



Office of the Governor

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Advancing the Science of Reading Act SB 242 President Pro Tempore Mimi Stewart

Overview

The Advancing the Science of Reading Act requires New Mexico's Educator Preparation Programs (EPP) to incorporate science of reading instruction, utilize high-quality instructional materials, and eliminate discredited balanced literacy teaching practices. These measures ensure that preservice candidates graduate with the skills and knowledge needed to be effective teachers. Additionally, the Act mandates timely and consistent parental notification, the development of student intervention plans, and progress monitoring for students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia.

Why now?

We have made historic investments to improve literacy rates by implementing structured literacy in every elementary classroom in New Mexico. This Act builds on that effort and investment by requiring every teacher entering classrooms through our New Mexico Educator Preparation Programs are graduating with the skills and knowledge needed to fully implement science of reading instruction to maximize student achievement.

There are 42 states that have already aligned EPPs to the science of reading and 24 other states have implemented the EPP assessment.

How it works

To ensure educator preparedness, the Advancing the Science of Reading Act mandates the following:

Field Experience Requirements

- 100 field experience hours must be completed in public school classrooms implementing science of reading instruction and under the supervision of a licensed teacher trained in the science of reading.
- Field experience hours must involve teaching lessons that include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Elimination of Balanced Literacy

Eliminates the outdated teaching of the three-cueing system for word identification that emphasizes context clues.

How it works

High-quality Instructional Materials

Teacher candidates must teach using high-quality instructional materials during their supervised field experience.

Licensure Requirements

Candidates for early childhood, elementary, and special education licensure must:

- Meet science of reading course and credit requirements.
- Pass New Mexico teacher assessments.

Compliance and Review

Educator preparation programs must evaluate coursework, faculty qualifications, and field experiences to ensure that teacher candidates are prepared to implement instruction aligned with the science of reading. Programs that fail to meet science of reading instruction standards may be subject to corrective action plans, probation, or loss of state approval under administrative code if compliance is not achieved within a specified timeframe.

Financial information

The Executive Budget recommendation allocates \$30 million for a summer reading program, \$14 million for structured literacy training, and \$5 million for secondary literacy supports.