

SENATE, No. 2644

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to implement reading intervention program for students in certain grades as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning early literacy and supplementing chapter 35 of
2 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Multi-tiered system of supports” means a systemic approach
9 that addresses the academic and social-emotional needs of all
10 students at various levels of intensity. Through the multi-tiered
11 system of supports, a teacher shall provide high-quality,
12 scientifically-based or evidence-based instruction and intervention
13 that is matched to student needs.

14 “Reading deficiency” means scoring below grade level or being
15 determined to be at risk of scoring below grade level based on a
16 screening assessment.

17 b. A school district shall offer a reading intervention program to
18 students in grades kindergarten through three as part of the district’s
19 implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
20 English Language Arts. The program shall be offered to a student
21 who exhibits a reading deficiency as determined by a Commissioner
22 of Education-approved assessment.

23 c. The reading intervention program shall:

24 (1) utilize a data-driven multi-tiered system of supports;

25 (2) provide explicit and systemic instruction in phonological
26 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as
27 applicable;

28 (3) monitor the progress of a student’s reading skills throughout
29 the school year; and

30 (4) be adjusted throughout the year, if necessary, according to
31 student needs.

32 d. School districts shall adopt high-quality instructional materials
33 grounded in scientifically based reading research to implement the
34 program. The Department of Education shall provide school
35 districts with age-appropriate materials designed to implement the
36 provisions of this subsection.

37 e. The department shall develop and implement a process to
38 evaluate the reading intervention program required pursuant to
39 subsection b. of this section.

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41 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
42 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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47 This bill requires that a school district offer a reading
48 intervention program to students in grades kindergarten through

1 three. The reading intervention program is to: (1) utilize a data-
2 driven multi-tiered system of supports; (2) provide explicit and
3 systemic instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency,
4 vocabulary, and comprehension, as applicable; (3) monitor the
5 progress of a student's reading skills throughout the school year;
6 and (4) be adjusted throughout the year, if necessary, according to
7 student needs.

8 The bill also requires the department to provide school districts
9 with age-appropriate materials designed to implement the program.
10 Under the bill, school districts are required to adopt high-quality
11 instructional materials grounded in scientifically-based reading
12 research to implement the program. The department is to provide
13 school districts with age-appropriate materials designed to
14 implement the provisions of this subsection.

15 The bill also requires the department to develop and implement a
16 process to evaluate the reading intervention program required under
17 the bill.