

Pennsylvania Department of Education Reading Leadership Council Reading Universal Screeners Committee Meeting #2

Meeting Notes

May 6, 2025

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Reading Universal Screeners Committee Meeting #2

Meeting Date and Time

The Intervention Committee met on May 6, 2025, from 12:00–2:00 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
 - Liz Jameyson—Program Manager, Literacy
 - Amanda Nabors—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 Universal Screeners 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 Reading Universal Screeners Committee’s role in advising PDE on universal reading screeners. 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 intervention and supplementary materials, as well as the next steps for the Council meeting.

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?

This process was then repeated 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 the agenda for the May 14th full Council meeting, responding to the following questions:

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

As the final component of input solicitation, Committee members were invited to respond 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 that 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. The next full Council meeting is on May 14th, at which time members will hear updates on the work of each committee.

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.