

AOE Testimony for Senate Education Committee on Act 28 of 2021

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The Agency of Education

*Jess DeCarolis, Division Director, Student
Pathways*

Act 28 of 2021 Charged AOE with Providing TA to SU/SDs Recommending:

1. How federal funds can be used to implement 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173 in the context of improving literacy outcomes;
2. Evidence-based best practices in teaching literacy instruction to students in prekindergarten through grade 3;
3. How to provide professional development for teachers and school leaders in methods of teaching literacy; and
4. Policies, procedures, and other methods to ensure that improvements in literacy outcomes are sustained.

Uses of Federal Funds to Implement Act 173 to Support Literacy

SU/SD investments focused on improving literacy outcomes through:

- Professional Development
- Programs and/or Curriculum
- ELA/ Literacy Coordinators or Coaches
- ELA Interventionists

Evidence-based Best Practices in Teaching Literacy Instruction PK-3

- Designing evergreen webspace for supports
- Developing office hours for TA and collaboration
- Collaboration with R1CC to:
 - Develop and facilitate Community of Practice
 - Develop Literacy Blueprint Playbook

Evidence-based Best Practices in Teaching Literacy Instruction PK-3 (*Cont'd.*)

- RFP for statewide model curriculum in ELA/Literacy to release early this year
- Active procurement to support professional learning and coaching to improve local comprehensive assessment systems
- Competitive benchmark assessment grant application for SU/SDs

Professional Development in Methods of Teaching Literacy: Pre-Service

Educator Preparation Program (EPP) report completed in April 2022 to assess the degree to which:

- EPPs are adequately preparing teachers in Vermont to incorporate literacy instruction in their classrooms
- Preparation is in alignment with the state's Literacy Blueprint

Professional Development in Methods of Teaching Literacy: Pre-Service (Cont'd.)

The 6 EPP who submitted syllabi for review indicate more consistency in evidence-based reading instruction than writing instruction

- Syllabi from five EPPs covered all 10 components for evidence-based reading instruction.
- Syllabi from three EPPs covered 7 or more components for evidence-based writing.

Professional Development in Methods of Teaching Literacy: In-Service

- Self-paced online learning modules in five key areas of literacy instruction in contracting process
- Vermont Early Learning Standards training developed for hosting in an online platform
- Professional learning around family engagement in literacy in procurement process
- Collaboration with R1CC to facilitate statewide Community of Practice for literacy educators and develop Literacy Blueprint Playbook

Developing Recommendations Through the Lens of Act 173 Levers

- Revisiting Syllabi project recommendations once Playbook and CoP established for current educators
- Compiling and analyzing survey results to inform policy and procedure recommendations
- Continue to develop supports for local assessment efforts and prompt intervention at the local level

Thank You!