

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