

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT LITERACY ACCOUNTABILITY CHECKLIST

Use this to evaluate any plan, presentation, or leadership approach

THE GOAL

- Clear commitment: All students reading on grade level by 3rd grade (and supported through graduation)**
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FOUNDATION: SCIENCE OF READING

- Instruction includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension**
 - Structured, systematic phonics—not balanced or mixed approaches**
 - Curriculum and materials aligned to research**
 - No conflicting instructional models across classrooms**
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LEADERSHIP & STRATEGY

- 1. Measurable literacy goals with public progress reporting**
 - 2. Countywide literacy strategy (not fragmented programs)**
 - 3. Clear expectations for district participation and alignment**
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TEACHING & TRAINING

- 4. Teachers trained in science of reading**
 - 5. Principals trained to recognize effective literacy instruction**
 - 6. Ongoing coaching tied to classroom practice**
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DATA & ACCOUNTABILITY

- 7. Universal early literacy screening (K–2)**
 - 8. Shared data dashboards across districts**
 - 9. Regular review of data with action steps**
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INTERVENTION & SUPPORT

- 10. Early intervention when students fall behind
 - 11. Literacy coaches or support teams deployed to schools
 - 12. Structured support—not optional or on request only
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RESOURCES & ALIGNMENT

- 13. Funding aligned to literacy outcomes (not scattered)
 - 14. Programs evaluated and adjusted based on results
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FAMILY & COMMUNITY

- 15. Families given tools to support reading at home
 - 16. Partnerships with libraries, early learning, community groups
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FULL K–12 APPROACH

- 17. Strong early literacy (TK–3) focus
 - 18. Plan for middle & high school struggling readers
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URGENCY & RESULTS

- 19. Clear accountability for improvement
 - 20. Willingness to act when outcomes are not improving
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SCORING (OPTIONAL)

18–20 checks: Strong, aligned literacy leadership

14–17 checks: Partial alignment—gaps likely

Below 14: Fragmented approach—limited impact expected

BOTTOM LINE

If these boxes aren't checked, literacy outcomes won't change.
Strong leadership aligns the system. Weak leadership manages it.