



# Implementing the 2019-2020 K-12 Reading Plans and Overview of Proposed Rule Changes

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# Reading Scholarship Accounts

## Section 1002.411, F.S. – Reading Scholarship Accounts

- Reading scholarship accounts are established to provide educational options for students.
- Contingent upon available funds, each student in grades 3 through 5 who is enrolled in a Florida public school is eligible for a reading scholarship account if the student scored below a Level 3 on the grade 3 or 4 statewide, standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year.
- Reading Scholarships valued at \$500 each, are available to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis, to pay for tuition and fees related to part-time tutoring, summer and/or after-school literacy programs, instructional materials and curriculum related to reading or literacy.

## Qualifying for a Reading Scholarship Account

- By September 30, 2019, the school district shall notify the parent of each student in grades 3 through 5 who scored below a level 3 on the statewide, standardized ELA assessment in the prior school year of the process to request and receive a reading scholarship, subject to available funds.
- For an eligible student to receive a reading scholarship account, the student's parent must:
  - Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization (**SFO**) by the deadline established by such organization;
  - Submit eligible expenses to the SFO for reimbursement of qualifying expenditures.

## Expenses Eligible for Reimbursement

- Tuition & fees for part-time tutoring provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's certificate, a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject, an adjunct teaching certificate, or has a demonstrated mastery of the subject area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5), Florida Statutes;
- Fees for summer and/or after-school education programs designed to improve reading or literacy skills;
- Instructional materials & curriculum related to reading or literacy.

## Scholarship Funding Organization Initiative: *Step Up For Students*

- As of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Step Up For Students (**SUFS**) is the only state-approved SFO available to distribute reading scholarships to parents of eligible students who have submitted an online application.
- Many families cannot afford to spend \$500 and wait to receive reimbursement on a quarterly basis.
- Districts that provide tutoring, and/or after-school or summer reading programs have the opportunity to partner with Step Up For Students to receive payment for eligible students directly from the scholarship funding organization.

## Establishing a Partnership with SUFS

1. **Direct** eligible students to SUFS' [Reading Scholarship Accounts](#) page to complete a scholarship application;
2. **Obtain** and **complete** the [District Partnership Agreement](#) and a current [W-9](#).
3. **Advertise** the district and/or applicable school(s) summer and/or after-school reading programs to eligible students.
4. **Submit** the completed District Partnership Agreement, W-9 and a copy of the published description of the summer and/or after-school reading programs to Step Up For Students.
5. **Register** eligible students in a summer and/or after-school reading program. When registering eligible students:
  - **Request** a copy of each students' conditional eligibility letter or funding confirmation letter provided to the family by Step Up For Students.
  - **Have each parent complete** the District Payment Approval form granting permission for Step Up For Students to use the funds from the student's Reading Scholarship Account to pay the district directly for the services rendered.
  - **Inform** the parent that lack of approval will result in the district seeking payment directly from the parent.

## Ideas for Implementation

- Invite families of eligible students to an after school event (such as “Title I Reading Night” or “Scholarships & Snacks Sit-Down”) hosted in an on-campus computer lab where they can receive an overview of the Step Up For Students Initiative, as well as a demonstration and/or walk-through of the application process.
- Provide families of eligible students with a detailed description of district sponsored after-school or summer literacy program(s) & initiative offerings designed to improve reading and literacy skills.
- Prepare for and present a handout or host an informational table at Open House and/or Quarterly Conference Nights.
- Provide eligible families with printed newsletters and/or transmit relevant information via digital communication tools (school website posting; e-mail or academic messaging system, etc.)

## Contact Step Up For Students

For additional information relative to Reading Scholarship Accounts or if you have questions about partnering with Step Up For Students for the 2019-2020 school year, please utilize the following contact information:

### Step Up For Students, Reading Scholarship Accounts

**Phone:** 1-877-735-7837

**E-mail:** [readingprovider@sufs.org](mailto:readingprovider@sufs.org)

**Website:** <https://www.stepupforstudents.org>



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# Implementing the 2019-2020 District K-12 Reading Plan

## 2019-2020 District K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plans

### Section 1011.62(9)(d)1., Florida Statutes (F.S):

- School districts shall submit a K-12 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by the department for review and approval by the Just Read, Florida! Office
- School districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading intervention through innovative methods
- The plan format shall be developed with input from school district personnel, including teachers and principals, and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading

## 2019-2020 District K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plans

### Section 1011.62(9)(d)1., F.S.:

- The department shall monitor and track the implementation of each district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results
- The department may withhold funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation funds are not being used to implement the approved plan

Plans are available at:

<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/1920-readingplan.shtml>

## 2019-2020 District K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plans

### 6A-6.053(7)(e)1., F.A.C.

- Districts are required to report student enrollment in reading intervention via the Reading Intervention Component Data Element in the Student Information System.
- The Survey 2 correction window is open and district reading contacts have been notified of irregularities in their data to be corrected by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- For context, 350,000 students received a Level 1 on the 2019 FSA-ELA in grades 3-10 statewide.
- Districts are currently only reporting ~230,000 students receiving intensive reading interventions K-12



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# Proposed Rules Impacting Reading Instruction

## 6A-4.0163 Reading Endorsement Competencies

### Proposed amendments:

- Maintain the current Reading Endorsement Competencies
- Require districts and teacher preparation programs to resubmit their reading endorsement plan with an emphasis on dyslexia
- Explicitly states a teacher will not be required redo an already completed competency under the new add-on plan

## 6A-4.0051 Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate

### Proposed amendments:

- Identify the coverage areas which need the 40 hours for renewal as required by s. 1012.585 F.S.
- Allow coursework to count toward both the 20 hour ESE and 40 hour Reading requirement if the coursework meets both requirements
- Allow coursework from a previous renewal period to be used for the renewal if it meets the requirements

## 6A-4.0292 Specialization Requirements for the Reading Endorsement - Academic Class

### Proposed amendments:

- As required by section 1012.568 F.S. the department will now consider certain additional certificates for the award of a Reading Endorsement.
- The department will now consider a passing score on the Reading SAE as sufficient to earn the Reading Endorsement

## 6A-6.053 K-12 Comprehensive Research-Based Reading Plan

### Proposed amendments:

- The rule now provides guidelines on how to identify students with substantial deficiencies in reading.
- The allocation is now prioritized to support students in grades K-3 with substantial reading deficiencies
- The rule is now aligned to recent statute changes for Charter Schools which grant charters a proportionate share of the allocation.
- Districts may now choose between Reading Coach models.
- Districts specify how students are identified to receive intensive reading intervention, and how those intensive reading interventions will be provided.