



# Literacy

## Tennessee Literacy Success Act

### *for Parents and Families*

On January 21, 2021, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted the **Tennessee Literacy Success Act**, marking an important point in history for Tennessee students and families. The act outlines several new and exciting requirements that will help your child learn to read in school. This act also recognizes how important parents and families are in the education of their children and ways for families to be engaged and get more information about how their children are learning to read.

### Your child's teacher

If you have a child in kindergarten, first, second or third grade, his or her teacher will be using phonics as a primary way to teach reading in the classroom. We also call this "foundational literacy skills." Using foundation literacy skills, a phonics-based approach, is proven to be the most effective way to teach young students to read.

### Helping your child read on grade level

Your kindergarten through third grade student currently takes a test called a screener three times per year to see what additional supports they may need. Beginning next year, this "screener" will be sure to look at how well your child is learning to read. The information can be used by your child's teacher to provide additional supports and resources and will also be information that must be sent home for you to review.

### At home activities and supports

As part of this new act, your student's school will begin to provide you with several different communications to ensure you are up-to-date on how well your child is learning to read. This will also include information on the best ways to provide support with reading at home. This will happen in a few ways:

- First, your child's school will notify you if your child is identified as having trouble reading based on the reading screeners they take.
- Second, if your student is identified as having trouble reading on grade level, the school will provide you with a personalized reading report so that you can see what areas may need more support.
- Finally, to support your child's literacy in the classroom and at home, their school will begin providing you with optional activities you can complete at home to help your child learn to read.



## Teacher training

To ensure that your child's teacher is well prepared to teach reading, all Tennessee public school teachers in grades K-5 will receive additional training and support in providing foundational literacy skills-based instruction.