

# What's Trending In Structured Literacy?



IDA NC recently hosted a webinar with the NC Department of Public Instruction Office of Early Learning to provide updates on the implementation of Science of Reading (SoR) legislation as the third year of deployment begins. North Carolina is one of many states that have passed legislation (SB 387) mandating that instruction be based on the SoR, the body of research that informs how children learn to read and the best ways to teach them. In addition, North Carolina passed the Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021 that focuses on educator professional development as well as teacher preparation programs. This legislation named Lexia as the professional development provider of Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). LETRS, a professional learning course, instructs teachers in the SoR research, what literacy skills need to be taught (phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and written language), as well as how to plan to teach them. The course is completed over a period of two years. Three cohorts of educators are being trained with the 3rd and final cohort completing the course in Summer 2024.

## Planning for and Supporting Implementation

Initiatives of this scale require careful planning for implementation to impact and sustain student achievement. Multiple supports for districts, schools, parents and caregivers have been developed collaboratively between the Office of Early Learning (OEL), Exceptional Children and the Integrated Academic and Behavior Systems divisions at the Department of Public Instruction. Below are a few of the supports highlighted by the OEL during the webinar:

- Literacy Instruction Standards (Core)- organized by grade band and can be used to ensure teachers have a common understanding and delivery of literacy instruction
- Literacy Intervention Plans and Reading Camps- best practice documents to guide literacy intervention practices and connected to Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. These plans are aligned to the SoR.
- Individual Reading Plans- documents the support schools are providing students that are at risk for reading difficulties. Parent notification is required.
- Partnering with Parents and Caregivers-a presentation provided to districts to share with parents and caregivers, providing a brief overview of the legislation, an introduction to the science of reading and a structured literacy approach.
- Early Literacy Specialists (ELS)- 115 positions funded by the legislature to be assigned to districts to support early literacy at the district level and support to at-risk schools. 103 ELS have been hired.
- Literacy at Home: Digital Children's Reading Initiative- Families and communities may access this resource for activities that specifically target the literacy skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and oral language.
- NC Science of Reading Curriculum Alignment Guidebook and Tool- districts can use this tool to review their current curriculum or curriculum they are considering to adopt to determine the alignment to the SoR.

## Current Outcomes of SB387 in North Carolina

The intent of SB 387 is beginning to influence student achievement in reading as demonstrated on the 22-23 based on Dibels 8 (a universal screener to identify students in K-3 who are on track or may need additional support in reading) benchmark data:

- NC showed growth in each time period from beginning to end of year, and that growth outpaced the nation
- NC reduced students receiving intensive intervention at every grade level, outpacing the nation in every grade level
- Students in all subgroups are showing positive growth in the right direction that exceeds the nation, but these subgroups are still behind, leaving much work still to be done.
- 91,451 more students are at or above benchmark; 66,750 fewer students are below benchmark.

**If you want to learn more, be sure to check out the recording linked below, as well as, the [Office of Early Learning Science of Reading webpage](#).**

### NC READ LEAD SUCCEED: UPDATES ON STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION

International  
**DYSLEXIA**  
Association

**RECORDED ZOOM MEETING  
FROM:  
AUGUST 16, 2023 | 7PM**

PRESENTED BY

**AMY RHYNE, OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING DIRECTOR  
&  
KELLEY BENDHEIM, READ TO ACHIEVE  
IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATOR**