



COMPREHENSIVE EARLY LITERACY POLICY

State-by-State Analysis of Fundamental Principles

ExcelinEd Policy Toolkit - 2021

OVERVIEW

A Comprehensive Early Literacy Policy establishes support and intensive reading interventions for all K-3 students to ensure they read on grade level by the end of third grade. The policy also requires third grade students to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade. For students severely below grade level and who do not qualify for a good cause exemption, retention provides struggling readers the additional time and intensive interventions they need to catch up with their peers.

The purpose of this document is to provide an analysis of states' statutes and regulations that align to ExcelinEd's fundamental principles. These principles, which should be included in early literacy policy, allow for a comprehensive approach to improving reading outcomes by considering the supports for students, teachers and parents.

Note: The presence of the fundamental principles in state laws and/or regulations is not a measure of implementation.

COMPREHENSIVE K-3 READING POLICY FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

SUPPORTS FOR TEACHERS

- **Statewide science of reading training** beginning with K-4 teachers and elementary school administrators
- Ongoing, job-embedded science of reading training and **support for teachers via literacy coaches**
- Ensuring Teacher Prep Programs are **preparing teacher candidates** to have the knowledge and skills to teach all kids to read based on the science of reading
- **Funding** and reprioritization of existing local, state and federal funds for early literacy

ASSESSMENT AND PARENT NOTIFICATION

- **Early literacy screening** administered three times per year and progress monitoring for K-3 students; screening for dyslexia characteristics administered at the end of Kindergarten and the beginning of first grade for students identified as having a reading deficiency based on the universal screener
- **Parent notification** when reading deficiency is identified and continued parent engagement with each progress report

INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION

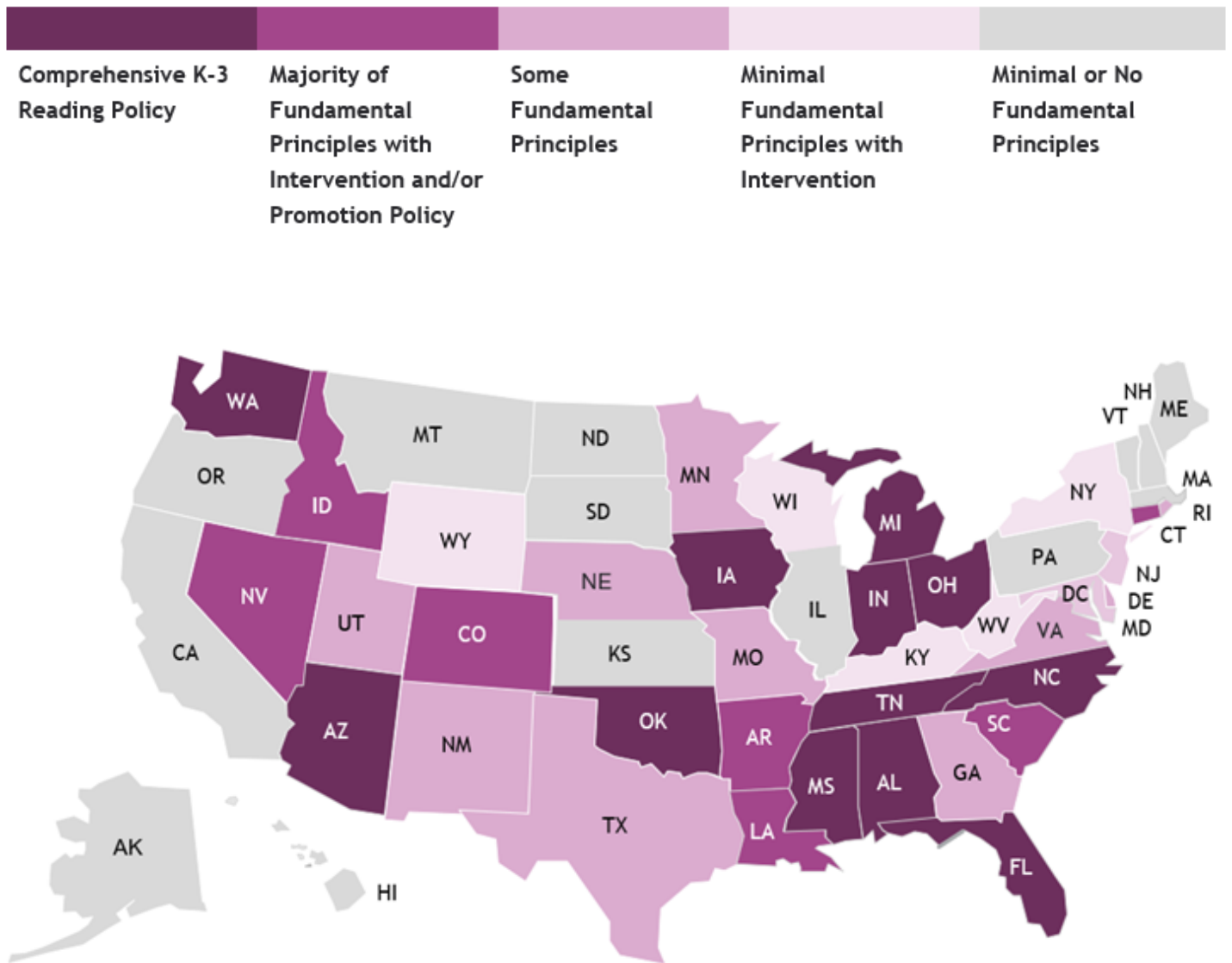
- **District adoption of high-quality instructional materials** grounded in scientifically based reading research and aligned to state standards
- **Individual reading plans** for K-3 students identified with a reading deficiency and 4th grade students promoted for good cause
- **Regularly monitor student progress** and adjust instruction using proven strategies for closing opportunity gaps according to student need
- **Evidence-based interventions** for struggling students and supports for special populations (i.e., ELs, special education, students with dyslexia, etc.) during school, and before/after school
- **Summer Reading Camps or approved innovative summer reading programs** provided to all K-3 students struggling in reading or potentially facing retention
- **Parent Read-at-Home Plan** for students identified with a reading deficiency and a list of vetted online resource hubs for all parents to support literacy at home



RETENTION AND INTERVENTION

- **Retention with increased intensive intervention** in addition to a highly effective teacher and other supports for third grade students severely below grade level who do not meet promotion requirements
- **Multiple opportunities** to ensure one test on one day is NOT the sole determining factor for promotion to fourth grade (state test, alternative test, portfolio)
- **Good cause exemptions** for students meeting established criteria

EARLY LITERACY POLICY LANDSCAPE (U.S.)





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The following is an analysis of states that have law or regulation in some form based on the fundamental principles of ExcelinEd's Comprehensive K-3 Reading Policy.

STATE Year(s) of Literacy Policy <i>*Comprehensive Early Literacy Policy</i>	SUPPORTS FOR TEACHERS & POLICY				ASSESSMENT & PARENT NOTIFICATION			INSTRUCTION & INTERVENTION						RETENTION & INTENSIVE INTERVENTION		
	Science of Reading (SOR) Training	Literacy/ Reading Coaches	**Teacher Prep Program Alignment to SOR and/or SOR Assessment	Funding for Literacy Efforts	Universal Screener Identify Students with Reading Deficiency (K-3)	Dyslexia Screener for At-Risk Students	Notify Parents of Students Identified with Reading Deficiency	District Adoption of High- Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) (SEA Guidance)	Individual Reading Plan and/or Interventions for Students w/ a Reading Deficiency	Monitor Progress Students with Reading Deficiency (K-3)	Intervention During Summer/ Before, During, and/or After School Hours	Summer Reading Camps/ Innovative Summer Reading Programs	Parent Engagement At-Home Reading Strategies	Statewide: Initial Determinant Retention at 3 rd Grade Based on State Assessment (Cut Score)	Multiple Options for Promotion	Good Cause Exemptions (GCE) for Some Students
Alabama* 2019	✓	✓	Alignment + Foundations of Reading	Funds appropriated for summer reading camps, regional literacy and literacy leadership specialists, teacher training, student interventions, curricula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Scores in the lowest achievement level on state reading test	State test, Alt test & portfolio	SWD w/ alternate standards, SWD w/ 1x, 2x, ELL
Alaska 2015			Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary	\$20.7 million CLSD 5-year grant					✓				✓			



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Arizona * 2010 2021	✓	✓	Alignment + Literacy endorsement for certified teachers who provide literacy instruction K-5	\$15.3 million elementary literacy efforts + Foundations of Reading Assessment cots ('22-'23) <i>ARP + GEER funds</i> \$20 million CLSD 5-year grant <i>CARES</i> \$10 million for literacy efforts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State assessment cut score established by state board	State test, Alt test, summer interventions	SWD, ELL, portfolio of previous assessments	
Arkansas 2010 2012	✓		Alignment + Foundations of Reading	\$38 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	Does not pass benchmark assessment and fails to participate in subsequent academic improvement plan			



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California 2021			Alignment + Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)	Senate Bill 98 appropriates \$50 million for grant-based funding towards early literacy (75 schools) \$37.5 million CLSD 5-year grant									Performs at the minimum standard for promotion (local decision)	Teacher may request in writing that retention is not appropriate		
Colorado 2012 2016 2019	✓	✓	Alignment	Grant funding and per-pupil funding for students with reading deficiency \$2.75 million (evidenced-based PD) 16 million CLSD 5- year grant	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Connecticut 2012 2021	✓	✓	Alignment + Foundations of Reading	\$12.8 million for reading coaches for districts where students are struggling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Delaware 2012 2021	Will begin 2023- 2024 school year	Will begin 2023- 2024 school year	Alignment	Proposed \$60 million by FY2025 for low income and English learners	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Scores in the lowest achievement level on reading section of state test	State test, alt test, portfolio, parent appeal	SWD, w/1x, 2x,	



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District of Columbia 2012	Grant- funded	Grant- funded		\$16 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Decision made by the student's principal based on a recommenda- tion from the teacher	Consider promotion requirements set forth in the DC Municipal Regulations	



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Florida* 2002 2020	✓	✓	Alignment + Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE) Elementary Education K-6 test	\$35 million (state regional literacy directors, literacy coaches & credentialing, teacher literacy PD, high-quality curriculum) <i>CARES Funding</i> \$214.5 million (state regional literacy directors, VPK- 8 screener, New World Reading Initiative) <i>State Appropriations (also leveraged ESSER II funds)</i> \$68 million (literacy coach boot camps, literacy leaders training, K-1 tutoring program) <i>ESSER II</i> \$21 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Scores in the lowest achievement level of 5 levels on reading	State test, Alt test & portfolio	SWD w/ 1x, 2x, ELL	



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Georgia 2021	✓	District initiative	Alignment	Growing Readers K-3 Professional Development and Literacy Coaching Initiative (2015-2021) \$13.1 million State Appropriations \$8 million Federal funding \$179 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓	Pilot		✓	✓	District discretion		✓	Scores in the lowest achievement level on state reading test	State test, alt test, parent appeal		
Hawaii		✓		\$49.8 million CLSD 5-year grant (79 schools)								✓				
Idaho 2016 2021	✓	✓	Alignment	Literacy funding increased to \$26 million in 2019	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				



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Illinois			Alignment									✓				
Indiana* 2010	✓		Alignment + Elementary Education Generalist CORE Assessment	Re-allocating funds to support Reading Leadership Team and re- allocating Title I and Title II resources for professional development, intervention strategies and teacher/ substitute pay.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low achievement on IREAD-3 assessment	Summer school, retake reading portion on IREAD-3 assessment	SWD, ELL, w/1x, 2x	
Iowa* 2015 2020	✓		Alignment	\$13.9 million for intensive summer reading program & \$8 million to support local education agencies and reading remediation services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Does not meet grade- level benchmark on two consecutive screening assessments Does not enroll in the intensive summer program	State test, alt test, portfolio & teacher appeal	SWD, ELL, w/1x, 2x	
Kansas			Alignment		✓			✓	At least once per year							



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Kentucky 2005	Certain schools			Availability of grant funds (CLSD 5-year grant)	✓				✓	✓	✓					
Louisiana 2021	✓	School systems may opt- in	Alignment	\$17 million Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) grant (literacy) \$140 million (total) CLSD grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Maine 2012									✓	✓						
Maryland (K-1) 2015 2019			Alignment + Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Massachusetts 2012			Alignment + MA Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) Foundations of Reading Test	CLSD 5-year grant	✓				✓			✓				



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Michigan* 2016 2021	✓	✓	Alignment	\$61.4 million state aid appropriation \$16 million CLSD 5-year grant to support 5 districts	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	State test + more than 1 grade level behind	State test, alt test & portfolio	SWD, ELL, W 1x. 2x Parent appeal Student has not been enrolled in school for less than two years.
Minnesota 2010 2020	✓		Alignment + Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations (MTLE) Elementary Education Test (Subtest I)	\$37.8 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mississippi* 2013 2016	✓	✓	Alignment + Foundations of Reading	\$15 million state appropriation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Scores in the lowest 2 levels on state reading test	State Test & Alt Test	SWD w/1x, 2x, ELL



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Missouri 2001			Alignment	\$18 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓			✓			✓	✓		Retention required at end of grade 4 for students reading below a 3 rd grade level Determined by district reading assessment	Participate in prior intervention	SWD, ELL, 1x
Montana				CLSD 5-year grant												
Nebraska 2018 2021					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Nevada 2015	✓	✓		Statewide formulaic disbursement	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
New Hampshire			Alignment + Foundations of Reading													
New Jersey 2014		✓		New Jersey Tiered System of Supports- Early Reading Grant Initiative	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			
New Mexico 2017	✓	✓	Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary	\$40 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			



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New York 2007		✓			✓			✓	✓					Score a level 1 of 4 on state ELA exam	Parent appeal	SWD, ELL, w/1x,
North Carolina* 2012 2021	✓		Alignment + Foundations of Reading	\$20 million state appropriation \$12 million allocation for SoR PD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Score below proficient in 3 rd grade reading on state- approved assessment	Alt test & portfolio	SWD, ELL, w/1x, 2x
North Dakota	✓	✓		\$43.9 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓											



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Ohio* 2012 2021	✓	✓	Alignment + Foundations of Reading	\$42 million CLSD 5-year grant \$1.2 Million over 4 years for dyslexia screener (Model Demonstration Projects for Early Identification of Students with Dyslexia Grant)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2021-2022 promotion score - halfway between Basic and Proficient on the state ELA test The State Board of Education (SBE) must annually raise the promotion score until it reaches Proficient. The SBE must set the promotion score at Proficient by July 2024.	Alt test	SWD with an exemption to retention documented in their IEP's, ELL with less than 3 years of English instruction, w/1x, 2x	



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Oklahoma* 2011 2019	✓		Alignment + Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators (CEOE) Elementary Education test (Subtest 1)	\$13 million over next 3 years for SOR PD ('21-'24) ARP Funds Funds allocated to districts upon approval of <i>Reading Sufficiency Act</i> Plans	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Meet grade 3 reading competencies for promotion to grade 4	Summer academy or other program State test, Alt test & portfolio Acceptable level of performance on a screening instrument approved by SBE	SWD w/1x, 2x, ELL	
Oregon																
Pennsylvania	✓		Alignment + PA's Educator Certification PreK-4 test (PECT)													
Rhode Island 2019	✓		Alignment	\$20 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							



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South Carolina 2014		✓	Alignment		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Scores in the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment for promotion to grade 4	State test, alt test & student portfolio	SWD, ELL, w/1x, 2x
South Dakota																



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Tennessee* 2012 2021	✓	✓	Alignment + Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary	\$60 million Cares Act funding \$40 million Federal grant funding \$20M CLSD 5- year grant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Students must score proficient on the Tennessee Comprehen- sive Assessment Program (TCAP) ELA assessment	Retest, summer bridge, tutoring, and an appeal for students who score <i>approaching</i> on the ELA TCAP	SWD, ELL, w/1x 4th grade students promoted for a GCE must demonstrate "adequate growth" as determined by the DOE on the 4 th grade ELA TCAP to be promoted to 5 th grade, but the student may not be retained in 4th grade more than once.	
Texas 2019	✓		Alignment + Science of Teaching Reading Test	\$6.5 billion for HB3 Some efforts are grant- based CLSD 5-year grant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Must perform well on reading assessment	Alt test (up to 3 times), portfolio, parent appeal	SWD, ELL	
Utah 2011 2020		✓	Alignment		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				



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	Science of Reading (SOR) Training	Literacy/ Reading Coaches	**Teacher Prep Program Alignment to SOR and/or SOR Assessment	Funding for Literacy Efforts	Universal Screener Identify Students with Reading Deficiency (K-3)	Dyslexia Screener for At-Risk Students	Notify Parents of Students Identified with Reading Deficiency	District Adoption of High- Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) (SEA Guidance)	Individual Reading Plan and/or Interventions for Students w/ a Reading Deficiency	Monitor Progress Students with Reading Deficiency (K-3)	Intervention During Summer/ Before, During, and/or After School Hours	Summer Reading Camps/ Innovative Summer Reading Programs	Parent Engagement At-Home Reading Strategies	Statewide: Initial Determinant Retention at 3 rd Grade Based on State Assessment (Cut Score)	Multiple Options for Promotion	Good Cause Exemptions (GCE) for Some Students
Vermont 1998			Alignment					✓				✓				
Virginia 2013		✓	Alignment + Praxis Reading for Virginia Educators: Elementary and Special Education		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Score below a passing score on all Standard of Learning assessments	Attend a remediation program or participate in another form of remediation		
Washington* 2013	✓		Alignment + Washington's National Evaluation Series (NES) Elementary Content Test	Learning Assistance Program (LAP) State funds for districts implementing program for K- 4 struggling students	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Parent decision & agreement to intensive improvement strategies. Score below basic on state reading assessment			
West Virginia 2019			Alignment + Praxis Teaching Reading: Elementary	\$5.7 million annual allocation for Transformative System of Early Literacy	✓						✓	✓				



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Wisconsin 2012	✓		Foundations of Reading Test	\$7 million American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds (PD, Teacher Prep, Reach Out and Read)	✓						✓					
Wyoming 2019				\$43.3 million CLSD 5-year grant	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						

***Comprehensive Early Literacy Policy** - State laws that address a comprehensive approach to improving Kindergarten-3rd grade reading outcomes by implementing ExcelinEd's core [Fundamental Principles](#).
 Note: One or more laws may have been passed to address comprehensive literacy support and improvement.

****Teacher Prep Program Alignment** - adequate stand-alone reading test that addresses all components of the science of reading
<https://www.nctq.org/yearbook/national/Teaching-Reading-90>

Acronyms

- [ARP](#) - American Rescue Plan
- [CARES](#) - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021
- [CLSD](#) - Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (Federal) - 40% of CLSD grants are designated for Kindergarten-5th grade efforts.
- DOE - Department of Education
- SBE - State Board of Education

Good Cause Exemption Glossary

- ELL - English Language Learners with less than two years of English instruction receive an exemption
- SWD - some students with disabilities receive an exemption
- 1x - retained once and received interventions for 2 years
- 2x - retained twice and received interventions for 2 years