



# SNAPSHOT

## REVIEW OF THE TENNESSEE LITERACY SUCCESS ACT: THIRD-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION

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During its 2021 Special Session on Education, the Tennessee General Assembly passed the Tennessee Literacy Success Act (TLSA), which seeks to ensure that students in early grades are on track to become proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade.

In 2022, the General Assembly passed legislation requiring the Comptroller's Office to annually review the implementation of the TLSA. This report is the third such implementation review. State law also requires the Comptroller's Office to annually review district and charter school foundational literacy skills plans (FLSPs), which detail K-5 literacy instruction to improve reading outcomes for students. This report constitutes the fourth annual review of FLSPs.

### Key conclusions

- Overall, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE), local districts, and charter schools continue to implement the major directives of the TLSA and are in compliance with its requirements.
- State law requires that all districts and charter schools submit their FLSPs to TDOE for approval every three years. FLSPs were originally submitted in 2021; the most recent deadline was July 1, 2024. As of September 20, 2024, TDOE had reviewed and approved all 190 FLSPs (100 percent) from districts and charter schools. Some districts and charter schools must submit their FLSPs for TDOE review on a more frequent basis than every three years. See the full report for more details.
- Districts and charter schools must adopt at least one of seven state-approved universal reading screeners and administer it to their K-3 students three times per year (fall, winter, and spring). One of the seven screeners – the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener (TN URS) – is provided free of charge to districts and charter schools. The TN URS is currently funded by federal dollars; state funds will cover the cost beginning with the 2025-26 school year.
- As of the 2024-25 school year, all districts now use the TN URS for at least one screener administration. The number of charter schools doing so rose from nine in 2023-24 to 51 in 2024-25. Almost all district and charter school foundational literacy skills plans indicate the TN URS is used in the spring of 3rd grade, and this is likely due to recent changes to state law and State Board of Education (SBE) rule. A 2023 change to state law allows 3rd graders to be promoted to 4th grade if they score at a certain level on the TN URS and meet the other requirements of the promotion pathway. A 2024 change to SBE rule requires students to attain a certain score on the TN URS in order to appeal their retention in 3rd grade.

To read the full report, visit the Comptroller's OREA website at [tncot.cc/orea](https://tncot.cc/orea).