

## Glossary of Literacy Terms

### Purpose

This document was developed by the Agency of Education (AOE) to support the Advisory Council on Literacy in performing their duties as defined in Act 28 of 2021.

### Terms

**Automaticity** – the ability to recognize words effortlessly (sight words)

**Decoding** – the ability to apply knowledge of letter-sound relationships to correctly pronounce written words

**Encoding** – using individual sounds to build and write words

**Fluency** – the ability to read with a rate of speed, accuracy, and expressiveness appropriate to the text

**Foundational Reading Skills** – include phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and reading comprehension

**Graphemes** – letters or letter combinations that represent sounds

**Lexile** – numeric representation of a text’s readability based on assessment of sentence length and word frequency

**Morphemes** – meaningful units of language, such as prefixes, suffixes, and base or root words

**Morphology** – the study of words, how they are formed, and their relationship to other words in the same language

**Phonemes** – individual sounds in a word

**Phonemic Awareness** – ability to recognize the individual indivisible sounds (phonemes) that make up a word

**Phonics** – one-to-one letter to sound correspondences that lead to decoding printed words

**Phonological Awareness** – understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes)

**Print Concepts** – the organization and basic features of print

**Prosody** – reading with expression and appropriate intonation

**Reading** – drawing meaning from and making meaning of written text

**Reading Comprehension** – the ability to understand and make meaning from text

### Contact Information:

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**Standard of Coherence** – how much a reader expects to understand and how that connects to how much effort they are willing to put forth

**Systematic Phonics** – patterns are taught in order

**Vocabulary** – the words known or used by a person