



Achieve! Application Guidance
for
Science of Reading Training
in accordance with [Act 108](#)

What type of training is required?

[Act 108](#) requires early literacy training for K-3 regular and special education teachers of reading, math, science, and/or social studies as well as principals and assistant principals of schools that include the K-3 grade levels. The training must be based on the science of reading and include extensive training in the five components of reading which are phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. It also requires school systems to report on successful training completion to the Department.

To meet the requirements of Act 108 and the needs of Louisiana's K-3 teachers and administrators, the Louisiana Department of Education provides [an approved list of professional development course providers](#). The training must be completed by one of the approved vendors and their trainers. Schools and school systems must create a plan to train all teachers and administrators to complete at least one approved professional development course. The course must start by the 2023-2024 school year; however, school systems are encouraged to start this training as soon as possible. Any teacher or administrator hired after August 1, 2023 must provide proof of successful completion within two years of employment. Reporting on successful completion begins May 1, 2022.

Who has to participate in this training?

Teachers who teach grades kindergarten through third must go through the training regardless of what subjects they may teach. This includes special education teachers, English Learner teachers, and reading specialists or interventionists.

Educators who hold the position of principal or assistant principal at schools serving any grade levels between kindergarten and third grade must also participate in the training. School systems should also consider having librarians and student teachers and/or student residents participate in the training.

If a K-3 teacher or leader has recently successfully completed this training 5 years prior to 2023 through one of the approved vendors, they should submit their completion certificate to their school system point of contact for training. School systems will collect all documentation of completion to submit to the Department.

What impact will this training have on Louisiana's K-3 students?

Requiring early literacy training on the science of reading to K-3 teachers and administrators is necessary for improving and supporting literacy development in our children. Our state's reading scores and the unknown ongoing effects of COVID-19 regulations place an even greater impetus on this need.

All K-3 teachers, despite subject area expertise, should receive this training because all teachers are literacy teachers. If students cannot decode, read, and comprehend words, they will struggle with understanding and solving math problems, learning and applying science vocabulary, understanding social studies concepts, and applying knowledge across subject areas. Basic early literacy skills are absolutely essential to the development and success of student academics across content areas.



Training administrators at schools with grades K-3 on campus is important in building capacity and providing implementation support to teachers. If administrators have an understanding of the science of reading, they can provide support to teachers around more effective curriculum implementation, utilizing systematic, explicit interventions for struggling readers, and providing ongoing professional development.

Knowledge of the science of reading provides teachers and administrators with the “why” behind best practices and strategies that are most effective when teaching students to read and supporting struggling readers.

What funding is available for the required training?

The Department will fund the equivalent of one year of training. Funding will be available through the *Achieve!* application. In the application, there are two questions that specifically address participation in the required training.

- P4.5.6: Which approved vendor from LDOE’s [Literacy Foundations Training Approved Providers](#) will be used to conduct the required Act 108 training for teachers, assistant principals, and principals?
- P4.5.7 How many school system teachers, assistant principals, and principals will participate in this training? (Do not count teachers who have recently successfully completed this training 5 years prior to 2023 through one of the approved vendors.)

The *Achieve!* application will launch on September 10, 2021 with a deadline of September 30, 2021.

Where can I find additional information?

School systems will be updated as additional policy and reporting requirements are available.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.