

R.E.A.D. Program Report

R.S. 17:4033.1

October 2025

Overview

Act 395 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session launched the Louisiana Reading Enrichment and Academic Development (R.E.A.D.) Program in R.S. 17:4033.1. The act outlines programmatic requirements, including a report regarding the number of students participating in the program from each school or system.

The program provides a framework to distribute books to Louisianans enrolled in pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade programs with a demonstrated need for support in improving literacy. This initiative plays a critical role in the State's Comprehensive Literacy Plan. Following the 2022 Legislative Session, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) took immediate action to begin planning for the launch of the R.E.A.D. initiative as soon as all the assessments necessary for determining eligibility were completed.

As required by R.S. 17:4033.1, the LDOE reports by October 30th annually on its website the number of students participating in the R.E.A.D. program from each school or school district.

Introduction

Several important elements support understanding of the R.E.A.D. program, including the way the program fits in with the ongoing literacy instruction shifts in the state, the state's comprehensive literacy plan, student eligibility, and enrollment by parish.

- ✓ **Early childhood** leading to kindergarten readiness
- ✓ **Literacy** instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- ✓ **Math** instruction from foundational to advanced skills
- ✓ Opportunities ensuring a **meaningful high school experience**
- ✓ An effective **teacher for every student**
- ✓ Expand **educational choice** for students and families

Foundational literacy instruction is one of several priorities designed to best position students for success along their educational journey. Other key supports include access to a high-quality early childhood experience, a teacher prepared to lead a classroom every single day, and a meaningful high school experience.

LOUISIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE LITERACY PLAN

The statewide shifts in literacy instruction are coordinated through the [Louisiana Comprehensive Literacy Plan](#) and center on four pillars.



The R.E.A.D. initiative is a critical component of the fourth pillar, focused on family engagement and premised on the fact that families play an essential role in the literacy development of children at all ages and stages.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

R.S. 17:4033.1 establishes student eligibility by grade level. The table below provides insight into student eligibility for the program.

Student Age Group	Eligibility Criteria
Pre-Kindergarten*	Does not score satisfactorily on the literacy section of the Early Childhood Assessment administered by LDOE.
Grades K-3*	Reads below grade level according to the results of a literacy screener.
Grades 4-5*	Scores below mastery in English Language Arts on the state assessment administered the prior year.
<i>* If eligibility cannot be determined due to the lack of assessment results, a student may be eligible based on the recommendation of their English Language Arts teacher.</i>	

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A total of 19,776 students were enrolled in the R.E.A.D. program for the 2024-2025 school year, resulting in nearly 100,000 books being mailed to homes to build home libraries.

ENROLLMENT BY PARISH

Parish	Enrollment
Jefferson	2,178
Caddo	1,765
Lafayette	1,104
St. Tammany	1,056
East Baton Rouge	936
Rapides	898

Parish	Enrollment
Calcasieu	785
Bossier	714
Orleans	684
Ouachita	681
Acadia	635
Tangipahoa	631
Lafourche	567
Livingston	562
Ascension	545
Washington	457
St. Mary	440
St. Charles	426
Vermilion	386
St. Landry	316
Grant	270
Beauregard	251
Lincoln	249

Parish	Enrollment
Iberia	228
St. James	200
St. Bernard	199
St. John the Baptist	166
St. Martin	157
Concordia	155
West Carroll	147
DeSoto	142
Iberville	131
Richland	131
Assumption	127
Jackson	122
Plaquemines	105
West Baton Rouge	97
Red River	94
Pointe Coupee	93
Caldwell	92

Parish	Enrollment
Jefferson Davis	92
Vernon	84
West Feliciana	82
Catahoula and Tensas	79
Winn	66
Cameron	62
Claiborne	59
Morehouse	52
Evangeline	51
Sabine	49
Allen	44
Madison	39
Bienville	29
Franklin	26
Terrebonne	21
Webster	13
Avoyelles	4

Parish	Enrollment
St. Helena	1
Union	1

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.