

2022 -- H 7479

=====  
LC004760  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

---

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS BOARD

Introduced By: Representatives Quattrocchi, Fenton-Fung, and Roberts

Date Introduced: February 16, 2022

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-11.4-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-11.4 entitled "Rhode  
2 Island Certification Standards Board [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of  
3 Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-11.4-6. Right to read act.**

5 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Right to Read Act."

6 (b) No later than 2025, the following shall have proficient knowledge and skills to teach  
7 reading consistent with the best practices of scientific reading instruction and structured literacy  
8 instruction [by providing proof of having completed the thirty \(30\) hour comprehensive Orton-](#)  
9 [Gillingham training:](#)

10 (1) A person who completes a state-approved educator preparation program; and

11 (2) A person seeking teacher licensure by reciprocity or by adding an endorsement.

12 In addition, no later than 2025, a person who completes a state-approved educator  
13 preparation program, other than a teacher of elementary education program, shall demonstrate an  
14 awareness of the best practices of scientific reading instruction and structured literacy instruction  
15 [utilizing a multi-sensory, phonics-based approach, by providing proof of having completed the](#)  
16 [twelve \(12\) hour phonological awareness Orton-Gillingham training.](#)

17 (c) Beginning no later than the 2024-2025 school year, each state-approved educator  
18 preparation program shall post on its website information describing its program to prepare teachers  
19 to teach reading with scientific reading instruction and structured literacy instruction, [utilizing a](#)

1 [multi-sensory, phonics-based approach](#); aligned with, but not limited to, the content measured by  
2 the stand-alone reading assessment adopted by the Rhode Island board of education act.

3 (d) Beginning with the ~~2020-2021~~ [2023-2024](#) school year, a public school district and an  
4 open-enrollment public charter school shall provide the following professional development in  
5 scientific reading instruction and structured literacy instruction:

6 (1) For teachers licensed at the elementary level, professional development [through the](#)  
7 [completion of the thirty \(30\) hour comprehensive Orton-Gillingham training; and](#) for one of the  
8 prescribed pathways to obtaining a proficiency credential in knowledge and practices in scientific  
9 reading instruction and structured literacy instruction; and

10 (2) For teachers licensed at a level other than the elementary level, professional  
11 development [through the completion of the twelve \(12\) hour phonological awareness Orton-](#)  
12 [Gillingham training.](#) ~~for one of the prescribed pathways to obtaining an awareness credential in~~  
13 ~~knowledge and practices in scientific reading instruction and structured literacy instruction.~~

14 (e) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a public school that does not provide the  
15 professional development pursuant to the provisions of subsection (d) shall:

16 (1) Be placed on probationary status; and

17 (2) Provide notice to parents that the public school district has not met the requirements of  
18 this section.

19 (f) By the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year:

20 (1) All teachers employed in a teaching position that requires an elementary education (K-  
21 6) license or (K-12) license shall demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific  
22 reading and structured literacy instruction, [utilizing a multi-sensory, phonics-based approach, by](#)  
23 [providing proof of completion of the program in subsections \(d\)\(1\) and \(d\)\(2\) of this section](#); and

24 (2) All other teachers shall demonstrate awareness in knowledge and practices of scientific  
25 reading instruction and structured literacy instruction.

26 (g) All teachers who begin employment in the 2023-2024 school year and each school year  
27 thereafter shall demonstrate proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices in scientific  
28 reading instruction and structured literacy instruction, [utilizing a multi-sensory, phonics-based](#)  
29 [approach](#) as is applicable to their teaching position [provided in subsections \(d\)\(1\) and \(d\)\(2\) of this](#)  
30 [section](#) by completing the prescribed proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices of the  
31 scientific reading instruction credential and a structured literacy instruction credential either:

32 (1) As a condition of licensure; or

33 (2) Within one year if the teacher is [already licensed](#);

34 ~~(i) Already licensed; or~~

1 ~~(ii) Employed under a waiver from licensure.~~

2 ~~(h) A provider of a state-approved educator preparation program shall include in its annual~~  
3 ~~report to the department of elementary and secondary education (the "department") a description~~  
4 ~~of program to prepare educators to teach reading using scientific reading instruction and structured~~  
5 ~~literacy instruction.~~

6 (i) A public school district that employs an educator in violation of this section or that does  
7 not provide the professional development as required under this section shall be in violation of the  
8 standards for accreditation of the Rhode Island board of education act, and the school district may  
9 be placed on probationary status by the department. A public school district placed on probationary  
10 status pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall send written notification to the parents of  
11 the students in the public school district of the reason for being placed on probationary status.

12 ~~(j) A provider of a state-approved educator preparation program that does not comply with~~  
13 ~~the requirements of this section may be subject to penalties up to and including having the~~  
14 ~~provider's approval status revoked.~~

15 (k) The department is vested with the authority to, and shall enforce, this section.

16 (l) The department shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section no  
17 later than August 1, 2022.

18 (1) The rules and regulations adopted by the department shall recognize that teachers shall  
19 have only met the requirement of demonstrating awareness in knowledge and practices of scientific  
20 reading and structured literacy, utilizing a multi-sensory, phonics-based approach, solely by  
21 completion of the requirements as set out in subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section.

22 (2) The rules and regulations adopted by the department shall forbid recognition that  
23 teachers have met the requirement of demonstrating proficiency in knowledge and practices of  
24 scientific reading and structured literacy instruction, by any of the following:

25 (i) The possession of a master's degree in reading or a related academic discipline, unless  
26 such master's program incorporated the completion of the requirements as set out in subsections  
27 (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section;

28 (ii) Possessing a reading specialist and/or consultant certificate, unless the program to  
29 obtain the reading specialist and/or consultant certificate incorporates the completion of the  
30 requirements as set out in subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section;

31 (iii) Attending twenty-four (24) hours of training in scientific reading and structured  
32 literacy instruction, unless such instruction incorporated the completion of the requirements as set  
33 out in subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section;

34 (iv) Providing proof of completion of a course or training program in scientific reading

1 [instruction, unless such course or training program in the science of reading incorporated the](#)  
2 [completion of the requirements as set out in subsections \(d\)\(1\) and \(d\)\(2\) of this section;](#)

3 [\(v\) Passing a test in scientific reading and structured literacy instruction; and](#)

4 [\(vi\) Having at least fifteen \(15\) years of experience teaching reading at the elementary](#)  
5 [level.](#)

6 (m) As used in this section:

7 (1) The term "scientific reading instruction" means instruction that is instructional  
8 centered, empirically based, and further based on the study of the relationship between cognitive  
9 science and educational outcomes, [utilizing a multi-sensory, phonics-based approach;](#) and

10 (2) The term "structured literacy instruction" means an approach by which licensed  
11 personnel teach reading, which includes syllables, morphology, sound-symbol correspondence,  
12 semantics, and syntax, in an explicit, systematic, and diagnostic manner, [utilizing a multi-sensory,](#)  
13 [phonics-based approach.](#)

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004760  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RHODE ISLAND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS BOARD

\*\*\*

1           This act would amend the right to read act allowing for instruction utilizing a multi-sensory,  
2 phonics based approach, by providing teachers to have proof of having completed hours  
3 phonological awareness Orton-Gillingham training.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004760  
=====