

Congress clarified the following Reading Criteria as part of Statute – written into the law: Including in Section 5, the Definition of reading as a complex system, and section 3, the Essential components of reading instruction (ECORI). Please note, that the terms are inclusive of typical reading, reading that requires more help and reading that requires specialized services.

## **20 U.S.C. § 6368(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)**

### **(3) Essential components of reading instruction**

The term “essential components of reading **instruction**” means **explicit and systematic instruction in —**

- (A) phonemic awareness;**
- (B) phonics;**
- (C) vocabulary development;**
- (D) reading fluency, including oral reading skills; and**
- (E) reading comprehension strategies.**

### **(4) Instructional staff** The term “instructional staff”—

**(A)** means individuals who have responsibility for teaching children to read; and

**(B)** includes principals, teachers, supervisors of instruction, librarians, library school media specialists, teachers of academic subjects other than reading, and other individuals who have responsibility for assisting children to learn to read.

### **(5) Reading** The term “reading” means a complex system of deriving meaning from print that requires all of the following:

- (A) The skills and knowledge to understand how phonemes, or speech sounds, are connected to print.**
- (B) The ability to decode unfamiliar words.**
- (C) The ability to read fluently.**
- (D) Sufficient background information and vocabulary to foster reading comprehension.**
- (E) The development of appropriate active strategies to construct meaning from print.**
- (F) The development and maintenance of a motivation to read.**

### **(6) Scientifically based reading research** The term “scientifically based reading research” means research that —

**(A)** applies rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction, and reading difficulties; and

**(B)** includes research that—

**(i)** employs systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;

**(ii)** involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn;

- (iii) relies on measurements or observational methods that provide valid data across evaluators and observers and across multiple measurements and observations; and
- (iv) has been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review.

## **(7) Screening, diagnostic, and classroom-based instructional reading assessments**

(A) In general - The term “screening, diagnostic, and classroom-based instructional reading assessments” means —

- (i) screening reading assessments;
- (ii) diagnostic reading assessments; and
- (iii) classroom-based instructional reading assessments.

### **(B) Screening reading assessment**

The term “screening reading assessment” means an assessment that is—

- (i) valid, reliable, and based on scientifically based reading research; and
- (ii) **a brief procedure designed as a first step in identifying children who may be at high risk for delayed development or academic failure and in need of further diagnosis of their need for special services or additional reading instruction.**

### **(C) Diagnostic reading assessment**

The term “diagnostic reading assessment” means an assessment that is—

- (i) valid, reliable, and based on scientifically based reading research; and
- (ii) used for the purpose of—
  - (I) identifying a child’s specific areas of strengths and weaknesses so that the child has learned to read by the end of grade 3;
  - (II) determining any difficulties that a child may have in learning to read and the potential cause of such difficulties; and
  - (III) helping to determine possible reading intervention strategies and related special needs.

### **(D) Classroom-based instructional reading assessment** The term “classroom-based instructional reading assessment” means an assessment that—

- (i) evaluates children’s learning based on systematic observations by teachers of children performing academic tasks that are part of their daily classroom experience; and
- (ii) is used to improve instruction in reading, including classroom instruction.