Early Learning and Literacy Initiatives Update

Cari Miller	Lindsey Brown
Chancellor of Early Learning	Vice Chancellor for Literacy Achievement

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

DIVISION OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

1

www.FLDOE.org

Importance of Kindergarten Readiness

- For children who enter kindergarten behind, **roughly 75%** will never catch up to their classmates.

- The **strongest predictors of later achievement** are school-entry math, reading and attention skills.

- State and local **prekindergarten programs,** almost without exception**, improve academic readiness for school.**

- Participants in the prekindergarten program **scored higher on third-grade language arts tests** than did nonparticipants.

- Participation in an **early childhood experience** (child care or preschool) **increases** high school **graduation rates.**

DIVISION OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

2023 FAST PM 1 Kindergarten Results

Percent Kindergarten Ready
Students Statewide – Fall 2023

	Number of Test Takers	Number of Students "Ready"	Percent of Students "Ready"
All Kindergarten Students	186,417	95,494	51%
VPK Completers	101,348	64,394	64%
Non-VPK Completers	11,175	4,472	40%
Non-VPK Participants/ Unmatched	65,520	23,780	36%

Ready for K: Scoring 690+ on FAST Star Early Literacy PM1

DIVISION OF
Early Learning
LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS)

Florida Early Learning and
Developmental Standards
for Four Years Old to
Kindergarten (2017)

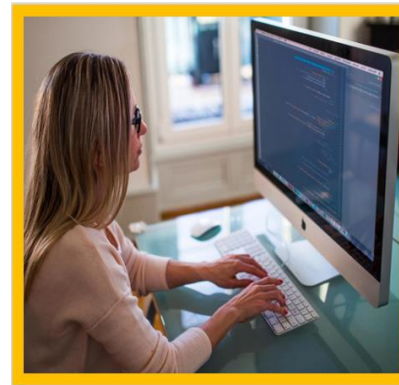# VPK Professional Learning Opportunities

Online

In-Person Instructor-led

Virtual Instructor-led

Online Courses

- Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (FELDS)

- Emergent Literacy/Phonological Awareness

- English Language Learners (ELL)

- Language and Vocabulary

Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry
Your Child Care Training System

Visit the
Florida Early Childhood Professional Catalog ⧉
to find training courses near you!

ONLiNE COURSES

Sign In

username/email

Forgot Email Address?

password

Forgot Password?

Sign In

Don't have an account?

Sign Up

Need help?
Call the Child Care Training Information Center
at 1-888-352-2842

$10 cost
0.3 – 0.5 CEUs

In-Person Instructor-led Training

- Delivered by VPK Regional Facilitators or approved DEL trainers

- Aligned to the **FELDS**

- It's Okay to Play in VPK (Part II)

- 10 additional course options

- FELDS, Emergent Literacy, Math

- Register in the DCF Training System

- 0.3 – 0.5 CEUs

- **FREE**

Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry
Your Child Care Training System

Sign In

username/email

Forgot Email Address?

password

Forgot Password?

Sign In

Don't have an account?

Sign Up

Need help?
Call the Child Care Training Information Center
at 1-888-352-2842

Visit the
Florida Early Childhood Professional Catalog
to find training courses near you!

www.FLDOE.org

Virtual Instructor-led Training

- Delivered by VPK Regional Facilitators or approved DEL trainers

- Aligned to the **FELDS**

- 7 available course options
  - Book Embedded Vocabulary Instruction: Language and Vocabulary Development
  - Dialogic Reading: Language and Vocabulary Development
  - Scaffolding and Think, Show, Tell, Talk: Language and Vocabulary Development
  - Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 Years Old to Kindergarten
  - Phonological Awareness Development for Preschoolers 2021
  - Building a Strong Foundation for Emergent Literacy
  - It's Okay to Play in VPK (Part I)

- Register in the DCF Training System
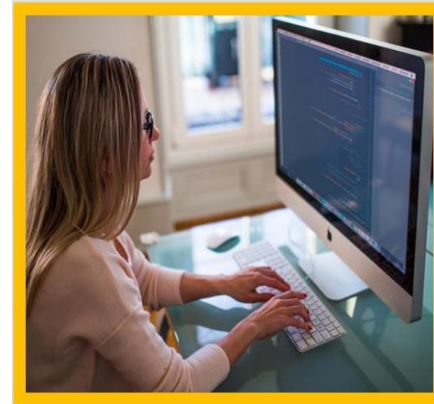
FREE
0.3 – 0.5 CEUs

Florida Early Childhood Professional Development Registry
Your Child Care Training System

Sign In
username/email
Forgot Email Address?
password
Forgot Password?
Sign In
Don't have an account?
Sign Up
Need help?
Call the Child Care Training Information Center
at 1-888-352-2842

Visit the
Florida Early Childhood Professional Catalog ⧉
to find training courses near you!

8

Program Assessment: CLASS

- CLASS = **CL**assroom **A**ssessment **S**coring **S**ystem

- CLASS is a research-based method of measuring, evaluating and improving teacher-student interactions from infant care-12th grade.

- CLASS measures high quality interactions that lead to improved academic outcomes. The interactions teachers have with children are proven to impact learning development.

- Providers receive the results within 14 days.

- Early learning coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for administration of CLASS which must be conducted by qualified individuals.

9

CLASS Resources and Support

✦ Free CLASS Training: https://teachstone.com/florida/ ✦

ADMINISTRATORS

- **A CLASS Primer for Leaders** provides the how and why of CLASS, identifies the value CLASS brings and interprets CLASS data. 2-hour online course.

COACHES

- **FEEDBACK TRAINING** helps coaches feel more positive and confident when going into their next coaching and professional learning session**.**

TEACHERS

- **CLASS Foundations for Teachers** introduces teachers to the CLASS framework and encourages them to reflect on their own teaching practice. Uses real-life videos and hands-on exercises to connect learning. 21 hours - hybrid model of online and facilitated training.

- **MyTeachstone Focus,** a myTeachstone subscription with access to over 1,000 resources in a variety of media.

OBSERVERS

- **CLASS Observations Support Series - virtual training** increases confidence in accurately observing across multiple classroom settings, such as those with dual language learners or children with special needs.

10

VPK Student Assessment - FAST Star Early Literacy

The Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program is the statewide, standardized progress monitoring system known as FAST Star Early Literacy.

- **Why implement FAST Star Early Literacy?**
  - To assess and monitor VPK student achievement and learning gains of the performance standards in early literacy and mathematics *(ss. 1002.68 and 1008.25(9), F.S.)*
  - Use results to inform instruction to meet the needs of each child
- **Who is assessed?**
  - All VPK students enrolled with valid certificates of eligibility
- **When are students assessed?**
  - Three progress monitoring periods in a program year (PM1, PM2, PM3)
- **How long does it take?**
  - 10-20 minutes average test length
- **What is assessed?**
  - 27 total items – 22 early literacy items and 5 numeracy items
  - 10 key early literacy sub-domains: Visual Discrimination, Alphabetic Principle, Concept of Word, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Structural Analysis, Vocabulary, Sentence-Level Comprehension, Paragraph-Level Comprehension, Early Numeracy

11

FAST Star Early Literacy Resources and Support

Bookmark the VPK FAST Star Early Literacy website today!
https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/providers/fast-star-earlit.stml

- **VPK Program Guide to FAST Star Early Literacy** supports programs with understanding implementation requirements.

- **FAST Star Early Literacy Renaissance-U Enrollment Guidance** details the training requirements and courses for programs to have qualified test administrators.

- **FAST Star Early Literacy Family Letter – What Families Need to Know** is a resource for families prior to their child participating in FAST assessment administration.

- **FAST Star Early Literacy Resources and Reports** provide links to the Renaissance Resources and Reports that best support programs with FAST implementation.

- **Star Early Literacy Score Definitions** provide descriptions for each score that a student may receive on the various Renaissance reports.

- **FAST-Star Early Literacy FAQS** is a great go-to document for frequently asked questions to support programs with implementation questions.

If you have VPK FAST implementation or policy questions, email VPKFAST@del.fldoe.org. If you need assistance with the Renaissance system, contact Renaissance Support at 1-800-338-4204.

12

Emergent/Elementary Literacy Micro-Credential

- **Emergent – Designed for instructional and child care personnel who work in a public or private early learning program.**
  - 60 hours/3 components (20 hours each)
  - $2,000 stipend for completion
  - Meets the VPK instructor emergent literacy course requirement

- **Elementary – Designed for PreK-Grade 5 instructional personnel who work in public schools.**
  - 60 hours/3 components (20 hours each)
  - For child care and instructional personnel who work in a public or private early learning program: $2,000 stipend for completion
  - For K-5 instructional personnel: $1,000 stipend for completion
  - Satisfies Competency 1 of the Reading Endorsement
  - Satisfies the 40-hour reading requirement for teacher certification renewal
  - Allows instructional personnel to teach intensive reading intervention if supervised by a certified or reading endorsed teacher

https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/work/literacy/flamingo-literacy/literacy-microcredentials/

Secondary Literacy Micro-Credential

- **Secondary – Designed for Grades 6-12 instructional personnel who work in public schools.**
  - 60 hours/3 components (20 hours each)
  - For Grades 6-12 instructional personnel: $1,000 stipend for completion
  - Satisfies Competency 1 of the Reading Endorsement
  - Satisfies the 40-hour reading requirement for teacher certification renewal
  - Allows instructional personnel to teach intensive reading intervention if supervised by a certified or reading endorsed teacher

https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/work/literacy/flamingo-literacy/literacy-microcredentials/

14

New Worlds Reading Initiative

New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI) is expanded to include eligible VPK students.

What is NWRI?

- Eligible VPK-Grade 5 students receive free books monthly until the students exit fifth grade.
- Eligible students include VPK-Grade 2 students scoring below 40%ile on FAST Star in early literacy/reading or grades 3-5 students scoring below a Level 3 on FAST (PM1, PM2 or PM3).
- Distribution of books begins no later than October and continues through at least June.
- Parent resources are included.
- Teacher resources around books being distributed.

new worlds reading

15

NWRI Teacher Professional Learning

Purpose:

- Connect New Worlds Reading book delivery to classroom instruction

- Gain knowledge on the Science of Reading

- Learn how to use children's literature to teach Florida's grade-level standards

- Improve student literacy outcomes

- Receive a $450 stipend

Who is Eligible?

- VPK lead teachers and aides who work at a VPK contracted provider

- K-5 classroom teachers in Florida's public and charter schools

Where and Duration?

- Scheduled regionally across the state (Leon, Orange, Alachua, St. Johns, Lee, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach) between June 4-July 17

- 1.5-day, in-person institute

New Worlds Scholarship Accounts
https://www.stepupforstudents.org/scholarships/newworlds/

- Parents of eligible students have access to scholarship accounts, worth **$500** each, for instructional materials, curriculum, part-time tutoring, summer and after-school programs designed to improve literacy or mathematics skills.

- Effective July 1, 2023, the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts Program expanded eligibility to include public school students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5 who:

  - have a substantial deficiency in either reading or mathematics;

  - exhibit characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia; or

  - scored below a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) or Mathematics assessment in the prior school year.

17

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
fldoe.org

IT'S OKAY TO PLAY IN VPK!

Available to educators and families

Focuses on the importance of play

Two-part training experience

Aligns with FELDS

Interactive presentation with video clips and hands-on activities

Contact your VPK Regional Facilitators (RF) for a trainer near you

18

Educator Training

- Understand how play impacts children's development and learning at various stages.

- Define elements of intentional teaching and quality learning environments.

- Learn strategies to plan and implement developmentally appropriate play activities with intention.

- DEL-approved *It's Okay to Play in VPK! (*IOTP) trainers are qualified to train educators in your area. Only DEL-approved IOTP trainers can train educators.

Family Workshop

- Understand how play impacts children's development and learning.

- Know the different stages and types of play.

- Learn how to add purpose to play with children.

- DEL-approved IOTP trainers are qualified to train families **AND** train others to train families. Teachers can complete the family training and host parent workshops at school.

IT'S OKAY TO PLAY IN VPK!

How to Apply?

- Families apply for VPK through the Family Services Portal website https://familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com/

- Providers apply to offer VPK and contract annually with the ELC, using the Statewide VPK Provider Contract (Forms DEL-VPK 20 and DEL-VPK 20PS or DEL-VPK 20PP, as applicable) through the Provider Portal.
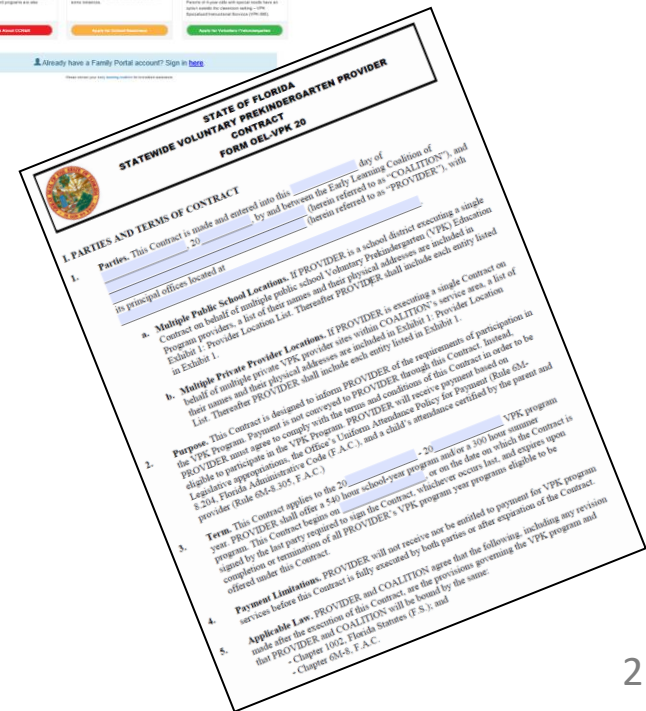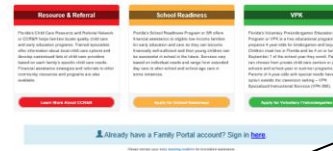
Literacy Mission, Milestones & Goals

Mission: Improve birth to grade 12 literacy policies, regulation and practices through cross-agency, cross-bureau collaboration to ensure a seamless and cohesive approach to increase educator knowledge and skill in the science of reading and the use of evidence-based practices to increase literacy achievement and close the achievement gap for our most vulnerable students statewide.

2 Major Milestones:

1. Kindergarten Readiness
2. Grade Level Reading by the End of Third Grade

3 Measurable Goals:

1. Increase % of students ready to learn when entering Kindergarten
2. Increase % of students on grade level by the end of third grade
3. Close the achievement gap for our most vulnerable students

22

1 — *Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa*

2 — *Bay, Holmes, Walton, Washington*

3 — *Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty*

4 — *Jefferson, Leon, Taylor, Wakulla*

5 — *Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Union*

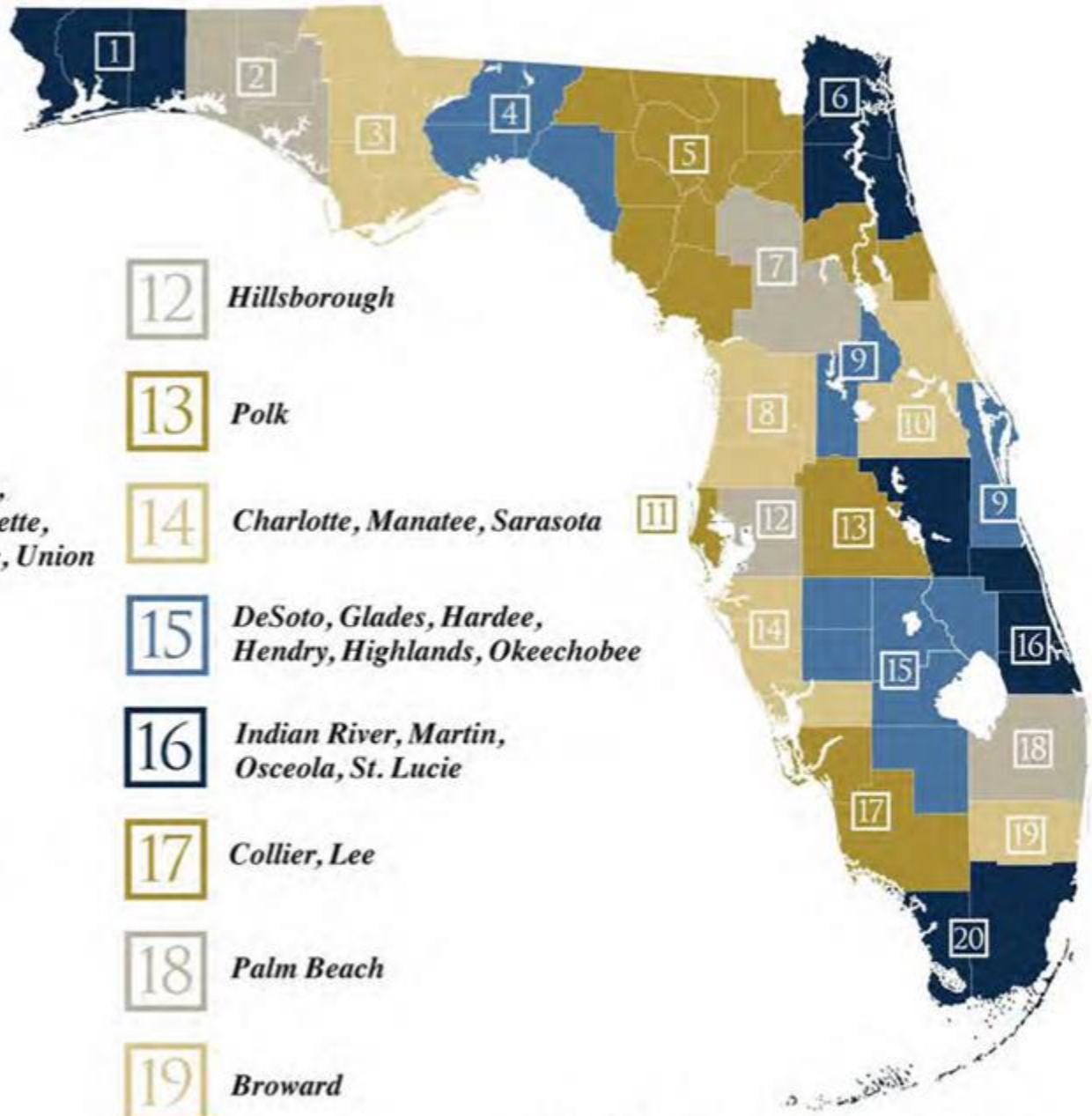**6** — *Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns*

7 — *Alachua, Marion*

8 — *Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Sumter*

9 — *Brevard, Lake*

10 — *Orange, Seminole, Volusia*

11 — *Pinellas*

12 — *Hillsborough*

13 — *Polk*

14 — *Charlotte, Manatee, Sarasota*

15 — *DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee*

16 — *Indian River, Martin, Osceola, St. Lucie*

17 — *Collier, Lee*

18 — *Palm Beach*

19 — *Broward*

20 — *Miami-Dade, Monroe*

RAISE REGIONS

For more information contact Paige Michael, Executive Director of State Regional Literacy Directors, at Paige.Michael1@fldoe.org.

2023-2024 RAISE Tiers of Support

UNIVERSAL

Webinar Series, Book Studies, Article Studies, Office Hours

Regional Rallies and Literacy Institutes

B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Science of Reading Professional Learning

District Reading Plan Implementation, Reflection and Improvement Planning

Literacy Leadership Team Professional Learning

Literacy Coach Professional Learning

★ STATE/REGION/DISTRICT ★

TARGETED

B.E.S.T. ELA Standards and Science of Reading Professional Learning and Implementation Support

School Improvement Planning Support to Develop Literacy Goals

Literacy Leadership Team Professional Learning and Implementation Planning

Literacy Coach Professional Learning and Ongoing Support

Train-the-Trainer Opportunities for District and School Staff to Build Capacity

Differentiated Support Based on Data

★ DISTRICT/SCHOOL ★

INTENSIVE

School Level Literacy Leadership Team Support (Professional Learning, Literacy Walks, Collaborative Planning, Model Classrooms)

School Improvement Plan Development and Implementation Support

Literacy Coach Professional Learning and Ongoing Support

Evidence-based Instructional Planning Aligned to B.E.S.T. ELA Standards and Science of Reading

Differentiated Ongoing Support Based on Data

★ SCHOOL ★

2023-2024 RAISE Universal Webinar Topics

- Writing in the Intermediate Classroom: Building Success Through Reading and Writing Connections

- Writing in the Primary Classroom: Building Success Through Reading and Writing Connections

- Understanding the Development of Skilled Reading

- Understanding Leveled, Authentic and Decodable Texts

New RAISE Universal Support Opportunities

- Paper to Practice

- Book Club

- Office Hours

- Newsletter

Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan (CERP, Rule 6A-6.053, F.A.C.)

- House Bill 5101 created a new statute for reading plans – s. 1003.4201, F.S.

- Each school district must implement a system of comprehensive reading instruction for students enrolled in the PreK through grade 12.

- Districts must develop CERPs on an annual basis and submit to Just Read, Florida! for approval by August 1, after approval by the governing board or authority.

- The CERP includes the district's approach to leadership, professional learning, literacy coaching, assessment, curriculum, instruction and intervention.

- The CERP focuses districts on evidence-based reading practices proven to work.

27

Evidence-Based Practices & Programs

- **Evidence-based instructional materials** have a significant effect on improving student outcomes and meet strong, moderate or promising levels of evidence as defined in 20 U.S.C. s. 7801(21)(A)(i) and comply with s. 1001.215, F.S.

- **FCRR Reading Program Repository: www.fcrr.org/educators**

- **Reputable sites** to support your research on evidence-based practices and programs to meet your target population:
    - Evidence for ESSA
    - What Works Clearinghouse
    - National Center for Intensive Intervention

28

Read-At-Home Plan

A read-at-home plan is required to be provided to parents of any K-3 student who has been identified with a substantial reading deficiency. FDOE provides digital resources that each school district must include in the read-at-home plan.

READ-AT-HOME PLAN RESOURCES

- ➢ Parent Guides for ELA Standards
- ➢ Supporting Reading at Home
- ➢ New Worlds Reading Initiative
- ➢ New Worlds Scholarship Accounts
- ➢ Overview of Assessment Types
- ➢ Statewide ELA Assessments
- ➢ Supports for Parental Involvement
- ➢ Evaluating a Student for ESE
- ➢ Characteristics of Learning Disabilities

Florida's FORMULA FOR READING SUCCESS

6 + 4 + T1 + T2 + T3

6 COMPONENTS	4 TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS	T1 CORE	T2 INTERVENTION	T3 INTENSIVE INTERVENTION
Oral Language Development	Screening	Explicit	Explicit	Explicit
Phonological Awareness	Progress Monitoring	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic
Phonics	Diagnostic	Scaffolded	Small Group targeted instruction	Small Group and/or one-one instruction
Fluency	Summative	Differentiated	Multiple opportunities to practice targeted skill(s)	More guided practice
Vocabulary		Corrective feedback	Corrective feedback	Immediate corrective feedback
Comprehension		Content-Rich	Occurs in addition to Tier 1	Frequent progress monitoring
		Write in response to reading		Occurs in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2

Standards-aligned; include accommodations for students with a disability, students with an Individual Educational Plan, and students who are English language learners; and incorporate the principles of Universal Design for Learning

Practice Profiles: Effective Implementation of the B.E.S.T. ELA Standards

https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/lit-instruct-pp.stml

Defines | **Best practices of core instruction:**
Teachable, Learnable, Doable, Assessable

Provides | **Guidance for:**
PreK-5 English Language Arts (ELA), 6-12 ELA, K-12 Math

Aligns to | **Research**
Effective Reading Instruction
MTR Standards (Math)

K-12 School Leader's Literacy Walkthrough
https://fcrr.org/literacy-walkthrough

Designed to assist school leaders in supporting classroom literacy instruction aligned to the B.E.S.T. ELA Standards. The tool is not meant to be used in the evaluation of teachers but instead, the tool is intended to:

1 Help support effective implementation of B.E.S.T. ELA Standards;

2 Help school leaders enhance literacy instruction knowledge;

3 Establish lines of communication centered on literacy instruction; and

4 Ensure consistent language regarding literacy content and instructional practices.

Student Center Activities
https://www.fcrr.org/best-alignment

Kindergarten
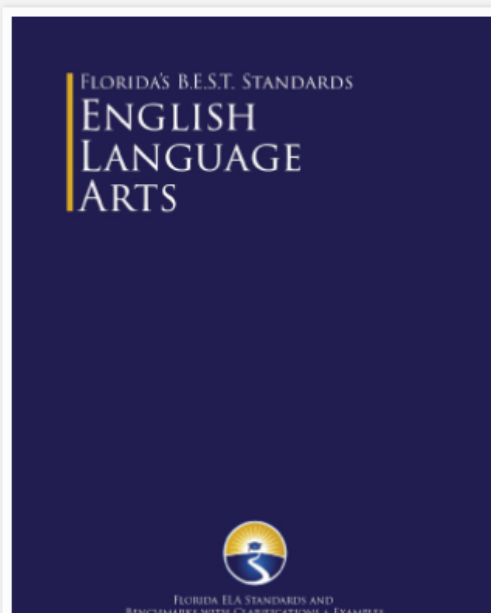
First Grade

Second Grade

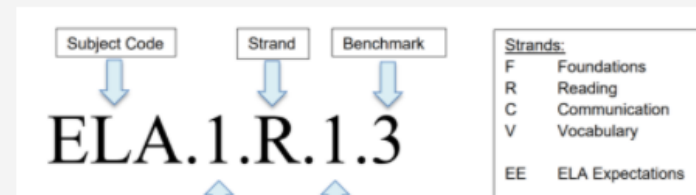Third Grade

Fourth Grade

Fifth Grade

Teacher Resource Guide

Search   Search

FCRR Student Center Activities Aligned to Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards: English Language Arts

FLORIDA'S B.E.S.T. STANDARDS
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
ARTS

FLORIDA ELA STANDARDS AND
BENCHMARKS WITH CLARIFICATIONS + EXAMPLES

Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) are standards for English Language Arts (ELA) developed by Florida literacy experts, Florida educators, and vested stakeholders. The standards emphasize that the pathway to literacy and reading comprehension is built with effective instruction in foundational skills, knowledge, and curriculum. The mastery standards are divided into four strands: Foundations, Reading, Communication, and Vocabulary. The standards use the following coding scheme:

Subject Code	Strand	Benchmark

ELA.1.R.1.3

Strands:
F   Foundations
R   Reading
C   Communication
V   Vocabulary

EE   ELA Expectations

33

Essentials for Reading Success
https://fcrr.org/reading-success

Essentials for Reading Success includes information for educators about:

- How to use data from **assessments**, and incorporate **response to intervention**;
- The **features of effective instruction (including differentiated instruction)**; and
- **Evidence-based practices** to teach the critical components **of reading**.

Upcoming Webinar

Understanding Leveled, Authentic and Decodable Texts: Assessment and Instruction

- Facilitators:
  - Dr. Paige Pullen
  - Jesse Steif
- April 17, 2024
- 3:00-4:30 p.m. ET
- Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcO6qrTIsHdIojMyVTlRKmmZCCr7iJatD

Questions?

Cari Miller
Chancellor of
Early Learning
Cari.Miller@del.fldoe.org

Lindsey Brown
Vice Chancellor for
Literacy Achievement
Lindsey.Brown1@fldoe.org

www.FLDOE.org