

R.E.A.D. Program Report

R.S. 17:4033.1

October 2024

Introduction

Act 395 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session launched the Louisiana Reading Enrichment and Academic Development (R.E.A.D.) Program in R.S. 17:4033.1. The act outlines programmatic requirements including a report regarding the number of students participating in the program from each school or system.

The program provides a framework to distribute books to Louisianans enrolled in pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade programs with a demonstrated need for support in improving literacy. This initiative plays a critical component in the State's Comprehensive Literacy Plan. Following the 2022 Legislative Session, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) took immediate action to begin planning for the launch of the R.E.A.D. initiative as soon as all the assessments necessary for determining eligibility were completed.

As required by R.S. 17:4033.1, the LDOE shall report by October thirtieth annually on its website the number of students participating in the R.E.A.D. program from each school or school district.

OVERVIEW

There are several important elements to understanding the R.E.A.D. program, including the way the program fits in with the ongoing literacy instruction shifts in the state, the state's comprehensive literacy plan, student eligibility, and the timeline for program launch.

- ✓ **Early childhood** leading to kindergarten readiness
- ✓ **Literacy** instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- ✓ **Math** instruction from foundational to advanced skills
- ✓ Opportunities ensuring a **meaningful high school experience**
- ✓ An effective **teacher for every student**
- ✓ Expand **educational choice** for students and families

Foundational literacy instruction is one of several priorities designed to best position students for success along their educational journey. Other key supports include access to a high-quality early childhood experience, a teacher prepared to lead a classroom every single day, and a meaningful high school experience.

LOUISIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE LITERACY PLAN

The statewide shifts in literacy instruction are coordinated through the [Louisiana Comprehensive Literacy Plan](#) and centered on four pillars.



Student literacy outcomes will increase when schools create and monitor **LITERACY GOALS**.



Literacy outcomes will improve when students are provided high-quality core instruction together with **EXPLICIT LITERACY INTERVENTIONS AND EXTENSIONS** based on individual student needs.



ONGOING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH is an essential component of effective teaching and literacy development.



FAMILIES play an essential role in the literacy development of children at all ages and stages.

The R.E.A.D. initiative is a critical component of the fourth pillar, focused on family engagement and premised on the fact that families play an essential role in the literacy development of children at all ages and stages.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Act 395 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session enacted R.S. 17:4033.1, which began the R.E.A.D. program as well as determining student eligibility by grade level. The table below provides insight into student eligibility for the program.

Student Age Group	Eligibility Criteria
Pre-Kindergarten*	Does not score satisfactorily on the literacy section of the Early Childhood Assessment administered by LDOE.
Grades K-3*	Reads below grade level according to the results of a literacy screener.
Grades 4-5*	Scores below mastery in English Language Arts on the state assessment administered the prior year.
* If eligibility cannot be determined due to the lack of assessment results, a student may be eligible based on the recommendation of his English Language Arts teacher.	

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A total of 19,825 students were enrolled in the R.E.A.D. program for the 2023-2024 school year, resulting in nearly 100,000 books being mailed to homes to build home libraries.

Enrollment by District	
District	Enrollment
ACADIA	684
ALLEN	51
ASCENSION	633
ASSUMPTION	114

Enrollment by District	
BEAUREGARD	280
BIENVILLE	44
BOSSIER	816
CADDO	2046
CALCASIEU	891
CALDWELL	100
CAMERON	10
CATAHOULA & TENSAS	88
CITY OF BOGALUSA	37
CLAIBORNE	69
CONCORDIA	176
DESOTO	147
EAST BATON ROUGE & CITY OF BAKER	884
EVANGELINE	46
FRANKLIN	51
GRANT	168

Enrollment by District	
IBERIA	268
IBERVILLE	154
JACKSON	144
JEFFERSON	1829
JEFFERSON DAVIS	111
LAFAYETTE	1205
LAFOURCHE	612
LINCOLN	177
LIVINGSTON	639
MADISON	42
MOREHOUSE	57
ORLEANS	707
OUACHITA & CITY OF MONROE	779
PLAQUEMINES	116
POINTE COUPEE	27
RAPIDES	740

Enrollment by District	
RED RIVER	98
RICHLAND	96
SABINE	50
ST. BERNARD	217
ST. CHARLES	314
ST. JAMES	7
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	184
ST. LANDRY	358
ST. MARTIN	186
ST. MARY	496
ST. TAMMANY	839
TANGIPAHOA	696
TERREBONNE	33
UNION	2
VERMILION	356
VERNON	89

Enrollment by District	
WASHINGTON	227
WEBSTER	13
WEST BATON ROUGE	125
WEST CARROLL	174
WEST FELICIANA	83
WINN	79
ZACHARY	161

Please contact literacy@la.gov with questions.