

HB 1295: Strengthening Early Literacy in Washington

What is HB 1295?

Washington's [ESHB 1295](#) strengthens the state's approach to literacy instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 4. The law establishes requirements for new or updated K–4 literacy curriculum and strengthens connections among curriculum, educator preparation and training, screening and early identification, and state literacy supports.

What does comprehensive literacy include?

Under HB 1295, new or updated K–4 literacy curriculum must include essential components that support students in becoming strong readers and writers:

- Language comprehension: including semantics, syntax, and knowledge building
- Phonological and phonemic awareness: hearing and working with sounds in spoken language
- Orthographic knowledge: understanding how letters and spelling patterns represent sounds
- Reading and writing fluency: reading and writing with accuracy, expression, and appropriate pace
- Vocabulary: understanding and using words across speaking, reading, and writing
- Oral language development and proficiency: building spoken language and communication skills

What does HB 1295 mean for K–4 literacy curriculum?

When a school district purchases or updates K–4 literacy curriculum, the new or updated curriculum must include the essential components of comprehensive literacy and meet the requirements established in HB 1295. The requirements apply when a district purchases or updates K–4 literacy curriculum **on or after September 1, 2027**. This does not require districts to purchase new curriculum.

Requirements for new or updated curriculum

New or updated K–4 literacy curriculum must:

- Include the essential components of comprehensive literacy described above
- Be diagnostic of and responsive to individual student needs, including being multisensory, multimodal, high quality, and culturally relevant
- Be evidence-aligned to established interdisciplinary literacy research and evidence-informed in its instructional design
- Be aligned with Washington's English Language Arts Learning Standards



- Be consistent with teacher endorsement standards for literacy-related competencies

Implementing Curriculum

Districts are also expected to implement new or updated curriculum consistent with curriculum developer guidance and district policies, working toward full fidelity and sustainability over time without undue financial or operational burden.

How else does HB 1295 support comprehensive literacy?

K-4 Screening and Early Identification

Prior to HB 1295, Washington law, established through [SB 6162](#) already required districts to screen students in kindergarten through grade 2 for indications of, or areas of weakness associated with, dyslexia. Students who show below-grade-level literacy development or indications of, or areas of weakness associated with, dyslexia receive evidence-based, multisensory structured literacy interventions through a multitiered system of supports (MTSS).

HB 1295 maintains the distinction between K–4 early literacy screening and K–2 dyslexia screening. Districts must annually use screening assessments and other tools to identify at-risk readers in kindergarten through grade 4. This does not extend the dyslexia-specific screening requirement to grades 3 and 4; screening for indications of, or areas of weakness associated with, dyslexia remains required in kindergarten through grade 2.

Educator Preparation and Continuing Education

HB 1295 also requires the Professional Educator Standards Board ([PESB](#)) to revise teacher endorsement standards so they include literacy-related competencies aligned with comprehensive literacy instruction.

Family Involvement and Engagement

District literacy systems include research-based family involvement and engagement strategies, including strategies to help families and guardians support students' reading and early literacy skills at home.

OSPI [Dyslexia Guidance: Implementing MTSS for Literacy \(2024\)](#), pp. 8–10

State Support for Literacy Instruction

HB 1295 identifies several ways OSPI supports school districts and educators in strengthening early literacy instruction.

Evidence Based Literacy Instruction Resources

OSPI disseminates research and information to school districts about evidence-based programs and practices in reading readiness, early literacy, and reading instruction.

- [OSPI WA English Language Arts Learning Standards \(2026\)](#)

- [IES What Works Clearinghouse - Institute of Education Sciences](#)

Data-based identification and early intervention

OSPI provides models to support data-based identification and early intervention systems.

- [OSPI Washington's Multi-Tiered System of Supports Framework](#)
- [OSPI Dyslexia Guidance: Implementing MTSS for Literacy](#)

Technical Assistance and Professional Learning

Within available funds, OSPI partners with Educational Service Districts (ESDs) to provide technical assistance to public schools implementing literacy curricula that meet requirements of HB 1295.

- [AESD - Regional Literacy Coordinators](#) Statewide network that provides professional learning on a variety of literacy topics
- [OSPI Course Design & Instructional Materials](#)
- [OSPI Course Design and IMA Toolkit \(2024\)](#)
- [OSPI Screening for Biased Content in Instructional Materials | OER Commons](#)
- [Review Tools by EdReports](#)
- [Compass by The Reading League](#)

Educator Literacy Training

Within available resources, OSPI develops and periodically updates an educator literacy training program focused on strengthening the reading, writing, and spelling skills expanded by HB 1295 to serve K-4 students, including students with indications associated with dyslexia. The training may be delivered regionally through ESDs.

HB 1295 requires ESDs to report to OSPI the number of Educator Literacy Training participants by October 2030 and every October thereafter. OSPI is required to share this data to the Legislature by December 2030 and every December thereafter.

Questions?

For questions about HB 1295 or elementary English language arts programming, contact the OSPI English Language Arts team at ELA@k12.wa.us