

Evaluating the Impact of TDOE's Early Reading Training (ERT) on the 2021-2022 TN-URS Grades K-1 Performance

Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) | Tennessee Universal Reading Screener (TN-URS)
Access the full report [here](#).

ERT Course I

- Not mandated until August 2023
- 30 hrs training
- Pass the summative assessment with 80% or better
- Prerequisite for Course II

ERT Course II

- Never mandated
- Additional 30 hrs training
- Pass the summative task with 80% or better



Study Limitations

1

Only used TN-URS data

2

Only examined students in Grades K-1

- This is the best time to prevent reading difficulties
- Students had limited prior instruction in reading

3

Only examined students performing at the 40th percentile or below on TN-URS

- Tennessee Literacy Success Act (TLSA) most concerned with improving numbers of students reading proficiently

NO ERT

ERT
Course I

ERT
Course I + II

1,161 teachers

232 teachers

1,323 teachers

Results

- ERT Course I led to stronger outcomes for at-risk readers than ERT II Course.
- At-risk readers in Grades K-1 whose teachers completed ERT training significantly outperformed their peers taught by teachers who did not participate in ERT.



Implications

- Results supported the TLSA policy decision to require ERT Course I only.
- Completing the ERT training was effective at improving the TN-URS performance of K-1 students who were at risk of reading difficulties at the beginning of the year.
- The state might consider moving the application-based Course II into the regular academic year when teachers can put their learning into practice.



TENNESSEE READING
RESEARCH CENTER

©2025