
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2020

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa Reading Research Center

Program Overview

The Iowa Reading Research Center was established during the 2012 Legislative Session in 2012 Iowa Acts, chapter [1119](#) (SF 2284 – Education Reform). The Center's purpose is to apply current research on literacy to the development of the following materials and to disseminate these materials across the State:

- Instructional strategies for prekindergarten through grade 12 to achieve literacy proficiency, including reading, reading comprehension, and writing strategies.
- Strategies for identifying and providing evidence-based interventions for students, beginning in kindergarten, at risk of not achieving literacy proficiency.
- Models for effective school and community partnerships to improve student literacy.
- Reading assessments.
- Professional development strategies and materials to support teacher effectiveness in student literacy development.
- Data reports on attendance centers, school districts, and statewide progress toward literacy proficiency.
- Program criteria and guidelines for implementation of intensive summer literacy programs by school districts.

The initial efforts of the Center are focused on improving reading performance and instruction in kindergarten through third grade. The Center is required to conduct its work according to the following guidelines:

- Use of expertise: The Center is required to draw upon national and State expertise in the field of literacy proficiency, including experts from Iowa institutions of higher education and Area Education Agencies (AEAs) with backgrounds in literacy development.
- Data and report development: The Center and its director must seek support from the Iowa research community in methodologies for the collection of student literacy data and in data report development, the analysis of available information from Iowa education data sources, and the analysis of progress toward literacy proficiency.
- Coordination with the Department of Education: The Center and its director must work with the Department of Education to identify additional needs for tools and technical assistance to help Iowa schools achieve literacy proficiency goals and seek public and private partnerships in developing and accessing necessary tools and technical assistance.

More Information

Iowa Department of Education: www.educateiowa.gov

Iowa Reading Research Center: www.iowareadingresearch.org

LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

The Center is required to submit a report of its activities to the General Assembly by January 15 annually.

Funding

The Center has received General Fund appropriations since FY 2013, with the exception of FY 2017 when it received no appropriation. The Center receives an annual General Fund appropriation of \$1.3 million.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [256.9\(53\)\(c\)](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [281—61](#)

2013 Iowa Acts, [ch. 141](#)

2013 Iowa Acts, [ch. 143](#)

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