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