

WHAT'S IN THE 'RIGHT TO READ' LEGISLATION?



In June 2021, the Connecticut legislature passed the “Right to Read” legislation in Sections 394-404 of the Budget Implementer Bill, [Public Act No. 21-2](#). The legislation systematizes a statewide reading response—based on the Science of Reading—by requiring the state to oversee all state and local efforts related to literacy, including setting reading curriculum requirements for districts, providing professional development, hiring external literacy coaches, and coordinating with teacher preparation programs. A newly established Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success (The Center) will be the hub of that work.

But now that the legislation has passed, what happens next?

This document outlines some of the state’s new requirements, followed by a timeline of key action steps.

The legislation will require the state to:

- Have all districts implement early literacy reading curricula that are evidence-based and approved by The Center.
- Implement a coordinated state-wide reading plan for K-3.
- Research and develop a birth-to-12 reading success strategy, in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood.
- Support local boards of education and district leadership in improving reading outcomes for K-5 students.
- Support teachers, schools, and districts through coaching, leadership training, professional development, parental engagement, and technical assistance consistent with the state’s intensive reading instruction program.
- Provide independent, random reviews of how districts are implementing the approved PreK-3 reading curricula and assessments.
- Publicly report the reading curricula being implemented by each district.
- Maintain a website about the state’s intensive reading instruction program.
- Collaborate with institutions of higher education to ensure aligned teacher preparation.
- Publicly report the progress made by teacher preparation programs.

In addition to these legislative requirements, The Center can immediately begin to build a strong application for federal funding through the United States Department of Education's Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program under the ESEA.

A TIMELINE OF KEY STEPS REQUIRED BY THE RIGHT TO READ LEGISLATION

