

Educator Proficiency in the Science of Reading





Right to Read ACT § 6-17-429

- 4.01 By the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year:
 - 4.01.1 All teachers employed in any of the following teaching positions shall **demonstrate proficiency** in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction.
 - 4.01.1.1 Elementary school teachers in grades (K-6) teaching math, science, social studies, or English language arts;
 - 4.01.1.2 K-12 special education teachers;
 - 4.01.1.3 Teachers of English Language Learners in grades (K-6); and
 - 4.01.1.4 Reading Specialists



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- 4.01.2 A teacher described in 4.01.1 who has not demonstrated proficiency by the 2023-2024 school year may be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency by being placed in **intensive support status** for a period of time specified by the teacher's evaluator in the professional growth plan for the teacher.
- 4.01.3 All other educators shall demonstrate awareness in knowledge of practices of scientific reading instruction.

[Course codes for proficiency](#)



How can a teacher demonstrate proficiency?

Two Phases are required ([Prescribed Pathway Credentials](#))

- Phase 1 = professional development
- Phase 2 = demonstration

For Phase 2, there are two primary ways to demonstrate proficiency:

- Pass the Pearson Foundations of Reading Test (*older version 090 - 227 passing score; newer version 190-233 passing score*)
- Observation and coaching by a certified assessor across the course of the year with documented evidence to support proficiency
 - [K-2 Smart Card](#)
 - [3-6 Smart Card](#)
 - [Card for Teachers with Students with Extensive Support Needs](#)



What if a teacher has yet to become proficient?

- Reasons a teacher may not demonstrate proficiency by the October 2023 deadline:
 - Moved from another state (reciprocity)
 - Graduate of a teacher program outside of Arkansas
 - Returning to teaching and was not trained in the science of reading before leaving
 - In an alternate route program working on licensure
 - Moved from a grade that needed awareness to a grade or area that requires proficiency
 - Insufficient evidence of proficiency as noted by a certified assessor



What course of action can you take?

If a teacher who is required to be proficient in the science of reading by October of 2023, but has not yet been able to demonstrate such proficiency, what action can be taken?

- Create an intensive support plan with steps and a timeline
 - Use SoR template for K-6 core or K-12 SPED
 - Should connect to the teacher's professional growth plan
 - Recognize that an intensive support plan makes educators ineligible for bonus pay for that year under Learns Act Section 36



What course of action can you take?

- Create a proficiency plan
- Move educator to a teaching position that does not require proficiency
- Non-renewal of contract

4.01.2 A teacher described in Section 4.01.1 who has not demonstrated proficiency by the 2023-2024 school year may be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency by being placed in intensive support status for a period of time specified by the teacher's evaluator in the professional growth plan for the teacher.



Who can act as an assessor?

To be an assessor, one must be a licensed educator who, in the normal scope of his or her duties, is tasked with observing teachers and required to conduct evaluations of personnel.

Required Training to become a certified assessor:

1. Complete phase 1 of a proficiency pathway
2. Complete assessor training (face-to-face for two days or face-to-face for one day with additional work in a learning management system)

eFinance Coding





Important Deadline

All educators must be coded as proficient or aware by Cycle 2 of 2023-2024 school year.

Cycle 2 opens October 1st
and closes October 15th.



Awareness is always coded **SR01**. All administrators and other educators who do not require proficiency should be coded with SR01 after completing the requirements.



The following codes should be selected based on the pathway by which a teacher reached phase 2 for **proficiency**:

- **SR02** - Passing the Pearson Foundations of Reading Test OR identified as proficient in AELS
- **SR03** - Certified assessor observes and coaches, collecting sufficient evidence to deem proficient
- **SR04** - Graduates of an approved Arkansas Teacher Prep Program after 2021
- **SR05** - Allows for meeting proficiency after 2023 deadline and requires an intensive support plan
- **SR06** - RISE Trainers, CALT or CALP certification, Apple Group Dyslexia Therapist Course completers
- **SR07** - Special Circumstances (Reciprocity and Alt Route Programs) - allows for meeting proficiency after 2023 deadline and requires a proficiency plan

What if we hire new staff?

- Many educators will have already been coded by a previous district.
- If so, they will need to be coded again in your district's eFinance.

Applicant Information			
First Name:	SANDRA	Middle Name:	KAY
Last Name:	SHEPARD	Maiden Name:	POWELL
Application Date:	9/11/2020		
Ethics Violation viewable under A.C.A. § 6-17-428: None			
Educator Licensure			Status: Approved
Issue Date:	10/5/2020	License Effective Date:	1/1/2021
		License Expiration Date:	12/31/2025
		Status Effective Date:	Status Expiration Date:
Science of Reading			
Awareness: Yes	Proficiency: Yes		

- An educator's proficiency or awareness status is viewable in AELS.
- If they have already been identified as proficient in AELS, use **SR02**.
If they are identified as aware, use **SR01**.



Data Transfer to AELS

- Science of Reading awareness and proficiency codes will be loaded annually into AELS after Cycle 2 and Cycle 6.
- Data entered into eFinancePLUS after Cycle 6 of the previous year, will not be available in AELS until after Cycle 2 the following year.



Coding Assessors

- Educators who did not receive an assessor certificate from Sandy Shepard, you will not be in the system and when you attempt to mark someone as proficient, you will receive an error.
- When you mark someone as proficient using **SR03**, the system will ask for your Assessor ID. This is your 10 digit state ID number or Triand number.