

STRUCTURED LITERACY COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS MUST DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY IN STRUCTURED LITERACY BY THE START OF THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR OR WITHIN ONE YEAR OF HIRE.

Per [DC Code § 38–2264. Achieving competency in structured literacy instruction](#)

WHO:

All general education teachers assigned to teach kindergarten

WHAT:

Teachers demonstrate competency in structured literacy through one of three pathways:

1. Completion of an Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)-[approved structured literacy training](#).
2. Receipt of a passing score on OSSE's [structured literacy competency assessment](#)
3. Prior completion of an OSSE-[approved structured literacy training](#) or a passing score on OSSE's [structured literacy competency assessment](#) between January 2019 and August 2026

WHEN:

- Competency must be demonstrated by the start of the 2026-27 school year or within a year of the teacher's hire date, whichever is later.
- Compliance documentation is due to OSSE by Oct. 31, 2026.

WHERE:

- Local education agencies (LEAs) may designate the time and place for the training to occur.
- LEAs can schedule at least 10 hours during the school year for structured literacy professional learning.

LEA ACTION STEPS:

- Select an [OSSE-approved structured literacy training](#)
- Identify kindergarten teachers and the competency pathway each will use, including demonstration of previous competency between January 2019 to August 2026.
- Submit LEA compliance documentation to OSSE by Oct. 31, 2026.

COMPLIANCE:

LEAs must submit structured literacy competency compliance to OSSE by Oct. 31, 2026. Which should include:

- Name of school
- Total number of kindergarten teachers employed by each school within the LEA
- **Total number of kindergarten teachers who demonstrated competency and the pathway used**
- Name of OSSE-approved structured literacy training used, if applicable.

Submission guidance is forthcoming in spring 2026.



For questions, contact Vaani Gupta at Vaani.Gupta@dc.gov