

---

This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

---

**Act No. 28 (S.114). Education; literacy**

**An act relating to improving prekindergarten through grade 12 literacy within the State**

This act provides funding and technical assistance to support improved literacy outcomes, including funding for: (1) providing professional development learning modules for teachers in methods of teaching literacy in the five key areas of literacy instruction as identified by the National Reading Panel, which are phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and reading comprehension; and (2) assisting supervisory unions in implementing evidence-based systems-wide literacy approaches that address learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This act also creates the Advisory Council on Literacy, which shall advise the Agency of Education, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly on how to improve proficiency outcomes in literacy for students in prekindergarten through grade 12 and how to sustain those outcomes.

In addition, this act requires the Agency of Education, in collaboration with the Standards Board for Professional Educators, to review teacher preparation programs to assess to what extent these programs prepare teacher candidates to use evidence-based literacy instruction and licensing and re-licensing criteria as it pertains to literacy instruction.

Effective Date: May 13, 2021