

Pennsylvania Department of Education Reading Leadership Council Meeting #2

Meeting Notes

May 14, 2025

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Reading Leadership Council Meeting #2

Meeting Date and Time

The Reading Leadership Council met on May 14, 2025, from 12:00–2:30 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
 - Amaal Awadalla—Program Manager, Literacy
 - Julie Colton—Operations Coordinator
 - Katie Grogan—Senior Research Associate, Literacy
 - Liz Jameyson—Program Manager, Literacy
 - Amanda Nabors—Research Associate, Literacy
 - Robin Sayers—Research Associate, Literacy
 - Elizabeth Zagata—Program Manager, Special Education

Welcome, Purpose Setting, and the Sunshine Act

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and WestEd facilitated a meeting 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

Reading Leadership Council committees, which each met twice to advise PDE on the development of lists and guidance documents related to:

- Professional development training programs
- Reading universal screeners
- Reading instruction curriculum materials
- Literacy intervention materials and approaches

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 Committee Meeting Input Process

A WestEd facilitator provided a concise overview of the input collected from Committee members across all committees and detailed how it was systematically organized to inform revisions. The council was informed that, following the initial committee meeting, WestEd incorporated input across committees and categorized the input into four distinct areas: 1) Positive: Keep; 2) Improve: Actionable by June 1st; 3) Improve: Action Possible in the Future; and 4) Improve: Beyond Current Project Scope. Additional input on the lists and guidance documents compiled from the second committee meetings was reviewed with the council members.

Review of Lists and Guidance Documents

A WestEd facilitator presented an overview of current versions of the lists and guidance documents, informed by committee input. Council members were given the opportunity to review these materials from the perspective of a Local Education Agency (LEA) accessing them on or after June 1.

Council members were then asked to provide feedback, guided by the following questions:

- What are your first impressions of each document's clarity and organization?
- Do you have any immediate questions or concerns as an LEA reviewing these documents?

Providing Input on Capturing Feedback from LEAs

A WestEd facilitator shared feedback on Phase II of the work of the Reading Leadership Council collected during committee meetings. Council members were then invited to provide input on strategies for gathering feedback from the field, guided by the following questions:

- How can we gather feedback from LEAs on how the lists and guidance documents have supported their programming, processes, and purchasing decisions to meet students' literacy needs?
- What types of feedback do you think Local Education Agencies (LEAs) would prioritize sharing around the lists and guidance documents?

Next Steps and Closure

In closing, a WestEd facilitator reminded the council that the initial lists will be published on the PDE Act 135 site by June 1, 2025. WestEd and PDE expressed gratitude to council members for their contributions throughout Phase 1 of the process and shared that the tentative focus for Phase 2 will be on Pre-K and grades 4–8. Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **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.