

In December 2020, the department launched **Reading 360**, *Tennessee's comprehensive literacy initiative*, to provide optional grants, tools, and resources to ensure more Tennessee students develop strong reading skills by supporting districts, teachers, families, and communities.

In March 2022, the department announced 99 districts have been recognized as Reading 360 Districts for their commitment to teacher training, leader support networks, and focused work on early literacy.



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 Through optional grants to districts, students and families will have access to *tutoring and online supports* to help develop systematic foundational literacy skills.

TN Departer

- Tennessee educators will have access to *free training and professional development, phonics kits and materials* to use in their classrooms, and stipends for training.
- Districts will have access to a *suite of tools and resources to support their teachers and schools in implementing strong reading instruction* for all students.

When our students succeed our entire state prospers, and we know that reading on grade level is foundational to the success of every student, both in and out of the classroom. Reading 360 will give critical supports to districts and educators so we can address this challenge urgently and put Tennessee's students on the right track to grow and thrive.

- TENNESSEE GOVERNOR BILL LEE



## **Early Literacy Networks**

Participating districts received a two-year, \$80,000 grant to coach Pre-K-2 educators and participate in learning communities, encompassing 241 district leaders and 99 districts.

## **Literacy Implementation Networks**

Through a competitive grant process, 48 districts were selected to participate in a five-year focused study to improve K-12 literacy instruction that began during fall 2021. The districts are organized into eight regional networks with a mentor district leading the focus of each region. Each network meets monthly for six months and is developing strong theories of action to focus on K-12 literacy practices.

## Early Reading Training and Secondary Literacy Training

**Early Reading Training:** During the summer months of 2021, the two-part Early Reading Training was initially administered across the state, with over 12,000 educators participating representing 67% of Tennessee school districts. The training featured a series of courses designed to improve reading. 97% of participants indicated they intended to implement their new learning when they returned to the classrooms.

Additionally, during the summer months of 2022, the two-part Early Reading Training was administered statewide, with an additional 5,571 educators participating representing 85% of Tennessee school districts. The training featured a series of courses designed to improve reading. 98% of participants indicated they intended to implement their new learning when they returned to the classrooms.

Bedtime Tales

shots

Fables

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The Job Hunt

Nearly

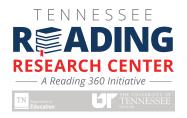
Tennessee K-2

families have

ordered Decodables,

Book Sets‼

**Secondary Literacy Training:** During the summer of 2022, the Secondary Literacy Training Course launched with over 3,000 teachers completing week one of the course and over 2,000 completing the second week of the course in its first year. 98% of educators said they plan to implement what they have learned in their classroom in the fall.



## **Tennessee Reading Research Center**

In partnership with the University of Tennessee System, the department established the Tennessee Reading Research Center, a Reading 360 initiative, to evaluate and independently analyze how the state's over \$100 million investment of optional literacy supports and grants are improving student literacy rates, increasing the use of soundsfirst instruction in Pre-K-3 classrooms, increasing the use of high-quality instructional materials, and preparing future educators for literacy instruction. Additionally, the center will analyze the implementation of the Tennessee Literacy Success Act.



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