The Rhode Island Right to Read Act Overview

TITLE 16 - Education
CHAPTER 16-11.4
Objectives:

• Develop an understanding of the Right to Read Act including requirements for LEAs, RIDE, and Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs)

• Examine the differences between awareness and proficiency training

• Explore the professional learning opportunities that will fulfill the awareness and proficiency requirements

• Learn from LEAs who have begun this work

• Address frequently asked questions
Right to Read Act Summary

- Signed into law July 8, 2019
- Knowledge and practices of the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy
- LEAs required to offer professional learning
- Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) must prepare candidates
- Proficiency or Awareness depending on personnel assignment
Definitions

**Structured Literacy** is defined as an approach to teaching that integrates speaking, listening, reading, and writing by providing explicit, systematic, diagnostic-prescriptive instruction in phonological and phonemic awareness, sound-symbol correspondence (phonics), syllables, morphology, semantics, and syntax.

**The Science of Reading**, or Scientific Reading Instruction, is defined as empirically-based instruction that is grounded in the study of the relationship between cognitive science and educational outcomes.
Why is the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy Important?

- Enhanced teacher knowledge in how reading works
- Deepened understanding of the subskills of reading
- Equitable access to evidence-based reading instruction
For more information on...

The Science of Reading
www.WhatIsTheScienceOfReading.org

Structured Literacy
Bit.ly/RIDEStructuredLiteracy
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>• All LEAs begin to offer professional learning in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy for educators to demonstrate proficiency or awareness depending on assignment.</td>
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<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>• All LEAs that do not provide professional learning in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy will be placed on probationary status and must provide notice to parents that the LEA has not met requirements.</td>
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| 2023-2024  | • All educators employed at the elementary level must demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and practices in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy.  
• All other educators employed must demonstrate awareness in the knowledge and practices in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy. |
| 2023-2024  | • Educators who begin employment SY2023-2024 or later shall demonstrate proficiency or awareness in the knowledge and practices in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy as appropriate to their position as either a condition of licensure. |
Right to Read Act RIDE Requirements

1. Develop resources for RIDE website
2. Work with EPPs to meet the Right to Read Act requirements
3. Develop a collaborative learning laboratory
4. Disseminate best practices and PD related to dyslexia
Right to Read Act Educator Preparation and Certification Requirements

2024: Description of program that meets the Right to Read Act requirements is posted to their website

2025: Graduating preservice teachers must demonstrate proficiency or awareness in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy.
Awareness in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy

What will educators learn?
Awareness training

First course available August 1st, 2021
Two additional courses available November 1st, 2021
Final two courses available January 1st, 2022
Total of 8-10 hours of content
Who will be required to exhibit awareness?

- Administrator
- Art Educator
- Business Education Educator
- Career & Technical Educator
- Dance Educator
- 6-8 Classroom Educator
- 6-12 ELA / English Educator
- Family Consumer Science Educator
- Health Educator
- Library Media Studies Educator
- Mathematics Educator

- Music Educator
- Physical Education Educator
- School Counselor
- School Nurse Educator
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- 6-12 Science Educator
- 6-12 Social Studies / History Educator
- Technology Educator
- Theater Educator
- World Language Educator
Proficiency in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy

What will educators learn?
Recommended training for classroom educators:

- AIM Institute for Learning & Research
- LETRS
- CORE - Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education
- HILL FOR LITERACY
- Literacyhow Empower teaching excellence.
Training that includes a guided practicum:
Proficiency Training Providers

Upon the culmination of this training from a RIDE approved provider, educators will be eligible for the Literacy/Dyslexia Endorsement.

Approved Providers for Proficiency Expectations:

- AIM Pathways to Proficient Reading: Rhode Island Edition
- Brainspring Orton Gillingham Training for Rhode Island (Grades 6-12)
- CORE Rhode Island Reading Academy
- HILL for Literacy Science of Reading: Professional Learning Series for Rhode Island
- Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) - Comprehensive and Intermediate Courses; Practicum
- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) 3rd Edition (Units 1-8)
- Linda Atamian Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator or Associate Level Training
- Literacy How: Rhode Island Edition
- Neuhaus Education Center's Dyslexia Practitioner Preparation or Dyslexia Therapist Program
- Rhode Island College Literacy/Dyslexia Endorsement Continuing Education Courses (3)
- University of Rhode Island Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia Knowledge and Practice
Who will be required to exhibit proficiency?

- Early Childhood Educators
- PreK-5th Grade Classroom Educators
- K-12 Reading Specialists and Coaches
- K-12 Special Education Educators
- K-12 English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Educators
- K-12 Bilingual and Dual Language Educators
LEA Considerations

• LEA Guidance Document
  – Determine the number of educators in need of proficiency or awareness training
  – Select a professional learning provider from RIDE’s approved list for proficiency training and create a training plan
  – Plan for awareness training
  – Identify funding
  – Create a communication plan
  – Plan for data-collection
Implementation
Guest Speakers

Sue DeRiso
Director of Literacy and Title I
Woonsocket Public Schools

Alicia Proulx
PK-12 ELA Specialist / Coach
West Warwick Public Schools
Is there an option to “test out”?
FAQ cont’d…

What if I have already been trained in the Science of Reading?
FAQ cont’d...

Will preservice teachers be trained to meet Proficiency or Awareness within their Educator Preparation Programs?
FAQ cont’d...

What is the relationship between the Right to Read Act and the Literacy/Dyslexia endorsement?
The Rhode Island Right to Read Act

The Rhode Island Right to Read Act was passed in July of 2019. The law requires educators to exhibit either proficiency in or awareness of the knowledge and practices of the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy. In addition, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must provide professional learning for educators to support these requirements, and Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) must address these requirements within their programs of study.

The Science of Reading, or scientific reading instruction, is defined as empirically-based instruction that is grounded in the study of the relationship between cognitive science and educational outcomes.
Additional Questions?

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