

Teacher Preparation in Reading: Pre-Service Requirements & Certification



HB 493: Delegate Dana Stein, House Ways & Means Committee

SB 638: Senator Joan Carter Conway, Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs

What It Does

- Ensures that all teachers in Maryland K-6 will be **trained and/or certified** in foundational reading principles and elements;
- Ensures that every teacher entering a Maryland elementary classroom has the knowledge to teach reading and writing;
- Aligns with the interim findings and recommendations of the [Kirwan Commission](#) and the [requests of school districts](#) to see a stronger connection between higher education teacher preparation programs and K-12 educational needs for reading instruction.

What It Does Not Do

- Make every teacher a “special education” teacher. All teachers must know the science of reading and how to teach reading to students;
- Embrace an “educational fad.” The science of how the brain reads and writes is well-established and needs to be shared with teacher candidates.

What Can Your Legislators Do?

- If you are a teacher, explain the reading preparation you received and what you actually needed to teach reading;
- If you are a parent, explain how your child would have been helped by a teacher with knowledge in foundational reading instruction;
- Call on higher education teacher preparation programs in Maryland to provide effective, foundational reading instruction to pre-service teachers;
- Cosponsor & vote **yes** on these bills.

Decoding Dyslexia Maryland advocates for the prevention of reading failure by identifying reading difficulties early and advocating for structured literacy, evidence based reading instruction for at-risk students before they fall behind.