

LITERACY EDUCATION FOR ALL, RESULTS FOR THE NATION (LEARN) ACT

Research demonstrates that a high-quality, literacy-rich environment is an important prerequisite for academic success—this is especially true in early childhood when children are developing the foundation upon which future learning is built.

Research also shows that low-income children are less likely to have access to high quality, literacy rich environments. These same children perform 40% lower on assessments of literacy achievement even before they start kindergarten.

These challenges become greater as children enter and progress through elementary and high school. More than 5 million high school students do not read well enough to understand their grade level material. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 26% of these students cannot read essential materials such as such as road signs, newspapers, and bus schedules. To be successful in today's 21st Century global economy, students must develop oral language, reading, and writing abilities.

The Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act will ensure that all students receive high quality literacy instruction beginning in early childhood and continuing through high school graduation.

The LEARN Act responds to the clear need for literacy instruction and high quality support for students at all age, development and grade levels. This legislation provides for a strong federal investment in high quality literacy instruction that will help states improve programs to strengthen the literacy skills of all students.

Specifically LEARN supports high literacy for all students from birth through high school by:

- Providing Federal support to States to develop, revise, or update comprehensive literacy instruction plans that when implemented, ensure high-quality instruction and effective strategies in reading and writing from early education through grade 12
- States provide subgrants to early childhood education programs and school districts and their public or private partners to implement evidence based programs to ensure high quality comprehensive literacy instruction for students most in need.
- Comprehensive literacy programs include explicit, systematic and intentional instruction in phonological awareness, phonic decoding, vocabulary, language structure, reading fluency, and reading comprehension.
- Providing high-quality, research-based professional development opportunities for instructional staff and financial support for literacy coaches.