

# Pennsylvania Department of Education Reading Leadership Council Professional Development Meeting #2

Meeting Notes

May 1, 2025

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# Professional Development Committee Meeting #2

## Meeting Date and Time

The Professional Development Committee met on May 1, 2025, from 12:30–2:30 p.m.

## Attendees

- Kate Bacher, Structured Literacy Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Jennifer Wicht, English Language Arts Education Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Council members, liaisons, and invited guests
- WestEd staff
  - Julie Colton—Operations Coordinator
  - Amaal Awadalla—Program Manager, Literacy
  - Amanda Nabors—Research Associate, Literacy
  - Robin Sayers—Research Associate, Literacy

## Welcome, Purpose Setting, Sunshine Act

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and WestEd facilitated a meeting of the Professional Development Committee of the Reading Leadership Council to discuss implementation of **Act 135: Structured Literacy – Literacy Achievement for All Pennsylvanians**. The Act aims to expand access to Structured Literacy and improve literacy outcomes statewide. WestEd provided an overview of the Professional Development Committee's role in advising PDE on professional development training programs. Liaisons, guests, and members of the public were also welcomed.

The meeting addressed Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act, highlighting that public attendees are observers and that public comment periods are not intended for discussion with the Council or PDE representatives.

## **Public Comment**

No members of the public provided comment.

## **Review of Input from Committee Meeting #1**

A WestEd facilitator provided an overview of the input provided by committee members during the first committee meeting. The feedback was organized into four categories: 1) Positive: Keep; 2) Improve: Actionable by June 1st; 3) Improve: Action Possible in the Future; and 4) Improve: Beyond Current Project Scope. Committee members then reviewed the updated list and guidance document, which both reflected changes to incorporate feedback from the committees.

## **Input on Revisions, the Agenda of the May 14th Full Council Meeting, and Future Work of the Council**

Committee members provided input on the updated Phase I list and guidance document for the professional development training programs, as well as the next steps for the Council.

The WestEd facilitator invited committee members to spend 5 minutes reviewing the revised list layout and revisiting the spreadsheet version of the list. Committee members responded to the following questions:

- When considering the two lists, what are the benefits and tradeoffs of each?
- Which features of each are particularly helpful?
- What improvements would be helpful?

Committee members repeated the process for the revised guidance document, responding to the following questions:

- What parts of the guidance document stood out to you as being particularly useful?
- How could the guidance document be improved?

Committee members then provided input on broadening the professional development focus in Phase 2, responding to the following questions:

- What other categories or types of professional development might we want to consider?

- Are there types of professional development that may be more beneficial for individual teachers?
- Are there types of professional development that may be more beneficial for an LEA to implement?
- What are the most important items to consider in terms of the professional development focus moving forward?

Committee members then provided input on the agenda for the May 14th full Council meeting, responding to the following questions:

- What revisions, if any, would you propose for the meeting?
- What else would be helpful to include in this meeting?

As the final component of input solicitation, committee members responded to the following questions about the future work of the Council:

- What does success look like for the Council, both in the short and long term?
- How can we ensure the Council's work impacts learners across Pennsylvania?
- How might the Council include voices from various communities and interest holders in its work?
- Is there anything else you want to share that PDE should be aware of or consider related to publishing the initial lists on June 1st?

## Next Steps and Closure

Before closing, WestEd invited final questions and outlined the next steps for the Council. Each committee will meet twice before the next full Council meeting on May 14, at which time members will share updates on their work.

The facilitator shared that Phase 2 meetings are scheduled for:

- August 7, 2025, 12:00–2:30 p.m.
- October 9, 2025, 12:00–2:30 p.m.
- December 11, 2025, 12:00–2:30 p.m.