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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  F EDUCATION®

OVERVIEW OF THE VIRGINIA LITERACY ACT

Presented to the
Virginia Board of Education

March 16, 2022

THE VIRGINIA LITERACY ACT

- House Bill 319 (Coyner) and Senate Bill 616 (Lucas), both known as the Virginia Literacy Act, passed unanimously out of the 2022 General Assembly.
 - The Virginia Literacy Act is a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach for ensuring evidence-based literacy instruction is implemented in all early learning classrooms.
- There were corresponding **amendments to the Appropriation Act to fund the state share of new initiatives, including staffing**
- The provisions of the Act become effective beginning with the 24-25SY.
- Delegate Delaney's HB418 and HB419 are both complements to the Act and address the allowable uses of Early Intervention Reading Initiative funds as well as the **audit and approval of educator preparation programs, respectively.**



MAJOR COMPONENTS

1. Definitions

- a. Establishes the definition of evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading instruction, terms that serve as the basis of the bill's other new and amendment requirements.

2. Instruction and Intervention Programs

- a. Requires both the instructional and intervention programs in grades K -3 be aligned with science-based reading research, as set out in a division wide literacy plan (part of the division wide comprehensive plan).
- b. Maintains the current screening model to identify students with reading deficiencies. Those students identified as in need of intervention services must now have those services documented in a student reading plan.
- c. Ensures parents are engaged in the development of the student reading plans and have access to resources to support literacy development at home.

3. Staffing Requirements

- a. Adds a division wide staffing ratio of one reading specialist per 550 students in K-3.

MAJOR COMPONENTS (CONT'D)

4. Professional Development and Training

- a. Requires principals and certain teachers be provided with professional development and training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

5. Teacher Licensure

- a. Stipulates that the literacy assessment for initial licensure or on an alternate route to licensure with certain endorsements include a rigorous test of science -based reading research and evidence -based literacy instruction.
- b. Requires every person seeking initial licensure with certain endorsements complete study in science-based reading research and evidence -based literacy instruction.
- c. Establishes a microcredential program for earning an add -on reading specialist endorsement.

6. Educator Preparation

Requires any educator preparation program providing coursework and/or training for certain endorsements or certifications ensure candidates have a program of coursework and demonstrate mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

BOARD AND DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Develop a list of core literacy curricula, supplemental instruction practices and programs, and intervention programs that consist of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned with science-based reading research.	Approve the list developed by the VDOE.
Approve alternative literacy programs submitted for use by school divisions that opt not to use one on the Department's list.	
Develop a template for student reading plans.	Provide guidance on the content of the student reading plans.

INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION (CONT'D)

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Develop and implement a plan for the annual collection and public reporting of division-level and school-level literacy data.	
Provide free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources that can be accessed by parents and local school boards.	
Develop a template for a divisionwide literacy plan, which must include certain enumerated elements.	Issue guidance on the contents of the divisionwide literacy plan for pre-kindergarten through grade three.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Provide technical assistance, including literacy coaching, to local school divisions to provide professional development.	
Create a list of professional development programs aligned with science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction that includes programs that provide training in dyslexia for reading specialists.	Approve the professional development list created by the VDOE.
	Provide guidance on high-quality professional development in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction for individuals with certain endorsements.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING (CONT'D)

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Provide resources to local school divisions to ensure that each division is able to provide professional development to teachers and reading specialists at no cost to the teachers and reading specialists.	
Establish a microcredential program for the reading specialist endorsement area in evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research as well as the identification of and the appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder.	Issue guidance that determines how the series of microcredentials awarded to teachers would be used to award an add-on endorsement as a reading specialist .

TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
<p>Provide support to the Board in amending its regulations governing licensure and educator preparation programs.</p>	<p>Amend regulations governing licensure and educator preparation programs to require that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The literacy assessment for certain endorsements include a rigorous test of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction (already addressed in most recent update to the assessment);● Candidates for certain endorsements complete study in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction; and● Enumerated programs provide a program of coursework and require such students to demonstrate mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

QUESTIONS