



Read to Succeed Utah

August 2023

With the passage of Senate Bill 127, Early Literacy Outcomes Improvement, Utah's educators are working together to improve student reading achievement. Over the last decade, less than 50% of students were reading on grade level by the end of grade three. To aggressively address this unacceptable outcome, the Utah legislature passed SB127 in the 2022 General Session to provide comprehensive support with expectations to improve the quality of science of reading instruction in Utah's schools to increase student learning outcomes.



To communicate the progress being made towards implementing the numerous measures outlined in SB127, the Utah State Board of Education issues a quarterly brief called, Read to Succeed Utah. In the 3rd edition release, we are excited to report what has been accomplished between April and July 2023:

Instructional Practice Supports

- Released a series of videos that support best practices aligned to the Science of Reading Instruction in Utah classrooms ([link](#))
- Developed and released Kindergarten through Grade 3 Literacy Block Recommendations to assist educators in designing instructional time that maximizes literacy learning ([link](#))

Professional Learning Supports

- Over 6000 educators have completed all eight LETRS professional learning sessions with another 4000+ educators in progress.
- Over 70 school and district leaders participated in the first cohort of Change Management for Leaders to Improve Literacy Outcomes with Ed Direction. Collaborated with Ed Direction ([link](#))
- First cohort of LEAs have engaged with their professional learning consultants to design and facilitate professional learning focused on early literacy.

- Completed an RFP and contract negotiations with educational partners to provide community engagement supports to qualifying, interested schools starting in the 2023-2024 school year

System Supports

- Awarded 13 teachers, coaches, school and district leaders who are excelling in providing instruction aligned with the Science of Reading and the Science of Reading Instruction with Science of Reading Excellence Awards
- Hired or rehired 32 state literacy coaches to serve 34 schools in 12 LEAs in the lowest performing schools for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Presentation by the Science of Reading Expert Panel to the Utah State Board of Education at their monthly meeting
- Completed the second round of learning walks with all low performing schools served by state literacy coaches and observed significant improvement in instruction and an average increase of 8% of students achieving benchmark
- Distributed the first round of books through a partnership with Kids Read Now to provide personal, age-appropriate books for home use for K-3 students and families in low income schools
- Finalized the contract with AIR to develop a digital repository of SOR resources for educators to support students and families and begun curating resources to be hosted on UEN.

Higher Education Supports

- Provided Educator Preparation Programs with first year implementation data on passage rates for the Foundations of Reading Assessment of their teacher candidates ([link](#))
- Recruited all six Science of Reading Faculty members for employment in July 2023 in collaboration with the Science of Reading Expert Panel
- Continued facilitating a professional learning cohort of university faculty to engage in LETRS and program evaluation to support continuous improvement efforts in educator preparation programs in relation to the Science of Reading and Science of Reading Instruction

A great deal of initial progress has been made in the previous three months of implementation of SB127 Early Literacy Outcomes Improvement (2022). We are



proud of the progress made thus far, and plan to continue working diligently to fully implement the remaining measures to improve reading outcomes for our K-3 students.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jennifer Throndsen, Director of Teaching and Learning, at jennifer.throndsen@schools.utah.gov. You can also view the Quarterly Brief from [September 2022](#), [January 2023](#), and [April 2023](#) for a comprehensive picture of what has been accomplished thus far.