

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 792

BY REPRESENTATIVES PHELPS, BOYD, LANDRY, MOORE, AND NEWELL AND
SENATOR BARROW

STUDENTS: Provides relative to literacy instruction and reading support services for
certain students in grades six through 12

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:182, relative to literacy instruction; to provide for a literacy initiative for
3 public school students in grades six through twelve; to provide for funding; to
4 provide for requirements of the state Department of Education; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:182 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §182. School literacy initiative; creation; purpose; procedures

9 A. The school literacy initiative is hereby established in an effort to provide
10 literacy instruction and reading support services to those students who are enrolled
11 in certain grade levels and are reading below grade level.

12 B. Each public school governing authority shall:

13 (1) Identify students eligible to receive literacy instruction and reading
14 support services as provided for in Subsection C of this Section. By not later than
15 September thirtieth of each year, four weeks after a student enrolls at a school, or as
16 soon as practicable if a student's reading deficiency is identified after this date, each
17 public school governing authority shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each
18 student who is eligible to receive instruction and services.

1 (2) Establish a process whereby, before a student receives instruction and
2 services, his parent or legal guardian shall be required to enter into a memorandum
3 of understanding with the school of attendance that states that the student is receiving
4 assistance, outlines the intervention plan, and states parties accountable for the
5 student's progress. Parents and legal guardians shall be provided an update on
6 student progress prior to report card issuance and no later than midway through the
7 grading period.

8 (3) Include the purposes of this Section in its Education Excellence Fund
9 expenditure plan as provided for in R.S. 17:3805 or use any federal, state, or local
10 funds appropriated for the purpose of increasing literacy or supporting academic
11 achievement to carry out the purposes of this Section.

12 C. A public school student, including but not limited to those in an
13 alternative school or in an alternative educational placement, who falls into both of
14 the following categories shall be eligible to receive literacy instruction and reading
15 support services, in addition to his regular coursework:

16 (1) He is enrolled in the sixth through the twelfth grade.

17 (2) He is determined to read below grade level.

18 D. The department shall:

19 (1) Evaluate expenditure plans submitted by public school governing
20 authorities as provided for in R.S. 17:3805.

21 (2) Evaluate providers of literacy instruction, including but not limited to
22 tutors and teachers, and reading support services to determine their initial and
23 continued eligibility. The department shall establish minimum criteria by which
24 approved providers shall be evaluated to ensure effectiveness in improving students'
25 reading abilities, including but not limited to performance on literacy assessments
26 approved by the department and, when available, the Louisiana Educational
27 Assessment Program state assessment. Tutors, teachers, and other providers that fail
28 to demonstrate improvement in students' reading abilities for two consecutive years
29 shall be deemed ineligible to offer literacy instruction and reading support services.

1 Literacy instruction and reading support services shall include any of the following
2 that are designed to improve reading or literacy skills:

3 (a) Tutoring services provided by a person who is trained in the state
4 standards for English language arts and who holds a valid teaching certificate in
5 either elementary education or reading or holds a baccalaureate or graduate degree
6 in education, English, or another subject area indicative of expertise in reading and
7 literacy. Such person shall have completed training in the foundations of literacy and
8 science of reading from a qualified provider, as determined by the department, in
9 order to be able to provide individualized and targeted instruction to students and
10 may be employed by a public school governing authority or high-quality tutoring
11 vendor as determined and approved by the department.

12 (b) Summer education programs for students in grades six through eleven.

13 (c) After-school education programs.

14 E. Each public school governing authority shall report to the department
15 relative to students' participation. The department shall submit a cumulative report
16 to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education by
17 not later than April thirtieth of each year regarding the administration of instruction
18 and services. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following information for
19 that school year:

20 (1) The total number of students receiving literacy instruction and reading
21 support services.

22 (2) A list of the approved providers to which payments were remitted and the
23 literacy instruction and reading support services provided to each student.

24 (3) A report relative to the performance of each provider and overall
25 performance with respect to improving participants' reading abilities.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 792 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Phelps

Abstract: Provides relative to literacy services for certain public school students in 6th through 12th grade.

Proposed law creates opportunities for certain public school students in 6th through the 12th grade to receive literacy instruction and reading support services.

Proposed law provides that public school students, including those at alternative schools and alternative educational settings, who are in both of the following categories are eligible:

- (1) Enrolled in the sixth through 12th grade.
- (2) Read below grade level.

Proposed law requires the state Dept. of Education to:

- (1) Develop an application process and accept applications for service providers.
- (2) Evaluate service providers for eligibility.
- (3) Annually report to the House and Senate education committees regarding services rendered.

Proposed law requires public school governing authorities to notify the parents or legal guardians of eligible students of the services available.

Proposed law requires school districts to include proposed law purposes in their Education Excellence Fund or to use federal, state, or local funds to carry out proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 17:182)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Remove eligibility requirement that students are above the average age for their grade.
2. Specify that students in alternative schools and alternative educational placements may be eligible students.