

## The Read Act: Where Things Stand in 2024

The **Read Act** passed in 2023 with much fanfare and media attention. The adjustments to the law made in 2024, known as the **Read Act 2.0**, garnered much less attention, despite making meaningful changes to the policy. So where does the Read Act stand now? How does it impact literacy funding, instruction, and training in Minnesota?

Policy Area	How the Read Act Addresses It
Funding	<p>The Read Act allocated new funding for literacy, and established new parameters for ongoing funding streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Literacy Incentive Aid:</b> ~\$45 million per year, distributed based on 3rd and 4th grade MCA reading test scores. May only be used for certain types of educator training, employing a districtwide Literacy Lead or intervention specialist, purchasing approved screeners or highly-aligned curriculum, paying substitutes while teachers are completing training, and/or teachers stipends for completing training.</li> <li>● <b>Literacy Aid:</b> \$35 million in additional one-time funds, distributed to school districts based on enrollment, for same uses as Literacy Incentive Aid.</li> <li>● <b>Teacher Compensation for Read Act Training Aid:</b> \$31 million in additional one-time funds, distributed based on enrollment, for stipends to teachers who complete approved training. Stipend amount must be collectively bargained at the district level.</li> <li>● Additional funding for implementation support from the University of Minnesota, development of culturally responsive materials, volunteer training, and more.</li> </ul>
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Read Act required MDE, in partnership with the University of Minnesota, to identify evidence-based curricula; 5 programs currently listed as “Highly Aligned to Evidence-Based Structured Literacy” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">EL Education K-5 Language Arts, Open Up Resources® (2017)</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Functional Phonics+Morphology K-5, University of Minnesota (2023)</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Magnetic Reading™ Foundations K-2, Curriculum Associates, LLC (2023)</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">UFLI Foundations K-2, Ventris Learning (2022)</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Wit &amp; Wisdom K-5, Great Minds PBC (2023)</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● If a district wants to use Read Act funds to purchase curriculum, they must chose a program from the “highly aligned” list</li> <li>● Schools are not required by the Read Act to use Highly Aligned curricula, though they must provide “evidence-based” reading</li> </ul>

	<p>instruction based on five principles of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, oral language, vocabulary, and reading comprehension</p>
<p>Training</p>	<p>By July 1, 2026, certain teachers are required to complete approved literacy training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-PreK-3rd Grade</li> <li>-Special Education</li> <li>-ELL Teachers</li> <li>-Curriculum Directors</li> <li>-K-12 Reading Intervention</li> </ul> <p>Teachers who provide literacy instruction in 4th-12th grade must complete approved training by July 1 2027.</p> <p>The state is covering the cost of training, but local funds must be used for stipends, subs, and any other related costs.</p>
<p>Screening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students K-3 must be screened for reading difficulties and characteristics of dyslexia three times a year using approved screeners</li> <li>• Students 4th grade and above who are not proficient in reading must also be screened</li> <li>• Districts must communicate results to families of students not reading at grade level</li> </ul>
<p>Local Literacy Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All districts are required to submit a local literacy plan to MDE by June 15 every year and post online</li> <li>• Districts must identify the literacy curriculum they are using, the number of teachers who have and have not completed approved training, and screener data for reading difficulties and characteristics of dyslexia districtwide</li> </ul>
<p>Teacher Prep Programs</p>	<p>The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) has begun an audit of all teacher preparation programs in the state to evaluate their alignment with the Read Act and evidence-based literacy practices.</p> <p>165 Minnesota teacher prep programs will be audited by June 2025, and will be expected to address deficiencies by June 2026.</p>

Learn more about what the Read Act 2.0 means for literacy funding, instruction, and training in Minnesota on our blog at

<https://edalliesmn.org/blog/reading-between-the-lines/>