

HB 253 TIMELINE AND REQUIREMENTS

HB 253, passed by the 2026 Kentucky General Assembly, prohibits three-cueing from being used in elementary school instruction beginning with the 2029–2030 school year. Some teachers may need to complete Kentucky Department of Education approved training aligned with the Science-of-Reading framework to meet the new requirements.

CLARIFYING THE DEADLINE

We have been made aware that some school districts are telling teachers they must complete this training during the current school year because the law requires it. That is not accurate. The legislation sets the deadline at the start of the 2029–2030 school year. The intent of the law was to give districts and teachers time to transition away from three-cueing instructional materials and related teaching practices. Because of that shift, teachers should no longer be directed toward professional development that relies on three-cueing.

TRAINING OPTIONS

KDE lists three professional learning pathways that meet the HB 253 requirements by the June 30, 2029 deadline. Districts should work with educators to identify which teachers need training and provide them with options for completing approved professional development.

- Teachers should have a reasonable range of approved training options when possible.
- Districts should communicate timelines clearly and accurately.
- Professional development should support the transition to Science-of-Reading-aligned instruction.

The KDE website lists the three approved pathways as follows;

- 1) “LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling),
 - 2) AIM Pathways, and
 - 3) The Kentucky Learning Hub
- However, they are not intended to provide the same depth of study or level of application as LETRS or the AIM Pathways foundational courses. All approved PL courses track participation and completion for personal and local district and school record-keeping.”

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COMPENSATION AND LOCAL ADVOCACY

No teacher should be required to complete this training on their own time without compensation. Teachers should be paid no less than their regular rate for required training conducted on a non-contract day or outside of the official school hours. Local associations can and should work with district leadership to ensure implementation is fair, accurate, and consistent with the law.

BOTTOM LINE

HB 253 pushes Kentucky schools toward a statewide Science-of-Reading framework by banning three-cueing instructional practices by the beginning of the 2029-2030 school year, requiring approved evidence-based reading curricula, and strengthening dyslexia screening and intervention expectations. The biggest operational impact for districts will likely be curriculum review, teacher training adjustments, and compliance with enhanced dyslexia requirements. Your district may insist the training be completed before the statutorily mandated June 30, 2029 deadline, but it should not require it be done outside of contracted days or official school hours without additional compensation.

Members should work through their local associations and Uniserv Directors to ensure the new HB253 training requirements are implemented fairly.

LINKS

KDE's FAQs on HB 253

HB253 as law

KDE Legislative Guidance (starting on page 10)

Basis for legislation

Science of Reading Professional Learning

Guidance on District Dyslexia Policies

UniServ Regions