



VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Title: Overview of the Virginia Literacy Act

Date: March 16, 2022

Presented to: Board Work Session

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Summary of the Topic:

During its 2022 Regular Session, the General Assembly unanimously passed [House Bill 319](#) (Coyner) and [Senate Bill 616](#) (Lucas), both known as the Virginia Literacy Act. The Virginia Literacy Act is a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach for ensuring evidence-based literacy instruction is implemented in all early learning classrooms. The Act includes new or amended requirements in instructional and intervention programs, staffing, professional development and training, licensure, and educator preparation. 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.

Timetable for Follow-up or Next Steps:

Several of the action items in the Virginia Literacy Act will require Board review and approval. Below is a list of those elements and a rough timeline for next steps:

During fall of 2022:

- Begin the regulatory process to amend the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* and *Regulations Governing the Review and Approval of Education Programs in Virginia* to require:
 - The literacy assessment for certain endorsements include a rigorous test of science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction;
 - 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.



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By spring of 2023:

- Approve 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. It is anticipated that the VDOE will work with a Virginia institute of higher education to develop a list for Board consideration.
- Issue guidance for the content of student reading plans.
- Issue guidance on the contents of the divisionwide literacy plan for pre-kindergarten through grade three.

By summer of 2023:

- Approve 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. This list will be developed for Board consideration by VDOE staff.
- Issue guidance on high-quality professional development in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction for individuals with certain endorsements.
- 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.