

**ARTICLE 67-31  
READING CURRICULUM**

Chapter  
67-31-01            Professional Development for Grades Kindergarten Through Three Reading

**CHAPTER 67-31-01  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THREE  
READING**

Section  
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**67-31-01-01. Definitions.**

1. "Comprehension" means the process by which a reader thinks about written language to extract and construct meaning through integration with the reader's prior knowledge and experiences.
2. "Fluency" means the ability to read accurately, with expression, and at a rate that supports deep understanding.
3. "Mastery" means the successful demonstration of knowledge in the areas of reading competency described in this section.
4. "Phonemic awareness" means the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds, called phonemes, in spoken words.
5. "Phonics" means the alphabetic letter-sound correspondences used in reading, writing, and spelling.
6. "Systematic direct instruction" means the carefully planned sequence of instruction with organization of material that follows a developmentally appropriate order within a pre-established routine. Systematic direct instruction is explicit, follows a gradual release process, and allows opportunities for practice and feedback.
7. "Teacher-approved professional development" means professional development identified and organized through the collaboration of district teachers and administrators.
8. "Vocabulary" means the knowledge of, and memory for word meanings which include receptive and expressive skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

**History:** Effective April 1, 2022.

**General Authority:** NDCC 15.1-21-12.1, 28-32-02

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 15.1-21-12.1

**67-31-01-02. Professional development required.**

1. Pursuant to subsection 2 of North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-21-12.1, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, each teacher and principal serving students in grades kindergarten through three in a public or nonpublic school shall have attended teacher-approved professional development training described in subsection 1 of North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-21-12.1, or demonstrate mastery in the topics provided in that subsection.

2. Pursuant to subsection 2 of North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-21-12.1, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, each teacher and principal newly hired to serve students in grades kindergarten through three in a public or nonpublic school shall complete teacher-approved professional development training described in subsection 1 of North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-21-12.1 within one year of first-year placement, or demonstrate mastery in the topics provided in that subsection.
3. Required trainings must have occurred on or later than July 1, 2018.
4. Teachers and principals that successfully completed reading training in accordance with North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-13-35.1 are considered to have met the training requirements of this section.

**History:** Effective April 1, 2022.

**General Authority:** NDCC 15.1-21-12.1, 28-32-02

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 15.1-21-12.1

#### **67-31-01-03. Implementation and compliance.**

1. School districts and nonpublic schools shall choose curriculum and curricular resources meeting the focus areas listed in subdivision b of subsection 1 of North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-21-12.1.
2. Each school district or nonpublic school shall ensure compliance of this section in a manner determined by the superintendent of public instruction.
3. The department shall collect assurances of school districts and nonpublic schools to ensure compliance with subsection 4 of North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-21-12.1.
4. During the monitoring process, the school district or nonpublic school shall report the following information regarding this chapter in a manner determined by the superintendent of public instruction:
  - a. Reading curriculum and instruction;
  - b. Professional development and training offered for grades kindergarten through three, or demonstrated mastery of literacy topics by teachers and principals; and
  - c. Assessment instruments to diagnose reading development and comprehension.
5. School districts and nonpublic schools shall report information required in subsection 4 annually to the department on the first day of October, unless the school district or nonpublic school meets the requirements of subsection 6.
6. School districts and nonpublic schools that have submitted satisfactory information required under subsection 4 and subsection 5 may be awarded an exemption from the additional annual reporting requirements of subsection 5 for a period of up to three years. Satisfactory information may include student outcome reading proficiency data collected using the assessment instrument to diagnose reading development and comprehension, such as the screening measures given three times per year in kindergarten through grade three.

**History:** Effective April 1, 2022.

**General Authority:** NDCC 15.1-21-12.1, 28-32-02

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 15.1-21-12.1