

What is the science of reading?

“The science of reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing.”

For studies to be considered “scientifically-based research,” they must:

- be experimental/quasi-experimental;
- have detailed description of study methods to allow for replication or refinement of findings;
- be published in a peer-reviewed journal;

“This research has been conducted over the last five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages.”

“The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess and teach and, therefore, improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties.”

The science of reading is derived from researchers from multiple fields:

- cognitive psychology,
- communication sciences,
- developmental psychology,
- education,
- implementation science,
- linguistics,
- neuroscience,
- school psychology

The science of reading is not:

- an ideology or philosophy,
- a fad, trend, new idea, or pendulum swing,
- a political agenda,
- a one-size-fits-all approach,
- a program of instruction
- a single, specific component of instruction such as phonics

SOURCE: The Reading League, “[A Defining Movement.](#)”

How are sound walls different from word walls?

Word Walls	Sound Walls
Organized A-Z, alphabetical	Organized by speech sounds
Teacher POV	Student POV
Print - Speech	Speech - Print
Dependent upon teacher support	Independent
Focused on letters	Focused on phonemes and articulation
Focused on one word	Focused on transfer of skills to multiple words

What should teachers do for fluency passages if their curriculum does not provide them?

- What is decodable for students depends on their current knowledge of the code.
- Most of the Tier 1 curricula we use across the state provide ample passages for students to practice reading and for teachers to assess students' reading.
- If your curriculum does not provide decodable passages, you can search for and purchase books and passages that align to their current knowledge of the code - but remember, this is a moving target!
- It is important for students to practice their fluency by reading and rereading passages - these are known as "warm reads" or "hot reads."

How can a teacher or leader attend the office hours?

The Science of Reading Implementation Support Office Hours are held every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

- **Zoom link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96153652200>
- **Meeting ID:** 961 5365 2200
- **Passcode:** literacy

Who should a school or system contact for more information?

Literacy Division - louisianaliteracy@la.gov

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