

## The READ Act Update

**September 11, 2023**

### Training

With the release of the approved list of training vendors we know districts are anxious to know what the next steps will be to get started.

The three training vendors, LEXIA/LETRS; CORE Learning; and CAREIAL, were selected because they met very specific criteria.

MDE and CAREI used an adapted version of the Observation Checklist for High-Quality Professional Development Training (HQPD) to determine the approved menu of rigorous professional development programs that local education providers will be required to offer per [Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 120B.12](#). Listed below is additional criteria used to identify state funded professional development programs:

- Focused on or aligns with the science of reading, including teaching in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency including oral language skills, and reading comprehension;
- Includes information on how the brain learns to read and the nature of reading difficulties (e.g., dyslexia, generalized language learning disorders) as well as special considerations for supporting culturally and linguistically diverse learners with learning to read;
- Includes rigorous evaluations of learning throughout and at the end of the course that a person taking the course must pass to successfully complete the course;
- End of course assessment must demonstrate the participants mastery of content learned throughout the course;
- Aligns with adult learning theory;
- Must be eligible for CERI Certification;
- Training staff are highly qualified; assurances will be required from vendor prior to being selected;
- A minimum of 42-45 hours of instruction; includes a scope and sequence; and synchronous reflection session with trainer;
- Produces a completion documentation (e.g., certificate, data pull, etc.) that will allow the LEA to submit evidence to the department that the participants passed an end of course assessment which demonstrates participants understanding of evidence-based practices based in structured literacy; and
- Not associated with a specific curriculum.

The exact structure of how the trainings will be administered is currently being worked out between the vendors, MDE and the MN Service Cooperatives, who will house our Regional Literacy Networks. Our priorities include ease of registration and administration for districts; ease in data collection; equitable geographic distribution of training; and building capacity of both our Regional Literacy Networks and our districts to sustain practices through an ongoing support system.

We know that many districts have already offered training. The READ Act does not offer reimbursement for contracted trainings taken prior to this legislation taking effect on July 1, 2023. Our goal is to have approved trainings being offered by January 1, 2024, if not before.

MDE will be offering a series of webinars in early October from each of the three vendors so that district leaders can make an informed decision on which of the three training fits best with the needs of their district.

### **Curricular Resources**

We also know that there are questions related to the curriculum selection process. It is important to note that the three approved training vendors are not associated with a specific curriculum. The priority for the training is on foundational instructional practices in Structured Literacy, not curriculum. These foundational practices can be integrated with evidence-based curriculum.

By September 15, MDE in partnership with CAREI, will release a Request for Information (RFI) that curriculum publishers can submit in order to have their curriculum and materials reviewed. The curriculum review process will include the use of a rubric aligned with the science of reading where publishers will need to submit documentation of how and where rubric indicators fit within the curriculum.

The READ Act allows for a “reconsideration” process that provides districts (not vendors or publishers) an opportunity to request that the department and CAREI add to the list of curricula or professional development programs. MDE and CAREI are working to develop this process and will post details on The READ Act webpage by October 16, 2023. Once a request is received, the Department and CAREI have 60 days to approve or deny the request.

In addition, prior to The READ Act passing, MDE applied for and received a supplemental CLSD award from USDE. The Minnesota Department of Education released the federal Comprehensive State Literacy Development Supplemental Grant competition on August 28, 2023. Approximately \$2.7 million-dollars is available to Minnesota local education agencies (LEAs) and publicly funded early childhood educational programs for the purpose of building educator and leader capacity to implement evidence-based Structured Literacy practices in order to increase the literacy outcomes for all Minnesota students, especially those who are consistently underserved. Awarded applicants will use funding for educators and leaders to engage in MDE approved training on evidence-based structured literacy practices. The application deadline is **September 29, 2023**. For more information, please visit the [MDE Competitive Grants webpage](#). Two webinars will be available for interested applicants to attend to hear an overview of the funding opportunity.

- [Pre-registration is required for the Wednesday, September 13, 2023 webinar from 3:30-4:30 p.m.](#)
- [Pre-registration is required for the Thursday, September 14, 2023 webinar from 10-11 a.m.](#)

MDE will begin providing regular updates on implementation efforts for The READ Act as well as holding monthly READ Act Office Hours.

Please continue to check the READ Act webpage for information and update.