



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 27, 2024

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Literacy Act: Science-Based Literacy Instruction Training

In 2022, the General Assembly passed the [Virginia Literacy Act](#) (VLA) to improve literacy outcomes for students in the Commonwealth. As part of the VLA, K-8 educators are required to receive training in evidence-based literacy instruction aligned to science-based reading research. As announced in the [June Literacy Update](#), the June Board of Education updated the options that K-8 educators have for completing the required VLA training by the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

- UVA-developed Canvas Courses
- LETRS Volumes 1 and 2 (2019 version) and UVA Capstone Course
- Orton-Gillingham courses that meet the below criteria and UVA Capstone Course.
 - 25 hours of training
 - Includes content on encoding/decoding, phonemic awareness for K-3, fluency, dyslexia, comprehension, complex text, and data literacy

The [June Literacy Update](#) provides a table with details on all approved courses.

To assist divisions in implementing the Board update, the following supports are now offered:

- Educators **now** have until the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year to complete the training. Additional extensions can be applied for on a case-by-case basis.
- For those educators who already completed LETRS 1, a UVA module will be available through Canvas that will be a replacement for anyone needing LETRS 2 training. Details will be provided in the July Literacy Update. Therefore, a teacher may have completed LETRS 1 and could take this module in lieu of LETRS 2. This module will be available in July.
- Beginning July 10, Literacy Office Hours will be held for division instructional leaders to ask questions about the VLA implementation and give feedback on implementation. Literacy Office Hours will be weekly on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:00 a.m. through August 30 and move to bi-weekly on September 11 from 9:30-10:00 a.m. Details will be provided in the July Literacy Update.

For questions regarding VLA implementation, please contact Em Cooper, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, at Em.Cooper@doe.virginia.gov.