



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** South Carolina Education Deans  
Directors of Teacher Education

**FROM:** Mary Hipp  
Director, Office of Educator Services

**DATE:** September 17, 2024

**RE:** Revised Read to Succeed Pre-service Literacy Requirements

This memorandum provides information regarding the pre-service requirements of the Read to Succeed Act, as amended by [Act 114](#) of the 2023-24 legislative session. Effective upon the governor’s signature on March 14, 2024, Act 114 substantially amends the Read to Succeed Act to focus primarily on literacy instruction Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 (PK–5) and requires the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to “implement a comprehensive, systemic approach to reading to ensure “classroom teachers use scientifically based reading instruction...so that all students develop proficiency with literacy skills and comprehension” (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-155-110 et seq). Pursuant to Act 114, pre-service preparation in literacy instruction must ensure that teacher candidates develop knowledge of foundational literacy skills grounded in the scientific principles of reading instruction and have opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills in field and clinical experiences. Implementation of the amended Read to Succeed Act will require all educator preparation providers (EPPs) to review their current approved course offerings to ensure that teacher candidates are prepared to teach reading effectively to students in South Carolina classrooms, and SCDE offices are committed to working with EPPs as part of this review process.

Recently, the SCDE Office of Early Learning and Literacy has completed a comprehensive update of the South Carolina Literacy Competencies to align with scientific principles of reading instruction and the 2024 South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts. These revised literacy competencies are linked below:

- [South Carolina Literacy Competencies for PreK-5th Grade Classroom Teachers](#)
- [South Carolina Literacy Competencies for Middle and High School Teachers](#)
- [South Carolina Literacy Competencies for Administrators](#)
- [South Carolina Literacy Competencies for Reading Coaches](#)

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With the revision of these competencies, all EPPs will be required to review their currently approved Read to Succeed courses and course sequences for alignment with the updated competencies. In October, the SCDE Office of Educator Services will provide EPPs with guidance, timelines for this review, and templates to support this process. SCDE offices and staff will be available to provide technical assistance as EPPs review their course offerings. During Spring 2025, each EPP will be required to submit assurances verifying that all pre-service Read to Succeed courses offered beginning Fall 2025 are fully aligned with the revised competencies and amended focus of the Read to Succeed Act.

Beginning September 1, 2026, Act 114 also mandates that candidates applying for certification in Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education fields earn a “passing score on a rigorous test of scientifically based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making” for initial certification (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-155-180 (C) (5)). Pre-service coursework aligned with the revised competencies will be essential in preparing candidates for effective classroom practice and for this additional certification requirement mandated in state law.

The Educator Preparation team in the Office of Educator Service will communicate additional information concerning the review process in the coming weeks. If this has not yet been initiated, I encourage you to explore the revised competencies with your program faculty. If you have questions, please contact Jacki Walsh at [jwalsh@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jwalsh@ed.sc.gov) or Jessica McLees at [jmclees@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jmclees@ed.sc.gov).