
DIGEST

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HB 714 Original

2020 Regular Session

Edmonston

Abstract: Provides relative to instruction, training, funding, and reporting with respect to student literacy.

Present law requires each public school governing authority to implement a reading program at each elementary school designed to teach each student to read at grade level by the end of the first grade. Proposed law retains present law except to remove the specific reference to reading "at grade level" by the end of the first grade; adding that such program shall also be designed to teach each student to be a proficient reader by the end of the third grade; and requiring that students who have not reached proficiency by that time be placed in a fourth grade reading intensive intervention program in order to become proficient by the end of the fourth grade.

Present law requires this reading program to include, at minimum, a phonics component. Proposed law adds that all program curricula and instructional materials shall be based on evidence-based research and the science of reading.

Proposed law further requires:

- (1) Each public school governing authority to provide for training teachers in grades K-3 in the findings of evidence-based research, the science of reading, and skills needed to provide systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension according to a specified implementation schedule that the governing authority may accelerate at its discretion.
- (2) The state Dept. of Education (DOE) to:
 - (a) Allocate to each public school governing authority the maximum amount of funding for which it is eligible under the terms of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program Grant and any other grant program for the purposes of funding literacy instruction and training.
 - (b) Post the following on its website relative to the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program Grant:
 - (i) Application submitted to U.S. Dept. of Education (USDOE).
 - (ii) Grant award notification received from USDOE.

- (3) The state superintendent of education to present an annual summary of the reading program, screenings, and training required by present law and proposed law, including student outcomes relative to proficiency and allocations of any related federal grant funds by DOE, to the House and Senate education committees during the 2021-2025 R.S.

Proposed law repeals (3) above effective Aug. 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 17:182(A); Adds R.S. 17:182(D) and (E); Repeals R.S. 17:182(E))