MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: August 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Senate Bill (SB) 2524 – Literacy Components

The 2022 Legislature passed, and Governor DeSantis signed into law, Senate Bill 2524. It is effective July 1, 2022, unless otherwise noted. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the literacy components of this bill.

Section (s.) 1011.62(8), Florida Statutes (F.S.), Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Allocation

- Increased the reading allocation for effective implementation of District K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plans from $130 million to $170 million.
- Removes identification of 300 lowest-performing elementary schools in reading and related requirements. Provides flexibility for all schools to provide additional time per day in intensive reading instruction using this allocation.
- Revised expectations for the review and approval process for the K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan. The new process for plan submission, approval and release of funds includes the following:
  - Districts may use the format provided by the department or a format developed by the district school board.
  - Districts must submit a reading plan approved by the applicable district school board, charter school governing board, or lab school board of trustees for the specific use of the evidence-based reading instruction allocation.
  - The plan is no longer required to be submitted by May 1. The department now has the authority to establish a deadline for plan submission.
- Authorizes the reading allocation to also be used:
  - To help instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) earn a certification, a credential, an endorsement, or an advanced degree in scientifically researched reading instruction.
  - For incentives for instructional personnel and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the FEFP who possess a reading certification, endorsement or a micro-credential.
  - To provide tutoring in reading.
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- Authorizes teachers or other district personnel who possess a literacy micro-credential to:
  - Teach summer camps for K-5 students. The requirement remains that a grade 3 student at risk of retention attending a summer reading camp must be provided instruction by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading.
  - Provide intensive reading intervention, but they must be supervised by an endorsed or certified educator.
- Clarifies that literacy coaches must be certified or endorsed in reading.

**Section 1003.485, F.S., New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI)**
- Creates additional responsibilities for the New Worlds Reading Administrator, the University of Florida (UF) Lastinger Center. The UF Lastinger Center will:
  - Provide professional development and resources to teachers that correlate with the books provided through NWRI.
  - Develop and deploy a literacy micro-credential, which must build on a strong foundation of scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional practices that incorporate explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching reading.
    - The micro-credential must be designed specifically for instructional personnel in prekindergarten through grade 3 and address foundational literacy skills of students in grades 4 through 12. The 60-hour online micro-credential must be competency-based and available by December 31, 2022, at no cost, to instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2), F.S.; prekindergarten instructors as specified in ss. 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63, F.S.; and child care personnel as defined in ss. 1002.88(1)(e) and 402.302(3), F.S.

Click [here](#) for more information about the New Worlds Reading Initiative.

**Section 1002.411, F.S., New Worlds Reading Scholarship Accounts (formerly known as Reading Scholarship Accounts)**
- Expanded eligibility to align with NWRI book distribution eligibility, so that each student who is enrolled in a Florida public school K-5 is eligible if the student has a substantial reading deficiency identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a), F.S., or scored below a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment in the prior school year.
- Districts must notify the parent of each eligible student of the process to request and receive a reading scholarship by September 30 of each year.
- Districts may not prohibit instructional personnel from providing these services on school campus outside regular work hours, subject to school district policies for safety and security operations to protect students, instructional personnel, and educational facilities.

Click [here](#) for more information about New Worlds Reading Scholarship Accounts.

JO/cm

cc: School District K-12 Reading Contacts