



Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Implementation

Education Interim Committee

March 12, 2024




20-7-1803, MCA

House Bill 352 established parameters and funding for three voluntary Early Literacy Targeted Intervention programs.

The purpose is:

- to increase the number of children who are reading proficient at the end of third grade
- to provide parents with access to optional early literacy interventions
- foster a strong economic return for Montana through an enhanced and skilled workforce

Collaborative Project

BPE	OPI	Districts/ Families
Create Early Literacy Advisory Council	Create guidance on 20-7-18, MCA	Determines Eligibility
Establish Methodology for Student Eligibility	Facilitate Early Literacy Collaborative	Reports data to OPI
Review ARM Title 10, Chapter 63	School Support	Distributes Home-Based Program Materials
Collaborate on RFP for Home-Based Learning	Data Collection and reporting	

OPI's Early Literacy Collaborative

Non-voting, advisory group of educators, trustees, parents, and agency partners

Jessie Mitchell – Helena
Whitney Peters - Frenchtown
Katherine Nitcy - Hot Springs
Joellen Brennan - Pryor
Jessica Doherty - Butte
Katherine Dawe - Laurel
Mona Shortman - Cut Bank
Amanda Cyr - Clinton
Caitlin Hall - Roberts
Allison Wilson - Missoula
Wade Sundby, Glasgow
Jill Christensen - Early Childhood
specialist, DPHHS
Jackie Ronning, Kimberly Evans –
OPI Early Literacy Specialists
Marie Judisch, OPI Senior Manager
for Teaching and Learning
Julie Murgel - OPI, Chief Program
Officer
Christy Mock-Stutz - OPI, Assistant
Superintendent



OPI's Early Literacy Collaborative



Dr. Anne Penn Cox	Elementary School Principal, Livingston Public Schools
Dr. Norah Barney	Special Education and Curriculum Director, Anaconda Public Schools
Dr. Laurie Barron	Superintendent, Evergreen School District
Nicole Simonsen	Superintendent, Culbertson Public Schools
Colette Getten	Early Learning Family Center Administrator, Great Falls Public Schools
Dr. Danielle Thompson	Consultant, The Transformative Reading Teacher Group
Dr. Christine Lux	Professor of Early Childhood Education, Montana State University
Dr. Tammy Elser	Faculty, Salish Kootenai College
Karen Filipovich	Executive Director, Montana Head Start Association
Doug Rossberg	Title 1 Instructional Coach, Missoula County Public Schools
Stephanie Olson	3 rd grade teacher, Great Falls Public Schools
Rhea Christensen	Kindergarten teacher, Lambert Public Schools
Doug Reisig	Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition
Lance Melton	Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association
Marie Judisch	Senior Manager of Teaching and Learning, Office of Public Instruction

Facilitated by McCall Flynn, Board of Public Education and Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five Montana

Board of Public Education

Early Literacy Advisory Council Members

OPI's Early Literacy Guidance

Early Literacy Targeted Interventions



In 2023, the Montana legislature passed an Early Intervention Act (HB 352), designed to improve the number of students reading proficiently by third grade. [20-7-1803, MCA](#), provides three different types of interventions that districts may offer their eligible students: classroom-based, home-based, and jumpstart programs.

A child must have parental consent to be screened for participation in any of the established early literacy intervention programs. A child is determined eligible by the evaluation criteria selected by the board of public education. Per legislation, the evaluation methodology may be administered in April, May, or June before the qualifying school year.

As more details are solidified, the Office of Public Instruction will continue to create guidance documents and resources for professional learning and best practices.

Helpful Resources:

- [Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Initial Guidance Document](#)
- [District Implementation Interest Survey](#)
- [Approved Evaluation Methodology Screening Tools](#)
- [Board of Public Education - Early Literacy Advisory Council Homepage](#)
- [Early Learning Content Standards](#)
 - Currently in revision through BPE Early Literacy Advisory Council
- [Frequently Asked Questions - FAQ](#)

<https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Literacy/Early-Literacy-Resources>

Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs



ELIGIBLE STUDENT GROUP	CLASSROOM-BASED PROGRAM	JUMPSTART PROGRAM *	HOME-BASED PROGRAM
4 YEAR OLD STUDENTS	✓		✓
STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN		✓	✓
STUDENTS ENTERING 1ST GRADE		✓	✓
STUDENTS ENTERING 2ND GRADE		✓	✓
STUDENTS ENTERING 3RD GRADE		✓	✓

*Jumpstart program is for students who are 5 years of age or older on or before September 10, and have not yet completed 3rd grade.

Funding

Jumpstart Program:

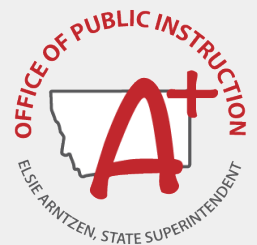
- additional .25 ANB
the following year

Classroom Program:

- ANB
- Full or part-time

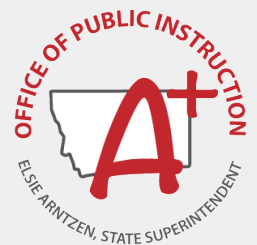
Home-Based Program:

- \$ 1,500,000.00 to the OPI for a vendor
- Costs no more than \$ 1,000.00 per student
- First come, first served basis



Screening

- By parent request
- Screening happens to determine eligibility in April, May, June
- Districts use a Screeners for eligibility are approved by the BPE or must:
 - be developmentally appropriate,
 - research-based,
 - cost-effective, and
 - if possible, aligned with formative assessments that inform instruction in the classroom-based program and the jumpstart program.





Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Evaluation Methodology – Screened Skills

Skill Area	4 Year Old	Kinder	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade
Oral Language	X	X			
Phonological Awareness	X	X			
Alphabet Knowledge	X	X			
Phoneme Awareness (PA)			X		
Listening Comprehension (LC)			X	X	
Developmental Spelling (DS)			X	X	X
Vocabulary Expressive or Receptive			X	X	X
Word Reading (WR) Nonsense or Real			X	X	X
Connected Text Reading Fluency (RF)				X	X
Connect Text Reading Accuracy (RA)				X	X
Reading Comprehension (RC)					X
Reading Composite Score (RCS)			X	X	X



In Progress

● Data Collection

- Format, Timing, and Communication
- Screening Data, Formative Assessments, Longitudinal data

● Guidance Documents

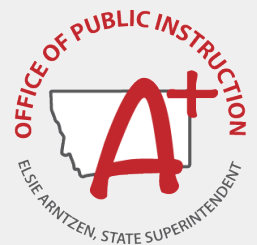
- Continual review of FAQ and providing clarity
- Best Practices for Classroom and Jumpstart Programs instruction

● RFP for Home-Based Learning Program

- With SPB

● Continued Communication

- Establish Office Hours
- Wednesdays 8:00-8:30 and 3:30-4:00



In Progress

Draft Rule – Evaluation Methodology

- ❖ Evaluation methodology: adopted by the local board of trustees to identify, enroll, and admit children; must be overseen by and include application of professional judgment of qualified employees; a child may not be evaluated unless requested by the child's parent or guardian; and may be administered in April, May, or June.
- ❖ Identified skills for certain grade levels: oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet awareness, phoneme awareness, listening comprehension, developmental spelling, vocabulary, word reading, connected text reading fluency, connect text accuracy, reading comprehension, reading composite.
- ❖ List of approved screening tools: made publicly available by Board of Public Education, yet allows school districts to choose their own and justify that the tools are developmentally appropriate, research based, cost effective, and (if possible) aligned to formative assessments, as required in the legislation.
- ❖ Definition: "evaluation methodology" means an age-appropriate research-based methodology, instrument, or assessment selected by the board of public education to determine, based on a child's age or grade level, whether the child is above, at, or below a developmental trajectory leading to reading proficiency on completion of 3rd grade.

In Progress

Draft Rule – Jumpstart Program Framework

- ❖ Jumpstart program: offered by the local board of trustees to support early literacy targeted intervention based on evaluation methodology and aligned to the Montana Early Childhood Education Standards (Chapter 63) and the Montana Content Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy (Chapter 53).
- ❖ Personnel: overseen by and include application of professional judgment of qualified employees and must be designed in a manner to increase the likelihood of a child being evaluated at the end of the ensuing school year to be at or above a trajectory leading to reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade.
- ❖ Definition: "jumpstart program" means a program that is at least 4 weeks in duration and provides at least 120 instructional hours and takes place during the time between the end of one school calendar year and the start of the next school calendar year, as determined by the trustees, preceding a child's entry into Kindergarten, First grade, Second grade, or Third grade.

Draft Rule – Early Childhood Education Standards **In Progress**

- ❖ **Application:** the early childhood education standards are for a child between the ages of 3 and 5 for preschool programs and between the ages of 4 and 5 for early literacy targeted interventions implemented through the classroom-based program for four-year-olds and summer jumpstart program preceding kindergarten.
- ❖ **Personnel:** teachers with an early childhood (P-3) endorsement are required for public preschool programs, while teachers with an early childhood (P-3) endorsement or elementary (K-8) endorsement are required for early literacy targeted intervention classroom-based programs. Teachers with an elementary (K-8) endorsement are encouraged to pursue professional development to support early childhood instruction.
- ❖ **Developmental Domains and Content Standards:** makes clear that public preschool programs and early literacy targeted intervention classroom-based programs and summer jumpstart programs preceding kindergarten adhere to all developmental domains and that public preschool programs must adhere to all content standards, while early literacy targeted intervention classroom-based programs and summer jumpstart programs preceding kindergarten must only adhere to the English Language Arts and Literacy content standards.
- ❖ **Renaming:** The rules will be located in subchapter 1, which will be renamed Early Childhood Education Standards.

Questions?

Thank you!