

120B.123 READ ACT IMPLEMENTATION.

Subdivision 1. **Screeners.** A district must administer an approved evidence-based reading screener to students in kindergarten through grade 3 within the first six weeks of the school year, and again within the last six weeks of the school year. The screener must be one of the screening tools approved by the Department of Education. A district must identify any screener it uses in the district's annual literacy plan, and submit screening data with the annual literacy plan by June 15.

Subd. 2. **Progress monitoring.** A district must implement progress monitoring, as defined in section 120B.1118, for a student not reading at grade level.

Subd. 3. **Curriculum.** A district must use evidence-based curriculum and intervention materials at each grade level that are designed to ensure student mastery of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. Starting July 1, 2023, when a district purchases new literacy curriculum, or literacy intervention or supplementary materials, the curriculum or materials must be evidence-based as defined in section 120B.1118.

Subd. 4. **MTSS framework.** A district is encouraged to use a data-based decision-making process within the MTSS framework to determine the evidence-based core reading instruction and Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention required to meet a student's identified needs.

Subd. 5. **Professional development.** A district must provide training from a menu of approved evidence-based training programs to all reading intervention teachers, literacy specialists, and other teachers and staff identified in section 120B.12, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), by July 1, 2025; and by July 1, 2027, to other teachers in the district, prioritizing teachers who work with students with disabilities, English learners, and students who qualify for the graduation incentives program under section 124D.68. The commissioner of education may grant a district an extension to the deadlines in this subdivision.

Subd. 6. **Literacy lead.** (a) By August 30, 2025, a district must employ or contract with a literacy lead, or be actively supporting a designated literacy specialist through the process of becoming a literacy lead. A board may satisfy the requirements of this subdivision by contracting with another school board or cooperative unit under section 123A.24 for the services of a literacy lead by August 30, 2025.

(b) A district literacy lead must collaborate with district administrators and staff to support the district's implementation of requirements under the Read Act.

Subd. 7. **Department of Education.** (a) By July 1, 2023, the department must make available to districts a list of approved evidence-based screeners in accordance with section 120B.12. A district must use an approved screener to assess students' mastery of foundational reading skills in accordance with section 120B.12.

(b) The Department of Education must partner with CAREI as required under section 120B.124 to approve professional development programs, subject to final determination by the department. After the implementation partnership under section 120B.124 ends, the department must continue to regularly provide districts with information about professional development opportunities available throughout the state on reading instruction that is evidence-based.

(c) The department must identify training required for a literacy lead and literacy specialist employed by a district or Minnesota service cooperatives.

(d) The department must employ a literacy specialist to provide support to districts implementing the Read Act and coordinate duties assigned to the department under the Read Act. The literacy specialist must work on state efforts to improve literacy tracking and implementation.

(e) The department must develop a template for a local literacy plan in accordance with section 120B.12, subdivision 4a.

History: 2023 c 55 art 3 s 5