LEADING IN LITERACY

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS
www.mdek12.org/Literacy
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision, Mission, and Goals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Message</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of the Program Office</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Beliefs of the Literacy Office</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Strong Readers</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- MS Literacy Leadership Network (MSLL)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- MS Literacy Association (MLA) Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- MPB Classroom TV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Region 7 Comprehensive Center (R7CC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Projects</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Learning Walk Module for Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- District-Level Literacy Plan Template</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Science of Reading (SoR) Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- REL Southeast Adolescent Literacy Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.mdek12.org/literacy
Vision

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens.

Mission

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community.

State Board of Education STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

1. **ALL** Students Proficient and showing growth in all assessed areas
2. **EVERY** Student graduates from high school and is ready for college and career
3. **EVERY** Child has access to a high-quality early childhood program
4. **EVERY** School has effective teachers and leaders
5. **EVERY** Community effectively uses a world-class data system to improve student outcomes
6. **EVERY** School and district is rated “C” or higher
WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the literacy staff, it is with great pride that we welcome you to the state of Mississippi. Mississippi has taken a BOLD stand in ensuring students receive literacy instruction grounded in the Science of Reading (SoR). The following documentation provides an overview of the literacy supports, projects, and resources that we know will continue to thrive in upcoming years.

Kristen Wynn
State Literacy Director, K-12

Lori Stringer
Assistant State Literacy Coordinator, K-3

Melissa Beck
K-3 Assessment Coordinator

Kelli Crain
Assistant State Literacy Coordinator, K-3

Jill Hoda
Assistant State Literacy Coordinator, K-3
OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM OFFICE

The Division of Literacy is responsible for supporting and training K-3rd grade teachers, curriculum specialists, and other educators by providing research-based instructional strategies on literacy. Passed during the 2013 legislative session, the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) found at mdek12.org/OEER/LBPA places an emphasis on grade-level reading skills, particularly as students progress through grades K-3.

Additionally, the Division of Literacy provides professional learning and resources to support literacy leaders and adolescent literacy development across content areas.

SCAN for more about the LBPA

www.mdek12.org/literacy
• All students deserve access to evidence-based literacy instruction using standards aligned, high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) grounded in the Science of Reading.
• All students deserve access to effective educators from birth to grade 12 who ensure that students possess the language and literacy skills needed to be successful in college and the workforce.
• All students deserve explicit, systematic literacy instruction that spans birth to grade 12 and must occur across the curriculum for students to experience success in achieving literacy proficiency needed for college and workforce success.
COACHING

The MDE Coaching Model 8-9
Literacy Coach Handbook 10
Literacy Non-Negotiables 11-13
Literacy Support Schools 14
Science of Reading &
The Structured Literacy Approach 15-16
The MDE's coaching model has been proven to be an effective method of transforming Mississippi schools. Developed around Transformational Coaching, it is a powerful, comprehensive, and systematic way to plan and organize coaching supports. The MDE has/will deploy coach support in the following areas: Early Childhood, Literacy, Leadership (School Improvement), Inclusive Instruction (SSIP), Mathematics, and Digital Learning.

### Coaching Model Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comprehensive Coach Training</th>
<th>Goal Setting</th>
<th>Effective Communication</th>
<th>Reporting and Accountability</th>
<th>Educator Development</th>
<th>Collaboration and Effective Partnership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Initial coach training</td>
<td>o Five-step goal setting process (SMART Goals)</td>
<td>o Effective writing, nonverbal, and verbal communication skills, including subjective vs. objective communication</td>
<td>o Monitoring services, i.e., monthly reports, performance evaluations, comprehensive reports, etc.</td>
<td>o The Coaching Continuum: pre-conference, observe, model, co-teach, post-conference</td>
<td>o Family/Community as Partners trainings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Ongoing internal coach training: monthly whole group meeting(s); monthly regional meetings</td>
<td>o School-level action plans, to be frequently reviewed</td>
<td>o Motivating others to perform at high standards</td>
<td>o Analyze and use multiple data points for instructional purposes, i.e., progress monitoring data, benchmark data, etc.</td>
<td>o Developmental Continuum for Teachers: regular PD and PLCs</td>
<td>o Teacher/Coach partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o In-field support, i.e., regional visits, coach shadowing, learning walks, etc.</td>
<td>o Utilize Screener and diagnostic data as a primary source for planning sequential, systematic, explicit, and cumulative instruction</td>
<td>o High degree of professionalism to ensure and protect the confidentiality of educators and students</td>
<td>o Set annual goals utilizing multiple data points</td>
<td>o Focus on developing teacher-leaders for the purpose of building sustainability among schools</td>
<td>o Principal/Coach partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o District and Coach Partnership</td>
<td>o District and Coach Partnership</td>
<td>o Leadership accountability and development</td>
<td>o MDE/Coach partnership (OEER, School Improvement, Special Education)</td>
<td>o District/Coach partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>o Ability to orchestrate change by leading others in a collaborative process</td>
<td>o MDE/Coach partnership (OEER, School Improvement, Special Education)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data-Driven Instruction
Assessments provide information about a student’s progress toward mastery of the grade-level expectations found in the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards. Data from these assessments and the M-CCRS should inform instructional decisions.

- Administrators or district personnel will grant digital access to screeners data/reports to the MDE literacy coach for support with data analysis, lesson planning, and instructional enhancement.
- Universal Screeners should be administered three times per year: beginning, middle, and end. See the Universal Screener and Diagnostic Assessment link for more information.
- Diagnostic Assessments should be administered to students who fail the screening assessment. For links to specific diagnostic tools, see the Universal Screener Companion Guide.
- Evidence of data-driven instruction includes updated data walls/binders that follow FERPA guidelines, homogenous small groups at the teacher/assistant tables, data meetings/PLCs with supporting documents (example: school-wide and/or grade-level goals).

Access to High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)
HQIM are aligned to the MS CCRS, are externally validated, comprehensive, and include engaging texts (books, multimedia, etc.) and assessments.

- MDE HQIM Vision – “Every student in every Mississippi classroom reads meaningful complex texts and expresses their ideas effectively through writing and speaking, all to build knowledge of the world!”
- What does this look like: MS Adoption List
- Classroom Example: Wit & Wisdom Lesson
- Articles/Websites: Mississippi Instructional Materials Matter

Accountability in Action
To assist schools and district leaders in the process of evaluating, implementing, and sustaining evidence-based literacy practices supported by the Science of Reading. This action process includes:

- Individual Reading Plan serves as a tool for documenting intensive reading instruction and interventions for students with reading deficiencies.
- School Literacy Action Plan provides a plan for addressing areas of concern in reading that have been identified through data analysis.
- Learning Walks provide an opportunity for administrators and the literacy coach to obtain a brief snapshot of the classroom.
- Administrator/Literacy Coach Debrief occurs weekly to review data and make recommendations for adjustments in instructional practices.
- Science of Reading/Lead for Literacy Framework
**Writing Connected to Text**

Writing is in response to text, with responses being dependent upon a student's reading and comprehension of a text. Explicit instruction focuses on the three types of writing: narrative, informative, and opinion.

- "Literacy knowledge, vocabulary, background knowledge of facts and concepts, and text structures can be explicitly taught through writing instruction. It creates a two for one lesson plan that capitalizes on precious instructional time while honing both reading and writing skills." (Auray, 2020).
- What does this look like: Writing Strategies Guide
- Classroom Example: Sample Reading Block Schedule
- Articles/Websites: Literacy Focus of the Month (January)

**Uninterrupted Reading Block**

The uninterrupted 90–120-minute reading block consists of data-driven instruction aligned to the MS-CCRS focused on the five components of reading and writing.

- "The National Reading Panel Report shows that all students need at least 90 minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction each day..." (The National Reading Panel Report, 2005)
- The uninterrupted literacy block includes systematic, explicit instruction in both whole group and small group.
- Instructional Routines for Kindergarten
- Instructional Routines for First through Fifth grade

**Interactive Anchor Charts and Print-Rich Environment**

Interactive anchor charts reinforce learning and serve as tools to connect teaching and student learning. They build a culture of literacy in the classroom by making both the teachers' and students' thinking visible.

- The print-rich environment emphasizes the importance of speaking, reading, and writing to promote learning of all students. This involves the selection of materials that will facilitate language and literacy opportunities, reflection and thought regarding classroom design, and intentional instruction and facilitation by teachers and staff. (Reading Rockets, 2015)
- Throughout the school year, teachers create anchor charts with their students. These will be displayed around the classroom for student reference. While premade anchor charts are aesthetically pleasing, they are not always effective because the students did not assist in creating them.
- 3rd grade RL and RI Standards Graphic Organizers with Corresponding Anchor Charts
- Literacy-Rich Environments
The Division of Literacy is responsible for providing literacy coaching supports to identified Literacy Support Schools. These schools are identified each year by determining the average percentage of students scoring in levels one (1) and two (2) on the previous two (2) years of 3rd Grade Assessment data.
COACHING

SCIENCE OF READING AND THE STRUCTURED LITERACY APPROACH

OVERVIEW
The Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) places an emphasis on grade-level reading skills, particularly as students progress through grades K-3. The LBPA calls for effective reading instructional practices grounded in the Science of Reading.

STRUCTURED LITERACY INSTRUCTION
Application of the Science of Reading
Structured Literacy is representative of reading instruction that applies the Science of Reading to classroom practice. Structured Literacy teaches all the components that evidence has found to be foremost in ensuring reading success.

Structured Literacy is not just about phonics; it includes much, much more. The Simple View of Reading (Gough and Tunmer, 1986) and Scarborough’s Rope Model (Scarborough, 2001) serve as frameworks for understanding and identifying Structured Literacy.

SIMPLE VIEW OF READING
Decoding (word recognition) \times Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension

SCARBOROUGH’S READING ROPE MODEL

Language Comprehension
- Background Knowledge
- Vocabulary Knowledge
- Language Structures
- Verbal Reasoning
- Literacy Knowledge

Increasingly Strategic

Word Recognition
- Phonological Awareness
- Decoding (and spelling)
- Sight Recognition

Increasingly Automatic

Skilled Reading
Fluent execution and coordination of word recognition and text comprehension.
COACHING

SCIENCE OF READING AND THE STRUCTURED LITERACY APPROACH

COMPONENTS OF STRUCTURED LITERACY INSTRUCTION
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics & Word Recognition
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Listening and Reading Comprehension
- Written Expression

*Emphasis on knowledge building and access for ALL to complex text.*

FEATURES OF EFFECTIVE STRUCTURED LITERACY INSTRUCTION
Effective, high-quality instruction is...

- systematic,
- inclusive of a carefully planned scope and sequence,
- explicit,
- scaffolded, and
- differentiated.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES
- Instructional Planning Guides for ELA K-12
- Virtual Literacy Instruction Guide for K-5 Teachers
- MDE Literacy: Resources for Teachers
- MDE Literacy: Resources for Administrators
- MDE Literacy: Professional Development and Resources
- Barksdale Reading Institute: Reading Universe
- REL-Southeast: Emergent Literacy PLC Guide

MISSISSIPPI’S APPROACH TO K-3 Literacy Instruction

www.mdekk12.org/literacy
# Professional Development

**Statewide & Regional**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIM Pathways</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Quality Professional Learning (HQPL)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AIM PATHWAYS

Fact Sheet
AIM PATHWAYS

Educator training, customized for Mississippi, that connects the Science of Reading (SoR) and best practices for language and literacy instruction in the classroom.

**CONTRACT**
- Developed by LETRS Facilitators at AIM Institute for Learning and Research
- Provides Science of Reading (SoR) training to K-3 general education teachers, K-8 special education teachers, and administrators.

**GOAL**
To reach FULL literacy proficiency
AIM Pathways expands upon the foundational knowledge of the Science of Reading (SoR) to connect reading research, including theoretical models such as the Simple View of Reading and Scarborough’s Reading Rope, with application to the classroom. The courses provide teachers with the resources and skills to improve instructional practices. In addition, the leadership course provides leaders with the knowledge and skills to effectively support teacher practice.

**COURSES**
Pathways to Proficient Reading for Teachers (PPR)
A foundational course in the Science of Reading with a focus on classroom application-based practices to support strong, proficient readers

Pathways to Literacy Leadership (PLL)
A comprehensive course to help school leaders advance literacy evidence-based instruction by providing the tools to create and implement a literacy plan in their schools and districts

**STRUCTURE**
Both courses include a pre-assessment, asynchronous sessions, two face-to-face sessions, a post-assessment, and 12-month access to the AIM Pathways platform for material review and retrieval. AIM Pathways participants are also eligible to enroll for graduate credits through Arcadia University.

217 MS educators enrolled in AIM Pathways to Literacy Leadership
697 MS educators enrolled in AIM Pathways to Proficient Reading

SCAN for AIM landing site

www.mdek12.org/literacy
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

SCAN to access MS Instructional Materials:
https://msinstructionalmaterials.org/

English Language Arts

High-Quality Instructional Materials

Roadmap to Text Adoption

SCAN to view the HQIM Roadmap
Science of Reading in the Classroom
IMPLEMENTING HQIM

The Mississippi Department of Education’s Office of Elementary Education and Reading, Division of Literacy, is excited to announce an opportunity for district administrators, principals, lead teachers, and instructional coaches (K-5) to attend a 1-day, in-person professional development training titled Science of Reading in the Classroom: Implementing HQIM. This professional development will explore the relationship between High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM), the Science of Reading (SoR), and the Structured Literacy Approach to instruction.

PART 1 FOCUS
(morning)
Whole Group Professional Learning

- Understand the need for HQIM
- Overview of the criteria of HQIM
- Familiarize yourself with the process for selecting HQIM
- Gain knowledge on how to support teachers in implementing HQIM

PART 2 FOCUS
(afternoon)
Curriculum Specific Workshop Breakout Sessions: myView, Wonders, Wit & Wisdom, or Into Reading

Participates need to bring a teacher’s edition and accompanying materials needed to plan.

- Resource Dive: What materials are available?
- Preparation and Planning
- Instructional Routines
- Strategic Assessment Guidance
- Standard-Aligned Practices

LOCATIONS
(click the link or scan to register through MS-RESA)

Oxford
Jackson
Hattiesburg
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong Readers Webpage</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Literacy Plan</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Literacy Plan &amp; Implementation Checklist</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Literacy Action Plan Overview</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Family Nights</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents' Read-at-Home Plan</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Families want to help their children become strong readers but don’t always know where to start. At the Mississippi Department of Education, we provide the necessary resources, activities and information, so you can help your children become strong readers and strong leaders. Get started by selecting your child’s grade level.

The activities you will find are useful to all students at all levels. Families can move within the grades to provide their children with the activities that are on their level.
BUILDING STRONG READERS
STATE LITERACY PLAN FAQS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Literacy Plan FAQs

Introduction:
The purpose of Mississippi’s Guide to Developing Literacy Skills from Birth through Grade 12 is to provide a state literacy plan with action steps vital to the roles and responsibilities of meeting the ongoing literacy needs of educators, students, and families. It also serves as comprehensive guidance implementing effective, evidence-based literacy instruction throughout the state. This document includes direct links to resources embedded in the state literacy plan in response to commonly asked questions from multiple audiences. Additionally, links to other sites aligned with those resources are located under the “Where Can I Find Out More?” section. It is organized by the six key areas fundamental to the implementation of effective literacy instruction and intervention in Grades K–12, as well as general questions and resources for birth to kindergarten entry.

General Information

I’d like to provide my teachers with some high-quality literacy resources. Where should I look first?
The Mississippi Department of Education’s Literacy and Science of Reading websites are great starting points for evidence-based literacy resources, including guidance for instruction and literacy leadership.

MDE Literacy Website
MDE Science of Reading Website

MS Literacy Plan Implementation Checklist

Purpose: This template is for internal SEA use as a mechanism to evaluate the implementation of the action steps outlined in the state literacy plan. The central column reflects the goals and action steps listed in the plan, and additional columns serve as discussion points:

- Are there prerequisites that need to be in place to successfully implement the action step?
- What is the state’s priority for implementing this action step?
- What is the level of progress in terms of implementation?
- What data is available to determine the impact or effectiveness of the action step?

A notes section is provided for each goal to record “next steps” in the planning and implementation process. Areas are listed under corresponding grade spans, color-coded to represent key areas of Mississippi’s Literacy Framework.
Introduction

Literacy is at the core of academic and economic success. Strong literacy skills are critical for Mississippi students to succeed academically as well as to prosper in the current global economy. Students must be able to read, write, and think at increasingly higher levels of complexity, creativity, and sophistication to prepare for college and career pathways (Zhao, 2009).

Substantial research points to the importance of developing strong early literacy skills because they are closely linked to reading achievement in the primary grades and are the basis for successful performance in school and beyond (National Early Literacy Panel, 2008; Foorman et al., 2016; National Reading Panel, 2000).

The ability to read is arguably the most important life skill needed for success.

Mississippi’s approach to literacy acquisition is grounded in the Science of Reading and implemented in the early grades through a structured literacy model guided by The Simple View of Reading, Four-Part Processing Model, and The Reading Rope.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the School Literacy Action Plan is to provide a plan for addressing areas of concern in reading that have been identified through data analysis (i.e. screeners, observations, formal/informal assessments, etc.).

Section 1 includes graphs for listing beginning of the year (BOY) universal screener data. Data analysis from these results should yield target goals for improving student performance.

Section 2 outlines the goals for addressing school concerns. This section should include opportunities for professional development, targeted coaching support, and approaches for implementing evidence-based literacy practices.
BUILDING STRONG READERS
REGIONAL FAMILY NIGHTS

Looking for strategies to improve reading for K-3 students?

Join us.

REGIONAL FAMILY NIGHTS

The Mississippi Department of Education announces a series of regional meetings across the state for families of students in kindergarten through grade 3. At the meetings, families will receive an overview of the state law concerning literacy and assessment, as well as strategies that can be used at home to help students improve their reading skills.

The state law, known as the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA), focuses on prevention and intervention to help children develop the reading skills required for 4th grade.

Family engagement is also a critical component of students’ reading success.

Session times at all locations are 6 – 7 p.m.

NO registration is required to attend. All surrounding communities for each location are invited to attend.

StrongReadersMS.com gives you the needed resources, activities, and information so you can help your children become strong readers and strong leaders.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT MDEK12.ORG/LITERACY
What is phonological awareness?
Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and work with sounds in spoken language. It is the foundation for learning to read.

What can students with strong phonological awareness do?
Students with strong phonological awareness can:
- rhyme;
- count syllables;
- recognize sounds alone and in words;
- add, remove, and substitute sounds in words;
- break words into their different sounds and blend them back together; and
- isolate sounds.

Phonological Awareness Activities:
Rhyming Activities

□ Using the most common word families, play a game where you and your child take turns thinking of rhyming words. Whoever comes up with the most for each word family wins! Example: “What words can you think of that rhyme with -at?” “Cat!” “Hat!” “Rat!” “Fat!” “Gnat!”

The 37 most common word families in English are:

A
ack, ain, ake, ale, all, ame, an, ank, ap, ash, at, ate, aw, ay

E
eat, ell, est

I
ice, ick, ide, ight, ill, in, ine, ing, ink, ip, it

O
ock, oke, op, ore, ot
# ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universal Screener(s) and Diagnostic &amp; Screener Guidance</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade Reading Assessment</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Readiness Assessment</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Universal Screener and Diagnostic Assessment

Universal screening assessments will be administered to all students at least three times during the year to provide an especially critical “first look” at individual students. State statute requires that the Mississippi Department of Education “shall select early literacy and numeracy screening assessment instrument or instruments to be used throughout the state in the screening of students in Kindergarten through Grade 3” (Mississippi Code § 37-23-16; Mississippi Code § 37-177-5). The Mississippi Department of Education, in collaboration with Mississippi Reading Panel, has established an approved list of reading screeners to be used by local school districts in grades K-3.

The following screeners are approved for use in Mississippi schools:

- FAST: Adaptive Reading, CBMReading, and earlyReading English (suite of three administered together) (Grades K-12)
- i-Ready (Grades K-12)
- Istation Indicators of Progress (ISIP) (Grades K-5)
- mCLASS Reading 3D (Grades K-3)
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth (Grades K-2), MAP (Grades 2-10)
- STAR Early Literacy (Grades PK-3), STAR Reading (Grades 1-12)

All districts are required to complete the District Notification and Grant Application located to the right.

Diagnostic Assessments should be administered to students who fail the screening assessment. Diagnostic assessments provide in-depth information about individual student’s particular strengths and needs for Tier 2 supplemental instruction and/or Tier 3 intensive intervention.

SCAN for the Universal Screener Guidance Document
3rd Grade MAAP ELA Assessment

The 3rd Grade MAAP ELA Assessment component will be summative and will determine the minimum level of competency in reading and be administered each spring. Students will have the ability to retest on the 3rd Grade Alternative Assessment as districts deem appropriate. The assessment must be aligned to specific MS College- and Career-Readiness Standard for ELA.

Resources

Tools and Applications
- Good Cause Exemption Documentation Packet
- Good Cause Exemption Documentation Webinar
- LBPA FAQ (updated 3/14/22)

Parent Information
- Building Stronger Readers: Families as Partners PowerPoint
- Literacy Resources for Parents

SCAN to access website

www.mdek12.org/literacy
ASSESSMENT
KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment provides parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what children know and are able to do upon entering school. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is also used to measure how well Pre-K programs prepare four-year-old children to be ready for kindergarten based upon the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children. The primary purpose of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is to improve the quality of classroom instruction and other services provided to students from birth to 3rd grade.

Resources
- K-Readiness Practice Site
- MKAS2 Accessibility Features and Accommodations
- K-Readiness Testing Accommodations (August 2022)
- K-Readiness Assessment Next Steps
- K-Readiness Spanish Reports
- Kindergarten Literacy Readiness Indicators

Tools and Applications
- System Requirements
- Visually Impaired
- Manuals
  - Test Administrator Manual
  - Test Coordinator Manual
- STAR Early Literacy Pretest Instructions
- Introduction to Computer Use

Parent Information

SCAN to access website

www.mdek12.org/literacy
SPECIAL PROJECTS

MS Literacy Leadership (MSLL) Network
MS Literacy Association (MLA) Conference
MPB Classroom TV
Region 7 Comprehensive Center (R7CC)
The *Mississippi Literacy Leadership Network (MSLL)* is an exclusive literacy network for districts and school administrators. The purpose of the network is to provide K-5 district & school leaders the opportunity to collaborate, learn, and problem-solve with others in like positions, as they work to improve literacy outcomes through the effective implementation of the school-literacy action plan and high-quality instruction materials (HQIM).

**Benefits:**
- Participate in a ground-level network team: “Success Builds on Success”
- Collaborate/Network with other school and district leaders charged with making decisions related to staffing, training, and budget
- Attend quarterly meetings with anonymity
- Share literacy expertise among members to build a professional learning community
- Develop literacy goals and reflect on student outcomes
- Shadow fellow network members, as needed

**Incentives:**
- **2022 Mississippi Literacy Association (MLA) Conference Scholarship includes:**
  - Registration Fee
  - Hotel reimbursement for December 7th and 8th
  - Mileage reimbursement
- Exclusive professional development by state and nationwide speakers with the opportunity to earn SEMIs/OSLs

**Commitment:** The district provides the time for the team to fully commit to the prework and time to attend in-person network sessions and to engage in follow-up coaching and critical friends’ sessions. The Superintendent signs off on team member selection and commitments. Commitments tentatively include quarterly meetings.
SPECIAL PROJECTS
MS LITERACY ASSOCIATION (MLA) CONFERENCE

MISSISSIPPI LITERACY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 7-9

SCAN to access website

www.mdek12.org/literacy
SPECIAL PROJECTS
MPB CLASSROOM TV

“Providing education equity for Mississippi students.”
Tara Y. Wren, Director of Education

SCAN to access website
BUILDING STATE CAPACITIES TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES

The Region 7 Comprehensive Center (R7CC) provides intensive technical assistance to the state education agencies (SEAs) in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi.
LITERACY PROJECTS

Learning Walk Modules for School
Administrators 38

District-Level Literacy Plan Template 39

Science of Reading (SoR) Schools 40

REL Southeast Adolescent Literacy Project 41

Literacy Coach Academy of Mississippi 42
What are Structured Literacy Concepts?

Section Directions

Welcome to an overview of Structured Literacy Concepts! This section includes four activity links with the following completion times (approximate):

- Components of Structured Literacy (3-4 minutes)
- Features of Effective Structured Literacy Instruction (12-15 minutes)
- The Simple View of Reading (11-12 minutes)
- Scarborough’s Reading Rope Model (35-40 minutes)

Your Note-Taker (linked here) also includes guiding questions that will provide valuable insights for the assessment component of this topic.

Structured Literacy Concepts refer to the components found in the Structured Literacy approach to reading instruction that applies the Science of Reading to classroom practice. These components, listed above, include both foundational skills (e.g., decoding, spelling) and higher-level literacy skills (e.g., reading comprehension, written expression).

Activity: Please click here for more details about the components of Structured Literacy instruction.
LITERACY PROJECTS
DISTRICT-LEVEL LITERACY PLAN TEMPLATE

DISTRICT K-12 LITERACY ACTION PLAN
SCHOOL YEAR: 2022-2023

Purpose: This comprehensive plan represents the road map and goals for the district to ensure all students are taught to read proficiently using the most current evidence-based practices with high quality curriculum and tools. The key areas and goals included align to the state literacy plan.

This document is not the end or completion of a project, rather an ongoing guide to return to as we evolve, implement, re-evaluate and continue to engage in this work.

VISION & BELIEFS

District’s Literacy Vision: Type the district’s literacy vision here.

District’s Core Belief(s): Type the district’s core belief(s) here.

PART 1: MAKING THE CASE

Current Landscape of Literacy (K-5)

Leadership: example content in red
- Current Status:
  - Most are new to the tiered approach to teaching literacy and new to the elementary level of literacy, although 2 of the assistant principals have had some experience with this.
  - All have been engaged in the data analysis and learning more about key assessments and what data about literacy skills tells us.

- Strength:
  - Each building had established Literacy Teams
  - A district wide schedule that allows for tiered instruction has been established where it coordinates specialists and shared staff.

- Weaknesses:
  - Administrators need more PD on observing evidence based practices and providing feedback to teachers for growth.

- Goals:
  - Enhance the administrators’ knowledge of evidence based practices for teaching literacy so they may provide support for teachers to implement a tiered system using routines and practices that support all readers.

Professional Learning:
- Current Status:
MDE names 7 Mississippi Emerging Science of Reading Schools for 2022-23

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2022

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has designated seven elementary schools as Mississippi Emerging Science of Reading Schools (SoR) for the 2022-2023 school year.

This recognition is for schools that have trained teachers in the science of reading, exemplified a change of instructional practices, and embodied a school culture that focuses on building skillful, strong readers in kindergarten through third grade.

All Mississippi K-5 schools are invited to apply annually for the science of reading recognition. Applications are open in the spring from February to April. Seven other elementary schools received the designation in the first cohort of Mississippi Emerging Science of Reading Schools (SoR) in 2021-22. Schools must reapply to retain the designation.

MDE’s Literacy Leadership Team will travel to each campus of the 2022-23 designated schools beginning Aug. 15, to celebrate this accomplishment.

2022-23 Mississippi Emerging Science of Reading Schools and Celebration Schedule

- August 15 at 8:30 a.m. - Oak Grove Primary School, Lamar County School District
- August 15 at noon - North Bay Elementary School, Bay Waveland School District
- August 15 at 1:15 p.m. - Waveland Elementary School, Bay Waveland School District
- August 16 at 9 a.m. - Beach Elementary School, Pascagoula-Gautier School District
- August 16 at 11 a.m. - Jackson Elementary School, Pascagoula-Gautier School District
- August 16 at 1 p.m. - Martin Bluff Elementary School, Pascagoula-Gautier School District
- August 23 at 9 a.m. - Senatobia Elementary School, Senatobia Municipal School District

“This special designation affirms these schools’ dedication to effectively utilize science of reading instruction to improve young students’ literacy skills,” said Dr. Kim Benton, interim state superintendent of education. “Mississippi is a national leader in literacy because our educators are committed to the teaching and the provision of high-quality, daily literacy instruction for all students in our state.”

SCAN to read more from ExcelInEd

www.mdekt2.org/literacy
LITERACY PROJECTS
REL SOUTHEAST ADOLESCENT LITERACY PROJECT

Improving Literacy in Mississippi – The Journey Continues
Southeast | September 06, 2022

Partnering to Expand the Mission

The Mississippi success story of improving the literacy skills of students in the early grades is widely known and well-documented. After many years of languishing at the bottom when comparing student performance in literacy with other states, the Mississippi Department of Education resolved to make a concerted effort to improve the skills of the students in their state. In 2013, they began focusing on improving reading instruction in grades K-3, and this investment has paid off. As students mastered foundational skills in the primary grades, the state began to see improvement in the scores of fourth grade students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). By 2019, the average score for these students was not significantly different from the average score for students in the nation. In addition, Mississippi was the only state to make significant gains on grade 4 scores in 2019. (National Center for Education Statistics, 2019). The state continues to focus on strong literacy instruction in grades K-3 but is also turning their attention to the next leg of their journey to improve the skills of ALL students, which is to address instruction in grades 4 and up. Although the scores of fourth grade students have increased over the last several years, the state wants to ensure that there is strong instruction in every grade level from K-12. The Mississippi Improving Adolescent Literacy Partnership aims to help improve the literacy skills of adolescents by investing in the development of their teachers along with literacy coaches and leaders.

The Mississippi Department of Education and four school districts in the state – Canton, Columbus, Laurel, and George counties – are working together with REL Southeast to improve adolescent literacy skills by ensuring that social studies, English language arts, and science teachers know how to integrate literacy strategies into their content areas. In addition, the partnership is working to ensure that literacy intervention teachers are incorporating evidence-based practices as they support students who may be struggling with literacy skills. It is anticipated that if teachers provide literacy support throughout the school day, students of all ability levels will improve their skills in reading and writing.

SCAN for full article
The Mississippi Department of Education’s vision is to create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens. The Literacy Coach Academy of Mississippi (LCAM) provides the opportunity for school- and district-based literacy coaches to receive extensive training in literacy coaching. For the duration of the program, literacy coaches will receive guidance and support to refine and enhance their coaching craft.

**Purpose:** The Literacy Coach Academy of Mississippi (LCAM) is a learning pathway offered by the Mississippi Department of Education for fundamental training and certification in literacy coaching. The purpose of the program is to prepare K-5 school- and district-based literacy coaches to support teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators in the implementation of literacy best practices grounded in the Science of Reading.
Educators across the state of Mississippi may access an MDE literacy coach through the Ask A Coach email address.

KRISTEN WYNN
STATE LITERACY DIRECTOR, K-12
kwells@mdek12.org
www.mdek12.org/literacy