

# Tennessee Literacy Success Act Training and Licensure Requirements

The 2021 Tennessee Literacy Success Act requires certain educators to complete a literacy course before license renewal. This document includes details about the requirements, endorsements that are included in these new requirements, and clarification on how to demonstrate completion of the requirement.

## Training Requirement

The Tennessee Literacy Success Act requires that all teachers holding a license with an endorsement that allows them to teach reading in grades K-5 complete at least one approved foundational literacy skills course by August 1, 2023. The free [TN Early Reading Training](#) or [Secondary Literacy Training](#) meets this training requirement. After completing the selected training, a certificate is earned with a passing score on the summative assessment. This certificate must be uploaded to TN Compass within one year of the educator's licensure renewal or advancement deadline to meet the licensure requirement component of the Tennessee Literacy Success Act.

## Licensure Requirement

Effective August 1, 2023, candidates seeking to obtain, renew, or advance a teaching license with at least one qualifying endorsement (as listed below) should provide evidence documenting the completion of an approved foundational literacy skills course. This documentation must be submitted in TN Compass within one year of the licensure and endorsement issuance, renewal, or advancement date. Educators completing the training requirement detailed above can use the documentation from course completion to satisfy this requirement as long as the documentation is submitted within one year of the licensure and endorsement issuance, renewal, or advancement date. This licensure requirement pertains to the following qualifying endorsements:

**(468) Early Development and Learning Pre-K-K**

**(467) Early Childhood Education Pre-K-3**

**(2000) Integrated Early Childhood Education Birth-K**

**(2001) Integrated Early Childhood Education Pre-K-3**

**(120) Elementary Education K-5**

**(459) Special Education Early Childhood Pre-K-3**

**(461) Special Education Comprehensive K-12**

**(144) Special Education Interventionist K-8**

**(441) Instructional Leader License (Aspiring) – Out of state pathway only**

**(442) Instructional Leader License**

**(443) Instructional Leader License**

***(463) Special Education Hearing Pre-K-12***

***(466) Gifted Education Pre-K-12***

***(486) Reading Specialist Pre-K-12***

***(490) English as a Second Language Pre-K-12<sup>1</sup>***

(Note: These endorsement codes are pending final approval from the State Board of Education).

Educators holding a retired endorsement that allows them to teach reading in grades kindergarten through fifth (e.g. Elementary K-6, or a 1-8 endorsement), are also required to complete the foundational literacy skills course and subsequent guidelines as stated above.

### **Additional Considerations**

#### **Educators Completing a Preparation Program with a Job-Embedded Clinical Practice**

Educators enrolled in a preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice and who hold a Practitioner License with at least one qualifying endorsement must demonstrate completion of the foundational skills literacy course or assessment prior to renewing or advancing the license.

#### **Adding Qualifying Endorsements to a License**

Educators seeking to add any of the qualifying endorsements listed above to an active license must also demonstrate completion of this requirement prior to the endorsement being added to the license.

#### **Multiple Endorsements on a License**

Educators holding a license with multiple endorsements, at least one (1) of which is not impacted by these requirements, may maintain licensure and any unapplicable endorsements. However, any applicable endorsements will become inactive at the time of renewal or advancement of the license unless the educator demonstrates completion of this requirement.

#### **Failure to Meet this Requirement**

Educators who only hold a license with applicable endorsements(s) and who do not complete this requirement will not be able to renew or advance the license, and it will become inactive. To reactivate an inactive license, educators must complete the literacy requirement.

### **Timeline**

Applications for initial licensure, licensure renewal or advancement, and additional endorsement received on or after **August 1, 2023**, will be evaluated against the aforementioned requirements.

---

<sup>1</sup> Italicized endorsements have been added since this document was first published.

# Tennessee Literacy Success Act

## Licensure Requirements

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### *What exactly is required in the TN Literacy Success Act?*

Separate from licensure requirements, the Literacy Success Act requires that all educators holding a license with an endorsement that allows them to teach reading in grades K-5 must complete an approved foundational literacy skills course by August 1, 2023.

Additionally, these educators must demonstrate completion of this requirement in order to obtain, renew, or advance a license; or add a qualifying endorsement to an existing license upon submitting an application on or after August 1, 2023. Documentation demonstrating completion of this requirement must be present on the educator's TNCompass account within 12 months before the licensure expiration date.

#### *What is the timeframe for different groups to complete the requirements of the TN Literacy Success Act?*

All educators holding a license with an endorsement that allows them to teach reading in grades K-5 must complete an approved foundational literacy skills course by August 1, 2023.

In addition to completing an approved foundational literacy skills course by August 1, 2023, educators holding impacted endorsements and submitting licensure applications on or after August 1, 2023 must demonstrate that they met this requirement when submitting a licensure transaction. Educators who hold a license set to expire on August 31, 2022 or August 31, 2023 who submit a licensure transaction before August 1, 2023 will not be required to submit evidence demonstrating completion of the course or assessment with the application for licensure purposes.

#### *What is the teacher's responsibility in TNCompass?*

Currently, the expectation is that the educator will upload the certificate of completion after completing the TN Early Reading Training – Course I or TN Secondary Literacy Training – Course I to their TNCompass account as a general attachment (i.e., not as a PDP or TASL request) within one year before the date of licensure expiration. The department is actively working on modifications to the TNCompass system that will create a designated space to verify the completion of the course and allow the department to upload relevant documentation to the educator's accounts on a large scale. We will communicate broadly with districts once this option is made available.

#### *Do educators who hold a license with an impacted endorsement but who are teaching in a middle or secondary classroom need to complete the requirement?*

Yes. The requirement is driven by endorsements held on the license, not by what an educator is currently teaching.

*Which course qualifies for meeting the requirement of the Literacy Success Act?*

Course I of the [TN Early Reading Training](#) or Course I of the [Secondary Literacy Training](#) satisfy the requirement of the Literacy Success Act. For questions about TN Early Reading Training, reach out to [Earlyreading.Training@tn.gov](mailto:Earlyreading.Training@tn.gov). For questions about TN Secondary Literacy Training, reach out to [Secondaryliteracy.Training@tn.gov](mailto:Secondaryliteracy.Training@tn.gov).

*Which retired endorsements fall under these requirements?*

See the table on the following page for information about retired endorsements that are required to meet the expectations of the Literacy Success Act.

*Do educators who are in non-instructional leader roles (e.g., transportation or food supervisors) but who hold an instructional leader license have to complete the training to maintain their license?*

Yes. Individuals holding an instructional leader license must meet the requirements of the Literacy Success Act, regardless of the role in which they are currently serving. If the individual chooses to not complete the requirement, the license would go inactive. To reactivate the license, they would simply need to complete the requirement.

## Tennessee Literacy Success Act Qualifying Retired Endorsements

The following table includes endorsement names and codes for retired endorsements that require completion of the Early Reading Training or Secondary Literacy Training. Educators may still hold these endorsements on an active license; however, they are not issued on new licenses. Upon submitting an application to reactivate, renew, or advance a license that includes one or more of the following endorsements, educators will be expected to demonstrate completion of the Literacy Success Act requirements.

Endorsement Name	Endorsement Code
1 Year Early Childhood Education Pre-K-3	1467
1 Year Early Development and Learning Pre-K-K	1468
1 Year Elementary Education K-5	1120
1 Year English as a Second Language Pre-K-12	1490
1 Year English Language Arts 6-8	1121
1 Year Gifted Education Pre-K-12	1466
1 Year Instructional Leadership- Aspiring Pre-K-12	1441
1 Year Instructional Leadership- pre-K-12	1442
1 Year Instructional Leadership- Professional Pre-K-12	1443
1 Year Professional Admin Pre-K-12	1482
1 Year Professional Admin Pre-K-12	1483
1 Year Provisional Early Development and Learning Pre-K-K	1199
1 Year Provisional Special Education Comprehensive K-12	1195
1 Year Provisional Special Education Early Childhood Pre-K-3	1193
1 Year Provisional Special Education Gifted Pre-K-12	1198
1 Year Provisional Special Education Hearing Pre-K-12	1197
1 Year Provisional Special Education Interventionist K-8	1190
1 Year Reading Specialist Pre-K-12	1486
1 Year Special Education Comprehensive Program K-12	1461
1 Year Special Education Early Childhood Pre-K-3	1459
1 Year Special Education Hearing Pre-K-12	1463
1 Year Special Education Interventionist K-8	1144
Administrator Supervisor K-8	109
Aspiring Administrator Pre-K-12	441
Beginning Administrator Pre-K-12	442
Beginning Administrator Pre-K-12- Aspiring	480
Beginning Administrator Pre-K-12 Beginning	481
Deaf K-12	63
Early Childhood Education Pre-K-3	467
Early Development/Learning Pre-K-K	468
Elementary 1-8	401

Elementary Education K-5	120
Elementary Grades 1-8	101
Elementary Grades 1-9	1
Elementary K-8	402
English as a 2nd Language	301
English as a Second Language Pre-K-12	490
Exemplary Administrator Pre-K-12	444
Gifted Education PK-12	466
Interventionist K-8	144
Kindergarten-Grade 3	2
Middle Grades 4-8	440
Middle Grades 5-8	400
Multiple Disabilities K-12	69
Pre-K-3 Early Child	403
Principal K-8 Advanced	91
Principal K-8 Initial	83
Prof Admin PreK-12	482
Prof Admin PreK-12	483
Professional Administrator Pre-K-12	443
Provisional Gifted Education	198
Provisional Interventionist K-8	190
Provisional Pre-K-K	199
Provisional Special Education Comprehensive K-12	195
Provisional Special Education Early Childhood Pre-K-3	193
Provisional Special Education Hearing Pre-K-12	197
Provisional Special Education Modified K-12	194
Reading Specialist Pre-K-12	486
Special Education Comprehensive K-12	461
Special Education Early Childhood Pre-K-1	465
Special Education Hearing Pre-K-12	463
Special Education K-12	105
Special Education Modified K-12	460
Special Education Preschool/Early Childhood Pre-K-3	459
Special Teacher Reading K-8	75
Speech/Hearing K-12	68
Supervisor of Instruction K-8 Advanced	97
Supervisor of Material	106
Supervisor of Instruction K-12	93
Supervisor of Instruction K-8 Initial	95