



# Science of Reading Professional Development Guidance for Districts

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## Purpose of Science of Reading Professional Development

To meet the requirements of [70 O.S. § 1210.508D](#), the Oklahoma State Department of Education has reviewed and published a list of professional development programs that are focused on elementary instruction and address the science of reading.

B. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, districts receiving more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) pursuant to subsection A of this section shall spend no less than ten percent (10%) to provide professional development for teachers teaching prekindergarten through grade five. The professional development shall include training in the science of how students learn to read as well as instructional materials required for implementation.

C. By June 30, 2022, the Department shall approve and publish a list of professional development programs that are evidence-based and directly address the cognitive science of how students learn to read for which districts are permitted to use the funds received under this section.

## Guidance for Use of Funds for the Strong Readers Act

Districts that receive \$2500 or more in Strong Readers funds must use at least 10% of their funds for professional development on the science of reading. Districts must select one or more of the [approved programs](#) for this 10%. Districts may use more than 10% of their Strong Readers funds if they choose.

The list of approved programs is not meant to limit professional development provided through funding sources other than Strong Readers.

Funding may be used for most costs associated with the professional development program, including the following:

- registration for professional development
- payment of substitute (if during contract hours)
- stipends (if outside of contract hours)
- travel (meals cannot be covered)
- materials and supplies.

If the district is using a train-the-trainer model with a program that allows this, funding may be used to fairly compensate the district personnel providing the training.

Professional development may be used for any staff members that work with students in prekindergarten through grade 5 in the areas of reading or writing.



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Depending on need and available resources, schools may use these funds for all applicable staff or for select personnel.

A spreadsheet of approved programs, along with information for districts to consider, will be published and maintained on the OSDE website under the Reading Sufficiency Act.

Use program code 439 for all expenses that will contribute to the 10% requirement.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Are the programs on this list the only ones we can use for professional development?

**Answer:** The programs on this list have been approved as meeting the requirements for [70 O.S. § 1210.508D](#). Districts must use one or more of these programs for the 10% of Strong Readers funds that must be used to provide professional development. Other funding may be used to provide quality professional development in other areas that may not be included on this list.

**Question:** What if our district is interested in a professional development program that is not included on this list?

**Answer:** Districts may ask a vendor to submit their product for review through the ongoing review process. Deadline for the spring review is April 30th and the fall review submissions are due November 1st. Vendors can submit their product with the following link.  
<https://airtable.com/appjxeoidh6utppqz/pagfRS388AutHCceY/form>

For additional questions, please contact the office of Curriculum and Instruction.

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