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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM 26-12

TO: All Local Education Agencies
All Approved Educator Preparation Programs

FROM: Dr. Victor Wakefield, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

DATE: July 31, 2026

SUBJECT: Licensure and Professional Development Employment Requirements for Foundational Literacy

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 460 (2025) included multiple provisions regarding foundational literacy and the science of reading; SB278 (2025) further amended Read by Grade 3 provisions as it relates to the science of reading. These provisions impact licensure, professional development, instructional practices, and literacy instruction for educators. This memorandum seeks to provide clarification regarding training requirements introduced during the 2025 Session.

Please note that while NRS Chapters 391, 391A, and 392 utilize different terms (i.e., *Subject Area of Reading*, *Foundational Literacy Skills*, and *Science of Reading*), each term has a shared definition centered on the five pillars of literacy instruction, and for the purposes of the memorandum may be used interchangeably to refer to the same subject matter:

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

Effective July 1, 2028, all new applicants for an early childhood or elementary education license shall be required to complete a course in *Foundational Literacy Skills* per NRS 391.019, NRS 391.031, and Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) file R013-26. Such a course must equate to 3 semester hours of credit or 45 hours of professional development approved by the Commission on Professional Standards in Education. Preparation programs are further required to include a course in *Foundational Literacy Skills* within their programs by July 1, 2028.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

NRS 391A.386 require that 15 hours of professional development in *Foundational Literacy Skills* must be completed by the following personnel:

- All educators who provide services to students in K-3, to include early childhood, elementary, special education, and special K-12 teaching license holders
- All paraprofessionals who provide services to K-3 students
- All school administrators in schools with K-3 students

- All administrators who supervise a school administrator in a K-3 setting or are responsible for shaping education systems that impact student achievement in reading

Staff employed before August 1, 2025, must complete this professional development employment requirement by July 1, 2028, and staff employed after August 1, 2025, must complete this professional development within three years of hire.-

This professional development must be approved by the Office of Teaching and Learning and align with all guidance issued by the Department, to include:

- [Science of Reading Professional Development Guidance](#)
- [Approved NDE and Commission Science of Reading Courses](#)
- [Science of Reading Aligned Instructional Practices for the NEPF](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Professional Development: If an educator teaches in an elementary school setting but does not provide instruction in reading (i.e., art instructors, etc.) are they required to complete 15 hours of professional development? Yes. All educators and paraprofessionals, including but not limited to physical education and library assistants, in a K-3 setting, as well as special education teachers, art, music, and physical education teachers, etc., must complete the 15 hours of professional development coursework.

Professional Development: Are specialized instructional support personnel subject to the professional development requirement? No. Specialized instructional support personnel, such as school psychologists, social workers, counselors, or nurses, even if operating in a K-3 setting, are not required to complete this coursework.

Professional Development: Does the Department offer a specialized course for administrators? Yes. The Department has developed an administrator-specific professional development course; however, administrators may complete either the administrator-specific course or a more general course in foundational literacy skills and meet the requirement.

Professional Development: Does the 15-hour professional development training satisfy the Licensure Requirement? No.

Professional Development: Does the 45-hour licensure course work satisfy the 15-hour professional development? Yes.

Professional Development: If an established educator transfers districts, how will this impact completion of the requirement? Because the professional development is aligned to standards established by the Department, educators should work with their district to continue the remainder of their professional development coursework from where they left off, provided they have certification for the hours and topics covered previously in another district.

Licensure Coursework: If an educator who was hired on or after July 1, 2028 teaches in a middle school with an elementary education license, will they be required to complete licensure the requirement? Yes. Licensure requirements are set by license type, rather than assignment. If a middle school teacher only holds a middle school or secondary license, they will not be required to complete the licensure requirement.

CONCLUSION

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please reach out to the Office of Teaching and Learning at nde-otlinfo@doe.nv.gov or Office of Educator Licensure at license@doe.nv.gov.