

Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act

The LEARN Act will support comprehensive State and local literacy initiatives to ensure that children from birth through 12th grade have the reading and writing skills necessary for success in school and beyond. Specifically, the bill will:

I. Provide federal support for literacy initiatives by:

- Authorizing \$2.35 billion each year for comprehensive, high-quality State and local literacy initiatives that span birth through 12th grade;
- Enabling States to design a comprehensive literacy plan and make subgrants to early learning providers and school districts to develop and implement high-quality literacy initiatives that will improve the reading and writing skills of all children and students;
- Designating that funds must be allocated as follows:
 - 15% for children birth through kindergarten entry
 - 40% for kindergarten through grade 5
 - 40% for grades 6 through 12;
- Targeting funding to high-need student populations and schools;
- Requiring a rigorous national evaluation of the programs; and
- Including stringent conflict of interest restrictions for the programs' peer review process.

II. Enhance each State's role in improving literacy instruction by:

- Supporting the formation of a State Literacy Leadership Team made up of literacy experts and key stakeholders to assist in the development of a comprehensive State literacy plan that includes a needs assessment, a capacity survey, and an implementation plan to ensure high-quality instruction in reading and writing;
- Requiring States to provide technical assistance to early learning providers and local educational agencies on implementing high-quality professional development programs for literacy instruction; and
- Requiring each State to review pre-service coursework as well as State licensure and certification requirements and make recommendations to improve training in high-quality literacy instruction.

III. Support the creation of local high-quality literacy initiatives by:

- Providing high-quality professional development for instructional staff that is job-embedded, ongoing, and research-based, and supporting teachers in analyzing assessment data to improve student learning;
- Providing children and students with high-quality early literacy instruction and reading and writing instruction;
- Utilizing assessment systems to inform and improve instruction and student learning at all age and grade levels; and
- Supporting school-wide literacy initiatives and additional literacy supports to address the specific learning needs of English language learners, students with disabilities, and struggling readers and writers.