

# Colorado READ Act



**The Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act)**, passed by the Colorado legislature in 2012, focuses on early literacy development for all students and especially for students at risk to not read at grade level by the end of the third grade. The READ Act focuses on literacy development for kindergarteners through third-graders. Students are tested for reading skills, and those who are not reading at grade level are given individual READ plans.



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

In 2019, the legislature strengthened the READ Act, adding new emphasis on the importance of instruction that is scientifically proven to be effective in teaching all students to read at grade level.

**For successful implementation of the READ Act, it is important to understand and consider the following about early literacy:**

## ELEMENTAL BUILDING BLOCKS

Reading is an elemental building block to receive a quality education, and every child should read at grade level by the end of third grade.

## EARLY INTERVENTION IS KEY

The Colorado READ Act is a legislative priority that focuses on early literacy development for all students, especially for students at risk for not reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Specific funding is allocated to help students who are struggling the most.

## TEACHER KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE ARE CRITICAL

Teacher knowledge and practice are critical. Educators must have a deep understanding of the science of reading to help every child become a lifelong reader. In 2019, the legislature amended the READ Act to require all K-3 teachers to receive training in evidence-based reading instruction.

## IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

It takes collaborative partnerships between schools, educators, communities and families to improve literacy for all students.



**FOOD**



**WATER**



**SHELTER**



**LOVE**



**READING**

The 2019 changes to the READ Act required the Department of Education to launch a public information campaign on the importance reading. The “Food. Water. Shelter. Love. Reading.” campaign is based on the notion that reading is as fundamental to thrive as food, water, shelter and love. The [ReadWithMe.Today](http://ReadWithMe.Today) website provides tips and resources to help parents and guardians support their children’s reading development at home. Library staff can help families support children’s reading at home by promoting the website. Contact [cde\\_communications\\_office@cde.state.co.us](mailto:cde_communications_office@cde.state.co.us) for more information about the campaign or to request promotional materials.

**ReadWithMe.Today**

# WHAT LIBRARY STAFF CAN DO

The READ Act focuses on literacy development, which public libraries have been doing for years by providing free access to books and other materials and programming to model early literacy interaction for adults. Students' reading skills are tested in school, and the information is shared with their adults. Those who are not reading at grade level are given individual READ plans with an emphasis on the importance of instruction that is scientifically proven to be effective in teaching all students to read at grade level. Public libraries can provide materials and information to the adults in a child's life to help them succeed. For successful support of the READ Act by Colorado public libraries, it is important to understand and consider the following about early literacy:



## IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Collaborative partnerships between schools, educators, communities and families are necessary to improve literacy for all students. The public library is an element within the community that has resources and staff to provide adults and their children with materials and resources to excel at reading.

## EARLY LITERACY IS KEY

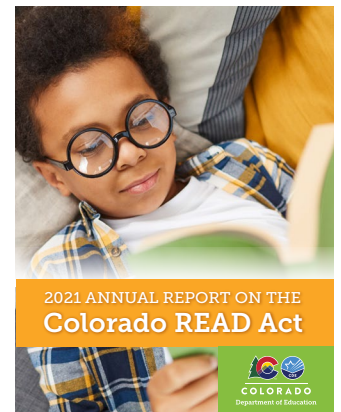
Libraries have long advocated for early literacy as an elemental building block to lifelong learning and growth. The Colorado READ Act is a legislative priority that focuses on early literacy development for all children, especially those in families with low wealth and in households where English is not the primary language. Target those in your community who may fit this profile with early literacy and outreach services.

## KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IS CRITICAL

Educators are trained to have a deep understanding of the science of reading to help every child become a lifelong reader. Youth services staff must recognize their role in modeling early literacy behaviors for the adults in the life of a child, providing materials, modeling, and resources to support continued intellectual and cognitive development, and continue to learn our roles as a foundational support to lifelong learning.

## INSTILLING THE VALUE OF READING

Providing free access to a wide variety of diverse books and reading formats, encouraging reading choice, fostering family and caregiver reading involvement, and making reading fun will contribute greatly to emerging readers' success, and instill the critical value of reading.



Please see the annual READ Act Legislative Report for data and funding information.

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- To learn more visit the [Colorado READ Act website](#)
- Learn more about the [Colorado READ Act Assessments](#)
- [2019 Updates to the READ Act](#)
- View all [CDE fact sheets](#)



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