



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 29, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors, Instructional Coaches, Teachers
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning

Additional Suite of Literacy Resources: High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) Guidance, Professional Learning, and Data Collection to Support Early Literacy

In alignment with [P.L. 2024, c.52](#), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is announcing the following to support high-quality literacy instruction for the 2025–2026 school year:

- Part two of *The New Jersey Literacy Framework: A Guide to High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)*;
- The Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery (LEAR)'s LEARning About Literacy Professional Learning Community Sessions facilitating in-person, synchronous professional learning on evidence-based literacy practices;
- The forthcoming release of the NJDOE's own Learning Management System; and
- The Department's universal literacy screener data collection schedule.

These items represent a coordinated suite of resources to facilitate the implementation of P.L.2024, c.52 by starting with universal literacy screening requirements, and building a shared foundation of evidence-based literacy practices and promoting system-wide improvements. The goal is to ensure that literacy screening data can meaningfully guide instruction and improve outcomes for all students.

Guidance for High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)

Part two of [The New Jersey Literacy Framework: A Guide to High-Quality Instructional Materials](#) is now available. This new guidance builds on the previously released *Guide to Evidence-Based Literacy Practices & Universal Screeners* and reinforces the NJDOE's commitment to ensuring all students have access to rigorous, research-aligned instruction. The framework outlines the role of HQIM in Tier 1 (core) instruction and provides guidance to help districts evaluate, adopt, and implement high-quality materials that align with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) and evidence-based literacy practices.

To support implementation of this guidance, the NJDOE has made available four grant opportunities supported by the federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant. Additional information on those grant opportunities may be found in the NJDOE's July 29, 2025 special [broadcast, Comprehensive State Literacy Development \(CLSD\) Grant Applications Now Available to Districts](#).

2025-2026 School Year Evidenced-based Literacy Professional Development Requirements

P.L.2024, c.52 requires all LEAs to provide professional development on best practices in literacy instruction to educators and administrators serving preschool through grade six. This includes classroom teachers, library media specialists, reading and early literacy specialists, speech-language specialists, and educators who support multilingual learners and students with disabilities. To support implementation, the NJDOE has created the [LEARning about Literacy Series](#), which consists of eight 40-minute sessions. Each session includes scripted facilitator notes, discussion prompts, video demonstrations, and opportunities for classroom application. These sessions are designed to support collaboration among staff and help with planning at the local level. Although LEAs are not required to use the NJDOE's free professional development resources, the *LEARning about Literacy Series* meets the statutory obligation and satisfies the two-hour dyslexia training professional development requirement. The first year of training will be intensive, with foundational content delivered in-district. Annual refresher training will follow. It is the responsibility of the LEA to retain records of staff participation in training.

Department Learning Management System (LMS)

In the coming weeks, the NJDOE will introduce a new learning management system that will allow the department to administer, document, track, and report on educational courses, training programs, and learning and development initiatives for educators. This centralized system will support districts and teachers around New Jersey by streamlining access to and implementation of professional development and supporting more effective planning and reporting. In addition to the *LEARning about Literacy Series* described above, asynchronous training modules for teachers and administrators will be made available at a later date through the NJDOE's LMS. Districts may choose to use these department-provided resources or deliver equivalent training that meets all statutory requirements outlined in the legislation.

Universal Literacy Screener Data Collection

Under P.L. 2024, c.52, all LEAs serving students in kindergarten through grade three must submit universal literacy screener data to the NJDOE.¹ The NJDOE has created a secure portal in NJ Homeroom for uploading student-level data. LEAs will be required to use the standardized template and follow the instructions provided to ensure accurate submission.

¹ As a reminder, under P.L. 2024, c.52, beginning in the 2025–2026 school year all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must comply with P.L. 2024, c.52 by administering universal literacy screeners to all students in kindergarten through grade three. These screenings must be conducted twice per year. Based on the results, districts are responsible for providing appropriate supports, which may include additional screenings and targeted interventions designed to meet students' specific needs. In addition to reporting data to the NJDOE, LEAs must also notify parents or guardians of their child's screening results within 30 days after the conclusion of the screening period. This notification must include information about the child's performance and the support services available to them. More information about this requirement and sample family letters can be found in *The New Jersey Literacy Framework: A Guide to Evidence-Based Literacy Practices & Universal Screeners* available on the Department's Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery [webpage](#).

Assessment and Submission Timeline:

Collection	Assessment Window	Upload Window
Beginning of the Year	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31, 2025	Nov. 1 – Nov. 15, 2025
Middle of the Year	Dec. 1, 2025 – Feb. 15, 2026	Feb. 15 – Feb. 28, 2026

Data Submission Requirements Include:

- Student Identifier (SID);
- Composite Score and Level;
- Subtest Raw Scores and Levels (Above, At, Below Grade Level Expectation); and
- Grade-specific subtests (e.g., Letter Naming, Phonemic Awareness, Oral Reading Fluency)

Contact Information

Please email the Office of Learning Equity & Academic Recovery at LEAR@doe.nj.gov with questions regarding *The New Jersey Literacy Framework: A Guide High Quality Instructional Materials*, professional learning, and/or data collection and visit our website for more information <https://www.nj.gov/education/lear/>.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools