



Literacy

Forty percent of third grade students do not read at grade level. Improving literacy in Ohio is a moral imperative. **Responding to this crisis requires a comprehensive, fundamentals-focused approach.**

The DeWine-Husted budget funds each essential piece of the puzzle: **professional learning, high-quality instructional materials, support for classroom implementation through coaching, and early identification of dyslexia and other reading difficulties.**

Now is the time to ensure all of Ohio's children are receiving high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction aligned to the science of reading. The science of reading refers to instruction that explicitly and systematically addresses the following:

1. **Phonemic Awareness:** understanding that spoken words contain sounds; making these sounds.
2. **Phonics:** knowing *how letters connect to the sounds* of spoken language.
3. **Vocabulary:** understanding words' *meaning* in spoken and written language.
4. **Fluency:** reading words with accuracy and speed.
5. **Comprehension:** deriving meaning from text.

*It is important that **all** of the above be combined with **Instruction in Writing**. Developing skills in simple letter formation, and later, in composition, supports students' ability to read and to think.*

FY24-25 State Operating Budget | Literacy Priorities

Early Childhood Education (\$92 million GRF)

- Expand access to high-quality early childhood education for 11,525 more low-income children each year.

Literacy Professional Development (\$86 million GRF)

- Fund literacy training aligned with the science of reading for public school teachers.
 - **\$1,200** stipend for each K-5 teacher, English language arts teacher in grades 6-12, intervention specialist, English learner teacher and instructional coach.
 - **\$400** stipend for every other teacher.
- Work with the Department of Higher Education to align educator preparation program coursework with the science of reading.

High-Quality Instructional Materials (\$64 million GRF)

- Provide subsidies to public schools to purchase high-quality instructional materials in English language arts.
- Direct the Department to create a list from which districts and schools can select the curricula that best fit their needs.

Literacy Coaches (Federal COVID relief funds and \$12 million GRF)

- Support 100 additional literacy coaches in schools with the lowest reading proficiency rates.

Dyslexia Screening (Federal COVID relief funds and \$1.2 million GRF)

- Fund dyslexia screening for all K-3 students in FY24 and for incoming kindergarteners in FY25.