



# Build a Foundation of Reading and Math



## WHY THIS MATTERS

61%  
vs  
35%

All children can learn how to read, write, and do math. Ensuring we have taught all children these foundational skills is difficult. Overall outcomes improved for 3rd grade reading this year, but we still see clear discrepancies in the results. **61%** of students from middle- and upper-income households are reading on grade level in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but only **35%** of their low-income peers meet grade level.<sup>16</sup> Our strategic plan calls for an integrated set of actions to improve these foundational skills at scale.

## OUR THEORY OF ACTION

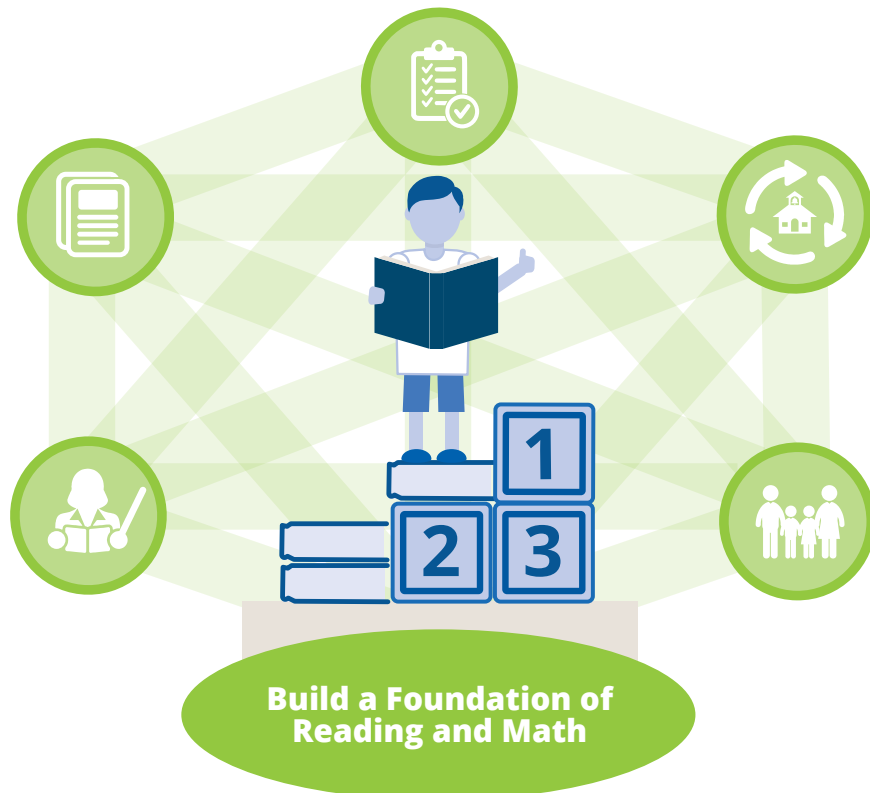
Support the State Board of Education as they develop rigorous standards

Increase the availability of coherent, aligned curricular resources and assessments

Ensure effective professional development to support coherent, aligned instruction

Promote proven models of curricular and instructional delivery

Provide tools to fully empower parents as a child's first teacher



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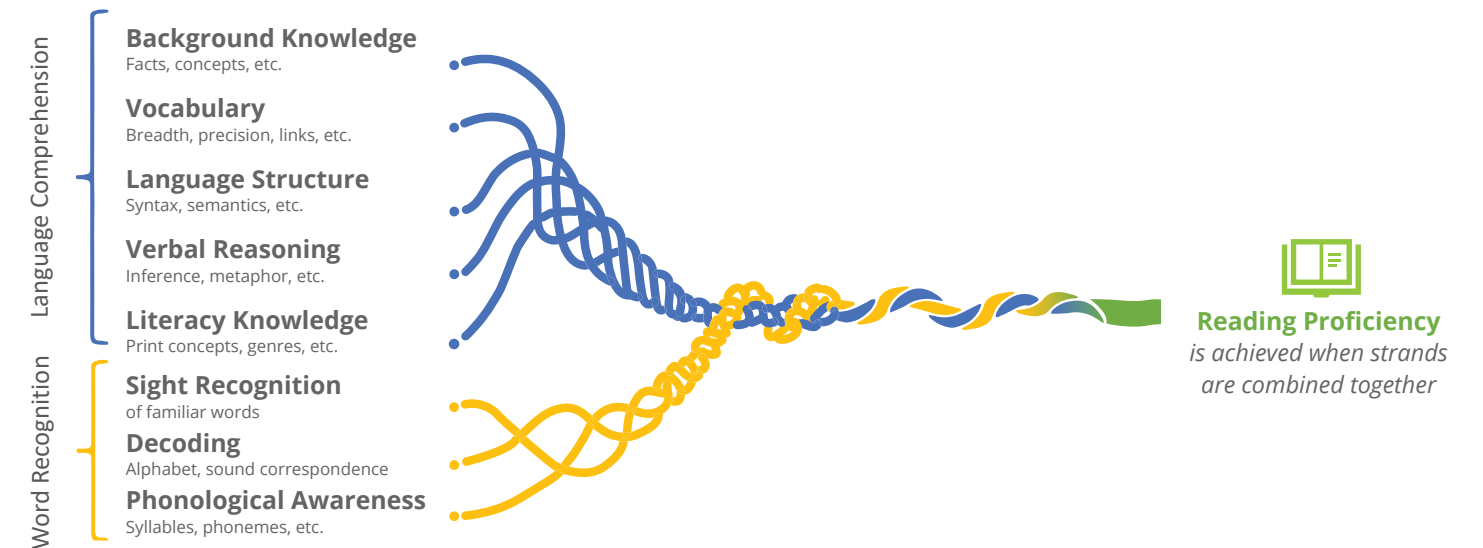
## TEACHING READING IS ROCKET SCIENCE

Children are wired for sound. They absorb the spoken word as easily as they breathe. But learning to read is altogether different. It requires children not only to understand spoken language, but also to interpret combinations of letters written on a page as words and sentences. Thankfully, there is a well-established research base to support educators in a scientific approach to teaching reading. That science is summarized most easily with the Simple View of Reading. But skilled practitioners can tell you there is nothing simple about teaching reading, which requires teachers to weave together multiple concepts in interconnected ways, much like strands of a rope.

### SIMPLE VIEW OF READING<sup>17</sup>



### SCARBOROUGH'S READING ROPE<sup>18</sup>



## SUPPORTING TEACHERS IN THE SCIENCE OF TEACHING READING



Texas is making a major commitment to support teachers and students in the foundational area of reading.

Within three years, every aspiring teacher in our state will be required to demonstrate mastery in the science of teaching reading before earning an elementary teaching certificate. Between now and then, every K-3 reading teacher in Texas will be supported with the Texas Reading Academies. These Academies give participants job-embedded training over the course of a year aligned to evidenced-based practices and are designed to leave them with tangible action steps that can be used in classrooms to help students immediately.



[tea.texas.gov/reading](http://tea.texas.gov/reading)