

Subject Read Act  
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## Overview

This DE amendment makes substantive and technical changes to the Read Act, which was enacted in 2023. It modifies or adds definitions, requires approved screeners to be administered three times per school year, modifies professional development requirements, requires the Department of Education and the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) to develop training for volunteers and paraprofessionals, expands the uses of literacy incentive aid, and requires CAREI and the department to conduct a final curriculum review. It also requires the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) to audit teacher preparation program literacy instruction, and requires PELSB and the department to jointly develop ways to evaluate teacher candidates' understanding of structured literacy. The DE amendment establishes a Read Act account in the special revenue fund and appropriates \$100 million to the fund with some of the money designated for particular uses in fiscal year 2025.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Title; the Read Act.</b> Makes technical change to reflect renumbering of some statutes in the Read Act.
2	<b>Evidence-based. [Definitions]</b> Adds word study to description of evidence-based literacy instruction.
3	<b>Literacy specialist. [Definitions]</b> Strikes deadline for literacy specialist at the Department of Education or as a literacy lead by a district to complete approved training by August 30, 2025.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
4	<b>Oral language. [Definitions]</b> Modifies definition of “oral language” to include expressive sign language.
5	<b>Word study. [Definitions]</b> Defines “word study.”
6	<b>Literacy goal. [Read Act goal and interventions]</b> Adds meeting grade level proficiency to legislature’s literacy goal. Modifies training requirements for teachers and instructional staff.
7	<b>Identification; report. [Read Act goal and interventions]</b> Requires districts to screen students in kindergarten through third grade three times each school year.
8	<b>Parent notification and involvement. [Read Act goal and interventions]</b> Requires districts to administer approved screeners to students in kindergarten through third grade three times each school year.
9	<b>Staff development. [Read Act goal and interventions]</b> Modifies requirements for teacher and instructional staff training. Requires the literacy plan to identify professional development.
10	<b>Local literacy plan. [Read Act goal and interventions]</b> Requires commissioner’s summary of local literacy plans to include the number of teachers and other staff required to complete training. Requires the commissioner to submit updated reports by December 1, 2026, and December 1, 2027.
11	<b>Approved screeners. [Read Act implementation]</b> Requires districts to administer approved screeners to students in kindergarten through third grade three times each school year.
12	<b>Progress monitoring. [Read Act implementation]</b> Requires districts to use approved screeners to monitor progress. Makes technical change to reflect renumbering of statutes.
13	<b>Professional development. [Read Act implementation]</b> Narrows professional development requirement to teachers who provide reading instruction or reading interventions. Lowers the number of hours of required instruction by 6.5 hours for the 2024-2025 school year only to allow teachers to receive training required under the Read Act, if the district and teachers’ collective bargaining representative enter into an agreement.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	<b>Special revenue fund. [Read Act implementation]</b> Establishes a Read Act program account in the special revenue fund for curriculum, training, and other programming necessary to implement the Read Act.
15	<b>Resources. [Read Act implementation partnership]</b> Extends the partnership between the Department of Education and CAREI by two years. Requires the department and CAREI to develop training for volunteers.
16	<b>Reconsideration. [Read Act implementation partnership]</b> Requires the department and CAREI to conduct a final curriculum review by August 1, 2024, to review intervention curriculum that is available to districts at no cost.
17	<b>Training for volunteers. [Read Act implementation partnership]</b> Requires the department and CAREI to identify or develop training for volunteers and other persons not employed by a district that provide literacy instruction or intervention to students in Minnesota school districts on a regular basis by January 10, 2025. Requires the training to be 10-25 hours long.
18	<b>Training for paraprofessionals. [Read Act implementation partnership]</b> Requires the department and CAREI to identify or develop training for paraprofessionals that assist in providing literacy instruction or intervention to students in Minnesota school districts on the key components of structured literacy instruction and intervention by November 1, 2024. Requires the training to be 10-25 hours long.
19	<b>Minnesota reading corps program. [Reading and math corps]</b> Requires reading corps to use evidence-based reading instruction and interventions focused on structured literacy, and provide training that meets or exceeds the requirements for volunteer training.
20	<b>Literacy incentive aid uses. [Literacy incentive aid]</b> Expands uses of literacy incentive aid to include employing an intervention specialist, screeners, and stipends for teachers completing training required under the Read Act.
21	<b>Read Act professional development. [Appropriations in 2023 session law]</b> Amends uses of funds appropriated to the Department of Education in 2023. Requires unspent funds to be transferred to the Read Act account in the special revenue fund.

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22	<p><b>Literacy coaching pilot program.</b></p> <p>Requires PELSB to partner with the department to develop literacy clinic models or alternative ways to evaluate whether teacher candidates that plan to work with children in prekindergarten programs, or students in kindergarten through grade 5, or students receiving special education services, understand foundational reading skills and can apply structured literacy instruction before graduating from a teacher preparation program. Requires PELSB and the department to report to the legislature.</p>
23	<p><b>PELSB reading audit report.</b></p> <p>Requires PELSB to conduct an audit that evaluates whether an approved teacher preparation program for candidates in a specified licensure area meets subject matter standards for reading. Requires PELSB to report its findings to the legislature.</p>
24	<p><b>Read Act accessibility working group.</b></p> <p>Requires the commissioner to establish a working group to make recommendations to increase the accessibility of evidence-based literacy training and curriculum. Requires the working group to make recommendations for making evidence-based curriculum and training available that meets the accessibility standards established in statute for state technology, software, and hardware procurement.</p>
25	<p><b>Appropriations; supplemental Read Act funding.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$100 million to the Read Act account in the special revenue fund, and sets aside the following amounts out of the \$100 million:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ \$23 million for payments to districts for substitute teachers and incentives to teachers to complete professional development;</li><li>▪ \$10 million for the regional literacy networks to provide evidence-based training to teachers in districts, charter schools, and cooperatives, and faculty teaching literacy instruction at state-approved teacher preparation programs;</li><li>▪ \$4.2 million for the department to contract with CAREI for Read Act implementation;</li><li>▪ \$3 million to partially reimburse districts, charter schools, and cooperatives for curriculum and supporting materials, and intervention materials purchased after July 1, 2023; and</li><li>▪ \$1 million to partner with CAREI to develop training for volunteer.</li></ul>
26	<p><b>Revisor instruction.</b></p> <p>Instructs the revisor of statutes to renumber two statutes in the Read Act.</p>



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