

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents
Instructional Leaders
Principals
Strategic Plan Contacts
Read to Succeed Liaisons

FROM: Alisha Green, EdD
Director, Office of Instructional Supports

DATE: August 25, 2026

RE: 2026–27 District and School Reading Plans (**due October 15, 2026**)

Background

The Read to Succeed Act of 2014 required the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), with State Board of Education (SBE) approval, to develop and continuously refine a statewide plan to improve reading proficiency from PreK through 12th grade. The South Carolina State Reading Plan, approved by the SBE on June 10, 2015, guides SCDE support for districts and schools and informs local reading and writing plans based on research-driven strategies. In accordance with the revisions outlined in Act 114, the plan has since been updated.

Overview of Legislative Changes – Act 114

Pursuant to the Read to Succeed Act, as amended by Act 114 of 2024, the reading plan format was revised to align with the science of reading, structured literacy, and foundational literacy skills for PreK through 5th grade. For the 2026–27 academic year, schools and districts will continue to utilize this revised format.

Reading Plan Requirements

- Districts must submit a comprehensive PreK–5th grade reading proficiency plan to the SCDE annually.
- All primary and elementary schools must submit an annual reading plan to the SCDE.

- Act 114 eliminates the requirement for all high schools and some middle schools to submit reading plans.
- Middle schools where 50% or more of students scored at the lowest achievement level in English Language Arts (ELA) on the most recent state summative assessment are also required to submit a reading plan.
- All school reading plans must clearly document how instruction and intervention in reading and writing align with the science of reading, structured literacy, and foundational literacy skills.
- All primary/elementary schools and districts are required to include a third grade reading proficiency goal as part of their submitted plans.

Reading Plan Reminders

- Goals should align with academic growth or achievement and must support the 2030 vision of having 75% of students scoring at or above grade level.
- Each school reading plan includes questions designed to capture information related to LETRS professional learning.
- Finalized school reading plans must be posted on school websites no later than October 22, 2026.

Reading Plan Requirements

District and school reading plans are essential for aligning instruction and intervention with the science of reading. Plans should incorporate core Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) principles, including evidence-based practices, targeted interventions for reading gaps, and enrichment for advanced readers. Effective plans must include clear SMART goals and actionable steps to guide teachers in improving reading and writing instruction. Goals should align with academic growth or achievement and support the 2030 vision of 75% of students scoring at or above grade level.

Submission Details

All district and school reading plans must be submitted to the SCDE by **October 15, 2026**, using the appropriate Formstack survey links below:

- [District Reading Plan](#)
- [Primary and Elementary Reading Plan](#)
- [Middle School Reading Plan](#)

Note: Detailed instructions for completing the reading plans are [linked here](#). In addition, [The Reading Plan Alignment Rubric](#) offers structured guidance to support schools and districts as they develop their reading plans. For questions about the completion and submission of the reading plans, please contact Marie Gibbons, Team Lead for Read to Succeed, mgibbons@ed.sc.gov.