

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 84

By: Bergstrom and Stanislawski
of the Senate

and

Henke and Nollan of the
House

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.508C, as last amended by Section 7, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 1210.508C), which relates to programs of reading instruction; clarifying language; modifying school years during which students who score at certain level on the third-grade assessment may be evaluated for probationary promotion; updating statutory citations; clarifying language; modifying school year for which reading proficiency requirements apply; modifying date for issuing a Reading Report Card; adding recipients to Reading Report Card; adding information to be included in Reading Report Card; and repealing Section 3, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 1210.508G), which relates to a study of reading instruction and retention of students; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.508C, as last amended by Section 7, Chapter 360, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 1210.508C), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508C A. 1. Each student enrolled in kindergarten in a public school in this state shall be screened for reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, letter recognition, and oral language skills as identified in the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education. A screening instrument approved by the State Board shall be utilized for the purposes of this section.

2. For those kindergarten children at risk for reading difficulties, teachers shall emphasize reading skills as identified in the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education, monitor progress throughout the year and measure year-end reading progress.

3. Classroom assistants, which may include parents, grandparents, or other volunteers, shall be provided in kindergarten classes to assist with the screening of students if a teacher aide is not already employed to assist in a kindergarten classroom.

B. 1. Each student enrolled in kindergarten, first, second and third grade of the public schools of this state shall be assessed at the beginning and end of each school year using a screening instrument approved by the State Board of Education for the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

2. Any student who is assessed and found not to be reading at the appropriate grade level shall be provided a program of reading instruction designed to enable the student to acquire the appropriate grade level reading skills. ~~Beginning with students entering the first grade in the 2011-2012 school year, the~~ The program of reading instruction shall include provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection 0 of this section.

3. Throughout the year progress monitoring shall continue, and diagnostic assessment, if determined appropriate, shall be provided. Year-end reading skills shall be measured to determine reading success.

C. The State Board of Education shall approve screening instruments for use at the beginning and end of the school year, for monitoring of progress, and for measurement of reading skills at the end of the school year as required in subsections A and B of this section; provided, at least one of the screening instruments shall meet the following criteria:

1. Assess for phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, and comprehension;

2. Document the validity and reliability of each assessment;

3. Can be used for diagnosis and progress monitoring;

4. Can be used to assess special education and limited-English-proficient students; and

5. Accompanied by a data management system that provides profiles for students, class, grade level and school building. The profiles shall identify each student's instructional point of need and reading achievement level. The State Board shall also determine other comparable reading assessments for diagnostic purposes and for periodic and post assessments to be used for students at risk of reading failure. The State Board shall ensure that any assessments approved are in alignment with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

D. 1. The program of reading instruction required in subsection B of this section shall align with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education and shall include provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection O of this section. A program of reading instruction may include, but is not limited to:

- a. sufficient additional in-school instructional time for the acquisition of phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension,

- b. if necessary, tutorial instruction after regular school hours, on Saturdays and during summer; however, such instruction may not be counted toward the one-

hundred-eighty-day or one-thousand-eighty-hour school year required in Section 1-109 of this title, and

- c. assessments identified for diagnostic purposes and periodic monitoring to measure the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as identified in the student's program of reading instruction.

2. A student enrolled in first or second grades who has been assessed as provided for in subsection B of this section and found not to be reading at the corresponding grade level, shall be entitled to individualized remediation in reading until the student is determined by the results of a screening instrument to be reading on grade level. The program of reading instruction for each student shall be developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and shall include individualized remediation. Each team shall be composed of:

- a. the parent or guardian of the student,
- b. the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,
- c. a teacher who is responsible for reading instruction and is assigned to teach in the next grade level of the student, and
- d. a certified reading specialist, if one is available.

E. The program of reading instruction shall continue until the student is determined by the results of approved reading assessments to be reading on grade level.

F. 1. Every school district shall adopt, and implement a district reading sufficiency plan which has had input from school administrators, teachers, and parents and if possible a reading specialist, and which shall be submitted electronically to and approved by the State Board of Education. The plan shall be updated annually. School districts shall not be required to electronically submit the annual updates to the Board if the last plan submitted to

the Board was approved and expenditures for the program include only expenses relating to individual and small group tutoring, purchase of and training in the use of screening and assessment measures, summer school programs and Saturday school programs. If any expenditure for the program is deleted or changed or any other type of expenditure for the program is implemented, the school district shall be required to submit the latest annual update to the Board for approval. The district reading sufficiency plan shall include a plan for each site which includes an analysis of the data provided by the Oklahoma School Testing Program and other reading assessments utilized as required in this section, and which outlines how each school site will comply with the provisions of the Reading Sufficiency Act.

2. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the implementation and evaluation of the provisions of the Reading Sufficiency Act. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the data required in subsection S of this section.

G. For any third-grade student found not to be reading at grade level as determined by reading assessments administered pursuant to this section, a new program of reading instruction, including provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection O of this section, shall be developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and implemented as specified in subsection D of this section. ~~If possible, a fourth-grade teacher shall be involved in the development of the program of reading instruction.~~ In addition to other requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act, the plan may include specialized tutoring.

H. 1. Any first-grade, second-grade or third-grade student who demonstrates proficiency in reading at the third-grade level through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section shall not be subject to ~~the retention guidelines found in~~ pursuant to this section. ~~Upon demonstrating the~~ After a student has demonstrated proficiency through ~~the~~ a screening instrument, the district shall provide notification to the ~~parent(s) and/or guardian(s)~~ parent or guardian of the student that they have satisfied the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act and will not be subject to retention pursuant to this section.

2. If a third-grade student is identified at any point of the academic year as having a significant reading deficiency, which shall be defined as scoring below proficient on a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section, the district shall immediately begin a student reading portfolio as provided by subsection K of this section and shall provide notice to the parent of the deficiency pursuant to subsection I of this section.

3. If a student has not yet satisfied the proficiency requirements of this section prior to the completion of third grade and still has a significant reading deficiency, as identified based on assessments administered as provided for in subsection B of this section, has not accumulated evidence of third-grade proficiency through a student portfolio as provided in subsection K of this section, or is not subject to a good-cause exemption as provided in subsection K of this section, then the student shall not be eligible for automatic promotion to fourth grade.

4. a. For the 2015-2016 2016-2017 school year, a student not eligible for automatic promotion as provided for in paragraph 3 of this subsection and who scores at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title may be evaluated for probationary promotion by the Student Reading Proficiency Team. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a student not eligible for automatic promotion as provided for under paragraph 3 of this subsection and who scores at the unsatisfactory below the proficiency level on the reading portion of the third-grade statewide criterion-referenced test third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title may be evaluated for "probationary promotion" by the Student Reading Proficiency Team. For the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, a student not eligible for automatic promotion as provided for under paragraph 3 of this subsection and who scores at the unsatisfactory or limited knowledge levels on the reading portion of the third-grade statewide criterion-referenced test may be evaluated

~~for "probationary promotion" by the Student Reading Proficiency Team. The Student Reading Proficiency Team shall be composed of:~~

- ~~(1) the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student,~~
- ~~(2) the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,~~
- ~~(3) a teacher in reading who teaches in the subsequent grade level, and~~
- ~~(4) a certified reading specialist which was created for the student pursuant to subsection D of this section.~~

- b. The student shall be promoted to the fourth grade if the team members unanimously recommend "probationary promotion" to the school principal and the school district superintendent and the principal and superintendent approve the recommendation that promotion is the best option for the student. If a student is allowed a "probationary promotion", the team shall continue to review the reading performance of the student and repeat the requirements of this paragraph each academic year until the student demonstrates grade-level reading proficiency, as identified through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section, for the corresponding grade level in which the student is enrolled or transitions to the requirements set forth by the Achieving Classroom Excellence Act.

5. Beginning with the ~~2016-2017~~ 2017-2018 school year, students who score below the proficient level on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title, who are not subject to a good cause exemption as provided in subsection K of this section, and who do not qualify for promotion or "probationary promotion" as provided in this subsection, shall be retained in the third grade and provided

intensive instructional services and supports as provided for in subsection N of this section.

6. Each school district shall annually report to the State Department of Education the number of students promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to this subsection. ~~Following the 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, each school district shall report~~ and the number of students promoted to a subsequent grade pursuant to the provisions in paragraph 4 of this subsection. The State Department of Education shall publicly report the aggregate and district-specific number of students promoted on their website and shall provide electronic copies of the report to the Governor, Secretary of Education, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the respective chairs of the committees with responsibility for common education policy in each legislative chamber.

7. Nothing shall prevent a school district from applying the principles of paragraphs 3 and 4 of this subsection in grades kindergarten through second grade.

8. To determine the promotion and retention of third-grade students pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act, the State Board of Education shall use only the reading comprehension and vocabulary scores portion of the statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title and shall not use the other language arts scores portions of the assessment.

I. The parent of any student who is found to have a reading deficiency and is not reading at the appropriate grade level and has been provided a program of reading instruction as provided for in subsection B of this section shall be notified in writing of the following:

1. That the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading;

2. A description of the current services that are provided to the student pursuant to a conjoint measurement model such that a reader and a text are placed on the same scale;

3. A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that will be provided to the student that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency;

4. That the student will not be promoted to the fourth grade if the reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of the third grade, unless the student is otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection H of this section or is exempt for good cause as set forth in subsection K of this section;

5. Strategies for parents to use in helping their child succeed in reading proficiency;

6. The grade-level performance scores of the student;

7. That while the results of the statewide assessments administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title are the initial determinant, they are not the sole determiner of promotion and that portfolio reviews and assessments are available; and

8. The specific criteria and policies of the school district for midyear promotion implemented as provided for in paragraph 4 of subsection N of this section.

J. No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.

K. For those students who do not meet the academic requirements for promotion and who are not otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection H of this section, a school district may promote the student for good cause only. Good-cause exemptions for promotion shall be limited to the following:

1. Limited-English-proficient students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English language learner program;

2. Students with disabilities whose individualized education program (IEP), consistent with state law, indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternate achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP);

