy Networks in each Minnesota Service Cooperative are staffed, administrative supports will be offered via these Networks in each region of the state, including the metro area.

By August 30, 2025, a district must employ or contract with a literacy lead.

DATA and Literacy Plans

Using an MDE template to be developed by March 1, 2024, districts must annually submit a Local Literacy Plan to have children reading at or above grade level every year beginning in kindergarten and support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals.

By June 15, 2024, districts must *annually* submit to MDE data on the following:

- Performance data on students in grades K-3 on foundational reading skills, and students in grades 4-12 who are identified as not reading at grade level
- Local Literacy Plan using MDE template
- Screening data will be submitted for the first time in the Local Literacy Plan due June 15, 2025

To keep up to date on decisions by MDE/CAREI visit:
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/READ/>