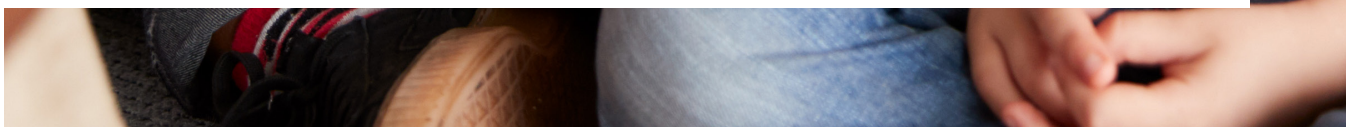




Foundations of Reading

Leading the way in literacy instruction

Foundations of Reading (FOR) assesses educators on evidence-based best practices for literacy instruction that enable students' reading comprehension across academic disciplines.



Literacy: The foundation of long-term success

Foundations of Reading focuses on best practices in literacy instruction because developing literacy skills in learners — especially early learners — prepares students for success across K-12 curricula and throughout their lives.

It is important that educators have specific knowledge of the practices that assist in the development of student literacy in order to provide “students with the academic tools... that allow them to learn what they want and need to learn and to aspire to the life they want to create for themselves and their communities” (ILA, 2019a)¹.

It is possible for teachers to achieve literacy for nearly all students if they start early and follow the significant body of research showing which practices are most effective (Moats, 2020)² — that’s where FOR comes in.

Because of the importance of literacy proficiency, many states require completion of the FOR assessment as a credentialing requirement for educators of early learners (i.e., Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Middle Childhood).



¹International Literacy Association. (2019a). Children experiencing reading difficulties: What we know and what we can do [Literacy leadership brief]. Newark, DE: Author

²Moats, L.C. (2020). Teaching Reading Is Rocket Science, 2020. What Expert Teachers of Reading Should Know and Be Able to Do. Retrieved from <https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/moats.pdf>

The FOR difference

Foundations of Reading measures teacher candidates' foundational knowledge and skills in the science of reading related to the development, instruction, and assessment of literacy. FOR focuses on the essential components of reading development and evidence-based practices identified by reading research.

A contemporary and comprehensive assessment

Foundations of Reading is regularly updated (the latest version was implemented in 2021) to stay current with emerging evidence-based best practices.

Breadth of content supports the full range of knowledge needed to teach the integral and reciprocal research-based components of reading development, including:

- Oral language and writing strategies that support reading
- Academic language development
- Spelling development
- Analysis of complex literary and informational texts; and
- The five essential components of reading development identified by the National Reading Panel (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension)

Depth of content enables candidates to demonstrate knowledge of assessment, differentiation, and intervention with respect to each component of reading to address the needs of all students, including:

- English language learners
- Students experiencing difficulty in a particular area of reading
- Students with special needs
- Students with advanced skills in one or more areas of reading

FOR aligns with:

- International Literacy Association Standards for Reading Professionals — Elementary Classroom Teacher Candidates
- International Dyslexia Association Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading—Classroom Educators
- National Reading Panel
- National Literacy Panel on Language-Minority Children and Youth



“Most reading failure is unnecessary. We now know that classroom teaching itself, when it includes a range of research-based components and practices, can prevent and mitigate reading difficulty.”

—Louisa C. Moats, from Teaching Reading IS Rocket Science



Authentic assessment tasks

- FOR's authentic classroom-based scenarios enable candidates to demonstrate situational judgment by applying knowledge of literacy development, instruction, and assessment to make evidence-based instructional decisions.
- FOR allows candidates to demonstrate extended thinking (the highest level on Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge) as they complete assessment tasks — by reviewing and evaluating authentic samples of student performance in various components of reading.



Paving the way for educators and other stakeholders

The Foundations of Reading program reduces barriers into the educator profession by increasing access and convenience for candidates and stakeholders. Specifically, we:

- Centralize access to FOR through a **state-specific dedicated website** enabling streamlined customer service and personalized support.
- Provide **preparation tools** — including study guides, tutorials, and full-length practice tests with detailed analyses of responses — designed to orient prospective educators and educator preparation programs to the FOR content and testing experience.
- Offer a flexible and convenient testing experience through **continual exam administration, with remote and in-person testing options**. FOR can be completed from home, or work, with online proctoring or at computer-based test centers located nationwide and around the world.

Learn more:

For more information about Foundation of Reading and other educator licensure assessments supported by Pearson, contact us at EvaluationSystems@Pearson.com or visit <https://www.pearsonassessments.com/teacherlicensure.html>.

