

The Office of Early Learning and the Office of Charter Schools would like to provide a legislative update that impacts charter schools. HB 259, Section 7.64, of the 2023 North Carolina Legislative Session prohibits the use of visual memory and three-cueing, or the MSV instructional approach, during any instruction or intervention and within curriculum materials.

The three-cueing system is an approach to foundational skills instruction that involves the use of three different types of instructional cues:

- meaning (semantic/meaning from context and sentence-level cues - Does the word make sense?)
- structure (syntactic/grammatical features - Does it sound right?)
- visual (graphophonic - Does it look right?)

Charter Legislation-Section 7.64 of HB 259 is effective and applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. "The charter school shall not use a three-cueing system, as defined in G.S. 115C-83.3(9a), or a curriculum with visual memory as the primary basis for teaching word recognition in any instruction or intervention provided to students in grades kindergarten through three."

Charter schools may wish to begin by reviewing current curriculum, resources and teacher manuals to eliminate the MSV language and strategies that do not align to new legislation as you begin to make the shift. The Office of Early Learning has developed a [NC Science of Reading Alignment Tool](#) that may be used to provide stakeholders with the information needed to determine if the materials provided in their PSU are in alignment with reading science research. In the event that materials are not aligned, this tool can inform stakeholders of the areas in the curriculum that need to be supplemented to achieve optimal alignment.

While charter schools maintain flexibility and choice as outlined in charter specific legislation, HB 259 is NEW and names charters specifically. Below are resources for charter school leaders to support administrators, coaches and teachers to ensure there is a clear understanding of what three-cueing is, what it looks like during instruction and assessment, and alternatives to use during instruction. These resources are designed to be shared with school leaders and educators as we work together to eliminate all three-cueing practices across North Carolina per legislation.

As always, thank you for supporting our youngest readers!

Resources to support HB 259: Prohibition of Three-Cueing Legislation
NC Three-Cueing Legislative Overview
Why the Three-Cueing Systems Model Doesn't Teach Children to Read Fact Sheet ExcelinED
Two Solitudes - Three-Cueing Article - Dr. Marilyn Jager Adams
The Trouble with Three-Cueing - NCDPI OEL Slide Deck (includes The Trouble with Three-Cueing Video linked below) to support district understanding of the three-cueing system.
The Trouble with Three-Cueing Video - NCDPI OEL Video to support understanding of the three-cueing system and what is wrong with the use of this model in reading instruction and assessment.