



Louisiana R.E.A.D. Program Report

RS 17:4033.1

October 2023



INTRODUCTION

Act 395 of the 2022 Legislative Session, along with a supplemental \$5 million appropriation, launched the Louisiana Reading Enrichment and Academic Development (R.E.A.D.) Program. The act outlines programmatic requirements including a report regarding the number of students participating in the program from each school or system.

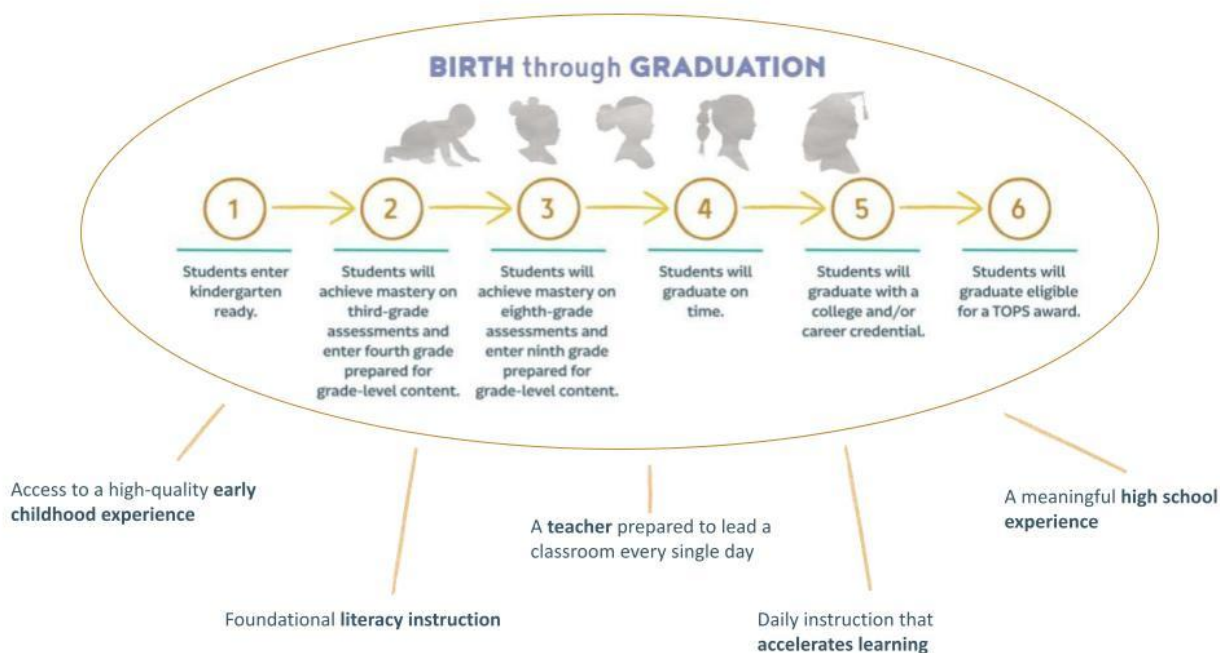
The program provides a framework to distribute books to Louisianans enrolled in pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade programs with a demonstrated need for support in improving literacy. This initiative plays a critical component in the State's Comprehensive Literacy Plan. Following the 2022 Legislative 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.

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.

LOUISIANA’S VISION FOR SUCCESS

The LDOE’s Vision For Success centers on six critical goals for students’ educational journey from birth through graduation: that students enter kindergarten ready to learn, achieve mastery on third-grade assessments and enter fourth-grade prepared for grade-level content, achieve mastery on eighth-grade assessments and enter ninth grade prepared for grade-level content, graduate on time with a college and/or career credential, and graduate eligible for TOPS.



Foundational literacy instruction is one of several things that must be true in order 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, daily instruction that accelerates learning, 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 will play 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.

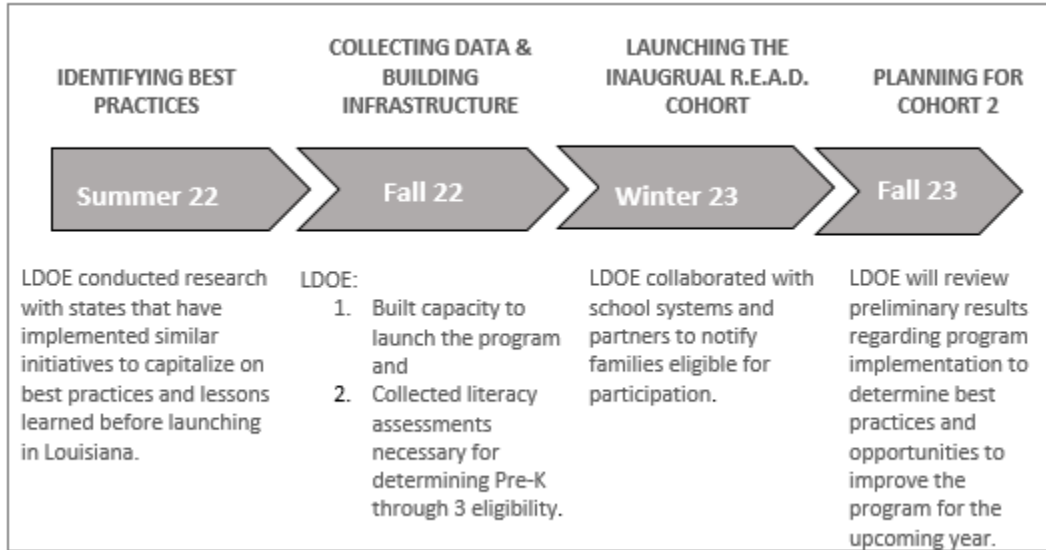
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

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.	

TIMELINE FOR R.E.A.D. PROGRAM LAUNCH AND ADMINISTRATION

The LDOE established the following R.E.A.D. program timeline to align the eligibility determinations and expansion with the program with the return of assessments critical for student eligibility.



STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A total of 21,478 students were enrolled in the R.E.A.D. program for the 22-23 school year resulting in 85,924 books being mailed to homes to build their home libraries. In addition to the online enrollment, packs of books were sent home with every pre-K through 5th-grade student at a school with a Comprehensive Intervention Required label. This resulted in an additional 532,077 books for a total of 618,001 books added to home libraries to promote family literacy engagement.

Online Enrollment by District	
District	Enrollment
Caddo	2,280
Jefferson	1,995
Lafayette	1,267
East Baton Rouge & City of Baker	980
Calcasieu	945
St. Tammany	908
Bossier	870
Ouachita & City of Monroe	829
Rapides	823
Orleans	771
Tangipahoa	737
Acadia	730
Ascension	693
Livingston	686
Lafourche	660
St. Mary	527
Vermilion	376
St. Landry	362
St. Charles	340

Beauregard	296
Iberia	291
Washington	263
St. Bernard	235
St. Martin	204
St. John the Baptist	199
Concordia	193
West Carroll	191
Lincoln	189
Grant	185
Iberville	167
Zachary	164
DeSoto	155
West Baton Rouge	153
Jackson	152
Jefferson Davis	129
Plaquemines	124
Assumption	120
Caldwell	110
Red River	106
Catahoula & Tensas	100
Richland	100
Vernon	100
West Feliciana	84

Winn	80
Sabine	74
Claiborne	71
Morehouse	63
Franklin	59
Allen	57
Evangeline	50
Bienville	49
City of Bogalusa	43
Madison	43
Terrebonne	35
Pointe Coupee	28
Webster	13
Cameron	11
St. James	7
East Carroll	4
Union	2