



Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Coursework Approval to Meet the Alaska Reads Act Requirements



INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

The Alaska Reads Act (HB 114) went into effect July 1, 2023. A section of the law focuses on tiered reading instruction for grades K-3 that is aligned to the science of reading and incorporates the use of a literacy screener in identifying students who need intervention. It requires teachers in kindergarten through grade three classrooms to demonstrate competency in foundational reading skills. Alaska Statute (AS) 14.20.020(I) states:

- Before teaching students in grades kindergarten through three, a teacher certificated under this section must complete coursework, training, or testing requirements in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading comprehension approved by the board in regulation.

The process the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) will implement to approve courses that satisfy the requirements of the Alaska Reads Act will involve the use of attached rubrics and the additional criteria listed below to evaluate potential courses. Courses must provide evidence-based reading training focusing on the science of reading. Approved courses will be posted on the Reading Resources webpage on the department's website.

CRITERIA:

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is accepting applications for professional development that meet the requirements for evidence-based training in teaching reading for K-3 educators as required by the Alaska Reads Act, AS.14.20.020(I).

The information form request to receive the application packet is here: <https://wkf.ms/3P0tSe9>

The course must include the following elements to be considered for approval:

- A minimum of 45 hours and the number of hours that will be delivered synchronously and asynchronously.
- Expectations for attendance and participation.
- Evaluations of learning throughout the course (e.g., true/false, multiple choice, short answer, essay).
- An end of course summative assessment including the scoring criteria and course mastery expectation.
- Documentation of successful completion of the course and end of course assessment through a "Certificate of Completion." A sample "Certificate of Completion" must be included in the application packet with the following components:
 - Vendor logo
 - Name of the training

- Participants full legal name printed, not handwritten
- Name of the trainer
- Number of participation hours
- Date(s) of training
- Score received on the end of course assessment including indication of pass or fail
- Vendor signature
- Intellectual Property Rights Agreement on record for any and all intellectual property used within the course, including without limitations: designs; specifications; developments; methods; modifications; improvements; processes; know-how; show-how; techniques; algorithms; data bases; graphics or images; text; audio or visual works; materials that document design or design processes or that document research or testing; schematics; diagrams; and other works of authorship.
 - A license agreement must be provided granting rights to another party to facilitate, teach, or produce a professional development course if not the original author or creator of the intellectual property.
- Opportunity for participants to earn 3 graduate-level credits. The graduate-level credit and course/grading must be fully managed by the provider.

The attached rubrics require evidence of additional elements. The department will use the following rubrics to consider approval of the course:

- Phase 1 Rubric: Key Elements and Features of Scientifically Based Reading Instruction
- Phase 2 Rubric: Alignment to Alaska Reads Act and the Evidence-Based Practices Outlined in the Science of Reading
- Phase 3 Rubric: Alignment to Alaska Educator Content and Performance Standards Relevant to Reading Instruction

PROCESS:

Step 1: APPLICATION

- The application must include evidence for the criteria listed above. In addition, it must include evidence from Phase 1 Rubric: Key Elements and Features of Scientifically Based Reading Instruction and Phase 2 Rubric: Key Elementary and Features of Scientifically Based Reading Instruction. Evidence must be noted in the “Evidence/Feedback” column. Additional pages may be submitted, if needed.
- The application will not move forward unless all shaded sections are met and a score of at least 36 points on the rubrics is achieved.
- If the application does not meet these minimum requirements, the vendor will be notified.
- Applications will be reviewed by the department in order of date received and priority will be given to Alaska-based entities.

Step 2: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

- Applications will be reviewed by an Alaskan panel. The panel will include educators that meet the following criteria before scoring the submitted rubrics:
 - Teaching license and experience teaching kindergarten through grade three.

- Has completed one of the following:
 - Three semester hours or the equivalent of an evidence-based reading training that includes a summative assessment and is approved by the department.
 - Achieved or exceeded the required score under 4 AAC 12.407(a) for ETS Praxis II, test code 5204; or ETS Praxis II, test code 5205, or ETS Praxis II, test code 5206, or the Pearson Foundation of Reading examination.
- If the application packet is complete and rubrics meet the minimum requirements above, the course will receive “Conditional Approval.”

Step 3: PILOT

- Following “Conditional Approval” notice to the applicant, the course may be offered to Alaska educators. Advertisement for the course offering is the responsibility of the vendor.
- The course may be offered to educators one time during the “Conditional Approval” period.
- A minimum of three department-assigned educators (two DEED internal and 1 external educator) will complete the course free of charge (including course materials), providing feedback to the department on Phase 2 and Phase 3 rubrics.

Step 4: FEEDBACK

- Feedback from department-assigned educators on Phase 2 and Phase 3 rubrics will be analyzed and shared with the vendor in a ratings summary.
- Recommended edits will be made to the course by the vendor and shared with the department.

Step 5: FINAL APPROVAL

- Following potential course edits, the course will be reviewed by the department and “Final Approval” notice will be sent to the vendor.
- Any changes in future coursework must be approved by the department by contacting the Academic Support Team.
- Upon final approval, the course will be added to the approved course list on the Reading Resources webpage on the department’s website.

