

Critical Components of Reading: Questions for Literacy Teams to Consider

The National Reading Panel's (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, 2000) five pillars of reading—(1) vocabulary, (2) phonemic awareness, (3) phonics, and (4) fluency—and oral language are discussed in chapter 2. As a team, consider the following questions for each applicable pillar.

- **Vocabulary:** How does your team ensure students engage in tasks that expand their vocabulary during the literacy block?
- **Phonemic awareness:** How does your team ensure early readers or those students who have difficulty decoding words develop strong phonemic awareness during the literacy block?
- **Phonics:** How does your team systematically build students' phonics skills and provide opportunities during the literacy block for them to apply those phonics skills to decode continuous text and encode to write for authentic purposes?
- **Fluency:** How does your team develop reading fluency during the literacy block so that students read accurately with expression whether they are reading aloud or to themselves?
- **Comprehension:** How does your team ensure that all reading tasks lead to comprehension during the literacy block so that students understand that the reason they develop their vocabulary, phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency skills is so that they can better read and understand any text they encounter?
- **Oral language:** Does your team provide opportunities for students to develop their oral language within the literacy block?

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2000). *Report of the National Reading Panel: Teaching children to read: Reports of the subgroups*. Washington, DC: Authors. Accessed at www.nichd.nih.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pubs/nrp/Documents/report.pdf on October 10, 2022.