SCIENCE-BASED LITERACY PROGRAM REVIEWS

DC Law 23-191: Addressing Dyslexia and Other Reading Difficulties Amendment Act of 2020 outlines that "each LEA shall adopt a science-based reading program." The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has taken a phased approach to supporting local education agencies (LEAs) in the adoption process. This document outlines how OSSE will conduct reviews of science-based literacy programs.

DEFINITIONS

- **Science-based literacy programs:** Programs that effectively integrate instructional content and practices that are in direct alignment with established research on how to teach students how to read and write; such programs may include core programs, supplemental programs, and intervention programs.
- **Programs in the current review cycle:** Programs that fall within the current focus area of OSSE's review cycle.
- **Programs outside the current review cycle:** Programs that are part of a previous or potential future review cycle.
- **Aligning phase:** LEAs in the aligning phase are refining existing programs to meet the standards of a science-based literacy program.

SUBMITTING PROGRAMS IN THE CURRENT REVIEW CYCLE

If an LEA determines that it is going to adopt a new literacy program that has not been reviewed by OSSE, the LEA will submit evidence, including the rubric and any supplemental materials from the curriculum to OSSE at the close of the compliance cycle (Oct. 31), along with a completed compliance letter.

If the review was conducted by a vendor or outside party, the evidence and rubric shall be reviewed by the LEA prior to submission to OSSE. OSSE will not review submissions that are submitted directly from vendors on behalf of an LEA.

SUBMITTING PROGRAMS OUTSIDE THE CURRENT REVIEW CYCLE

OSSE intends to review **one** literacy program outside the current review cycle, per year. Programs may be submitted by single-site LEAs or by LEAs with multiple schools, but not directly from individual schools within an LEA. OSSE's selection process for determining which program outside the review cycle to review includes but is not limited to the following criteria:

1. Strong evidence of programmatic efficacy.
2. The possibility of being adopted and/or implemented across multiple LEAs/schools.
3. A rubric score demonstrating meets criteria across each of the HQIM rubric's components.

LEAs may submit programs for consideration by Oct. 31. OSSE will notify LEAs of the status of submitted literacy programs within 30 business days of submission.

High Quality Instructional Materials Review Cycle Timeline

OSSE has taken a phased approach to supporting LEAs with the adoption of high-quality, science-based literacy programs. The table below outlines the previous and current review cycles for literacy programs.

COMPLIANCE YEAR	K-5	6-8	OUTSIDE REVIEW CYCLE PROGRAMS
November 2024-October 2025 Compliance Year: 2025	**Current review cycle program:** OSSE reviewed all K-5 core literacy program submissions	N/A	N/A
November 2025-October 2026 Compliance Year: 2026	OSSE will review all K-5 core program resubmissions from LEAs that are in the aligning phase.	**Current review cycle program:** OSSE will review all intervention programs submitted by LEAs serving grades 6-8.	**Outside review cycle programs:** K–5 serving LEAs may submit a core literacy program for consideration as the one program outside the current review cycle to be reviewed.
November 2026-October 2027 Compliance Year: 2027	OSSE will review a final round of K-5 core program resubmissions for LEAs that are in the aligning phase.	OSSE will review all 6-8 intervention program resubmissions from LEAs that are in the aligning phase.	**Outside review cycle programs:** K–5 serving LEAs may submit core literacy programs for consideration as the one program outside the current review cycle to be reviewed. Grades 6–8 serving LEAs may submit a new intervention literacy program for consideration as the one program outside the current review cycle to be reviewed.

OSSE HQIM Review Cyle Process for LEAs

To support LEAs in the adoption of HQIM, OSSE has developed the following process for reviewing new instructional materials.

LEA CATEGORY	LEA STEPS	OSSE STEPS
LEAs in the current review cycle (e.g., LEAs serving middle school in the 2026 compliance year phase)	LEAs may submit literacy programs not featured on OSSE's intervention list for review in October 2026.	OSSE evaluates all programs submitted in the current review cycle.
LEAs outside of the current review cycle	LEAs may submit a program for consideration for potential selection as a **program outside the current review cycle**. For multisite LEAs, this submission must first be reviewed at the LEA level.	OSSE selects one literacy program to review from the **programs outside the current review cycle**, based on internal criteria (e.g., strong evidence of efficacy, the possibility of being adopted across multiple LEAs/schools, a rubric demonstrating that the program meets the expectations of the HQIM rubric). LEA HQIM submissions that are not selected will receive notification that their program will not be reviewed but may be considered in future review cycles.