



Meeting Minutes January 7, 2025

I. Welcome - Scott Johnson, Chairman

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and asked for introductions.

Representative Becky Evans was thanked for her service to the Council.

II. 2025 Overview and Literacy Plan - Sarah Richards

Sarah Richards provided a 2025 overview of the Literacy Plan, that included establishing metrics, working group structure, and implementation and evaluation

Sarah discussed a change to the Hearing and Vision Subcommittee to “Barriers to Learning” that will encompass all health and socioeconomic barriers to learning. She also mentioned the addition of the School Leadership Working Group which will address literacy issues relating to school and district leaders. She stated that the executive committee must approve the addition of a School Leadership Working Group, as well as the Barriers to Learning Subcommittee. **Note: the executive committee approved these items on January 10, 2025.**

III. Working Group and Agency Updates

- a. Amy Denty gave updates on the K-12 Working Group which settled on five goals:
 - Integrate the legislation of the Georgia Literacy Act (HB 538) and the dyslexia legislation (SB 48).
 - Protocol development that will help districts identify their major literacy issues.
 - Investigate hearing and vision screening and follow-up care which would include developing a three-part webinar series on understanding the process, screening, and intervention plans.
 - Facilitate a subcommittee that will focus on health barriers in general.
 - Support adolescent literacy which involves live webinars, Georgia Learns courses, and opportunities for districts to come together and collaborate in different ways
- b. Dr. Cayanna Good gave an update from TCSG. She acknowledged that TSCG is launching the WIOA Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Grant this month.
- c. Dr. Bentley Ponder and Dr. Christi Moore provided updates for the Birth to Age Five Working Group. They are leveraging the existing Georgia training approval system to increase progress in the implementation of the requirements of House Bill 538, which specifies that staff working in childcare programs do need to have training on best practices in evidence-based language and literacy practices for children birth to age five. Once they are approved as trainers or training organizations in Georgia, then they must submit their actual trainings for review and approval.
- d. Dr. Laura Lynch, University System of Georgia, spoke on support on behalf of the Teacher Preparation and Professional Learning Working Group. Dr. Laura Lynch will be stepping in for Dr. Dana Nichols this semester as the head of the Teacher Preparation/Professional Learning Working Group.

IV. Next Working Group meetings - February 12, 2025, 1 – 3 p.m. and May 7, 2025, 1 - 3 p.m.

V. Literacy Screener Update – Dr. Lindee Morgan

Dr. Morgan, executive director, the Deal Center, updated Council members on the approved literacy screeners. She discussed that an advisory group of experts developed an evaluation tool for the screeners to meet legislative criteria for both HB 538 and SB 48. The advisory committee selected four screeners. The State Board of Education (SBOE) added a fifth screener to the list. The SBOE voted in favor of five screeners. Negotiations are currently underway with GOSA and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to determine which one of these will be the free screener.

VI. Georgia Reads and Legislative Updates - Irene Munn

Irene provided information on Georgia Reads and proposed legislation changes. Georgia Reads Community Awards Day at the Capitol will be February 25, 2025. The Council will announce the Georgia Reads Community Award winners and celebrate all the work that they are doing for literacy improvements.

VII. NAEP Score Release – Sarah Richards

Sarah announced that the NAEP score release date will be January 29, 2025.

VIII. Closing

Chairman Johnson shared the upcoming Council events and provided closing comments. He thanked Council members and the working groups for their hard work and dedication to literacy.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.