



Nebraska READS will provide tools and resources to support high-quality literacy instruction for all Nebraska students. The initiative highlights policies, procedures, and practices that guide the selection and implementation of literacy practices and evidence-based interventions, and assists districts as they build family, community, and school partnerships to help students become successful readers, setting them up to learn, graduate, and succeed.

Area of Focus	Progress
Assessment Approval and Threshold Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Request for Information was released in July 2018 to identify available reading assessments.</li> <li>• Submissions were reviewed by a panel of educators. Notice of approved assessments was sent to vendors in January 2019.</li> <li>• Approved assessment vendors were asked to determine and submit the threshold levels for grades K-3 for which a reading deficiency would be identified for each approved assessment.</li> <li>• The list of approved assessments and threshold levels will be released on or before March 1, 2019.</li> </ul>
Evidence-Based Strategies for Literacy Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A team of Nebraska educators are revising Nebraska's Literacy Plan. Will include information, resources, and tools to support high-quality PK-12 literacy instruction.</li> <li>• In partnership with REL Central, developing a resource inventory of evidence-based interventions and strategies based on the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Practice Guides (example included).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Thirty-five (35) strategy guides that have strong, moderate, or minimal levels of evidence of effectiveness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Internal team developing guidance on Individualized Reading Plans.</li> </ul>
Communication Tools and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed a Nebraska READS brochure and FAQ (attached)</li> <li>• Receiving communications support from ExcelinEd to create messaging around the importance of early literacy and reading. Includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Animated video in English and Spanish.</li> <li>◦ Social media playbook providing four months of content, including messaging and graphics.</li> <li>◦ Printed materials to message the policy effectively for educators and teachers to parents in both English and Spanish.</li> <li>◦ Development of general policy talking points for all audiences from educators to parents to the community in both English and Spanish.</li> <li>◦ Development of Op-eds and blog posts in both English and Spanish.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
NDE Reading Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring a Reading Specialist, with an emphasis reading and early (PK-3) literacy.</li> </ul>