



**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Science of Reading Seminar:
2027 One-Year Statewide Capacity-Building Initiative
Projected Budget: \$75,000**

Purpose

The South Carolina Read to Succeed Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-155-180), as amended by Act 114 of 2024, strengthens educator preparation requirements by emphasizing scientifically based reading instruction aligned with the Science of Reading. Teacher preparation programs must ensure candidates are prepared in foundational literacy skills, including phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Beginning September 1, 2026, early childhood, elementary, and special education teacher candidates seeking initial certification in South Carolina must earn a passing score on a State Board-approved assessment of scientifically based reading instruction, intervention, and data-based decision-making principles.

To support educator preparation programs in meeting these new requirements, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) will offer the South Carolina Science of Reading Seminar as a statewide capacity-building initiative. The Seminar will provide a forum for institutions to learn from successful practices developed through the Centers of Excellence and other evidence-based initiatives while strengthening educator preparation programs across South Carolina.

CHE will offer the one-day South Carolina Science of Reading Seminar twice during FY27: once in October 2026 and once in January 2027. The purpose is not to replicate a specific Center model, but to provide a platform for sharing evidence-based practices, lessons learned, and implementation strategies that can be adapted by institutions based on their program needs. The Science of Reading seminar will support institutions offering educator preparation programs leading to certification in:

- Elementary Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Special Education.



Resource Support Grants

Participating institutions may apply for funding support to purchase instructional resources necessary to strengthen Science of Reading preparation.

Allowable expenses may include:

- phonics instructional kits;
- evidence-based literacy materials;
- instructional resources supporting integration of Science of Reading practices into educator preparation coursework.

Funding is intended to build institutional capacity to prepare teacher candidates and support alignment with statewide literacy expectations.

Eligibility:

Four-year public and independent institutions with accredited educator preparation programs in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, and Special Education, including both bachelor's degree and Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) pathways, are eligible to participate.

Upon completion of the one-day training provided by the CHE Science of Reading Seminar, designated faculty representatives may apply for resource support grants on behalf of their institutions.

Each application must include a recommendation from the Dean of Education confirming institutional support and alignment with the needs of the educator preparation program. Resource Support Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to completion of all application requirements and the availability of funds.

Proposed Funding Formula:

Second-Year Eligible Teacher Candidate Enrollment Per Institution Maximum Resource Support Grant

1–25 candidates	Up to \$2,500
26–50 candidates	Up to \$4,000
51–75 candidates	Up to \$5,000
76+ candidates	Up to \$6,000

Award Determination:

Grant awards will be made **per institution, not per program**, with funding levels determined by the number of eligible teacher candidates served, based on the enrollment count of **second-year candidates in bachelor's**

degree programs and first-year candidates in MAT programs in leading to certification in elementary education, early childhood education, and special education.

For institutions offering accelerated pathways (e.g., 4+1 programs), candidates will be counted once to avoid duplication.



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

The Science of Reading Seminar Resource Support Grant Application

FY2026–27

Institution Information

Institution: _____

Educator Preparation Program(s) Supported (check all that apply):

☐ Elementary Education 2nd Year Enrollment _____

☐ Early Childhood Education 2nd Year Enrollment _____

☐ Special Education 2nd Year Enrollment _____

MAT Program (Excluding 4+1program) in ☐ Elementary Education Enrollment _____

☐ Early Childhood Education Enrollment _____

☐ Special Education Enrollment _____

Faculty Representative (Seminar Participant):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Seminar Participation

Please choose the Science of Reading Seminar Attended:

☐ October 2026

☐ January 2027

Resource Support Request

Amount Requested: \$ _____

(Grant amount shall not exceed the maximum award based on eligible enrollment.)

Describe the instructional resources to be purchased.

Explain how these resources will strengthen Science of Reading preparation within the educator preparation program(s).



Institutional Certification

I certify that:

- ☐ The institution is eligible to receive Resource Support Grant funding.
- ☐ The requested resources will be used to strengthen Science of Reading preparation in the institution's educator preparation program(s).
- ☐ The institution agrees to comply with all applicable CHE grant requirements.

Dean's Recommendation

I recommend this application and certify that the requested resources align with the needs and priorities of the institution's educator preparation program(s).

Dean of Education

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

CHE Use Only

Date Received: _____

Eligible Award Amount: _____

Approved Amount: _____

☐ Approved

☐ Not Approved

Date: _____