

REFERENCE TITLE: K-3 reading programs; revisions

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HB 2445

Introduced by
Representative Montenegro

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-211, 15-219 AND 15-249.09, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO K-3 READING PROGRAMS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-211, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-211. K-3 reading program; dyslexia specialist; dyslexia
5 training; receipt and use of monies; additional
6 funding; annual report

7 A. The department of education shall administer a K-3 reading
8 program to improve the reading proficiency of pupils in kindergarten
9 programs and grades one, two and three in the public schools of this
10 state.

11 B. The department of education shall designate a dyslexia
12 specialist for the department to provide school districts and charter
13 schools with support and resources that are necessary to assist students
14 with dyslexia.

15 C. ~~On or before July 1, 2022,~~ Each school district and charter
16 school shall ensure that at least one kindergarten through third grade
17 teacher, ~~literacy coach or literacy specialist~~ OR DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE in
18 each school has received training related to dyslexia that complies with
19 the requirements prescribed in section 15-219.

20 D. Each school district and charter school shall submit to the
21 department of education a plan for improving the reading proficiency of
22 the school district's or the charter school's pupils in kindergarten
23 programs and grades one, two and three. The plan shall include ~~baseline~~
24 ~~data on the reading proficiency of the school district's or the charter~~
25 ~~school's pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three and~~
26 a budget for spending monies from both the K-3 support level weight and
27 the K-3 reading support level weight established in section 15-943. Each
28 school district and charter school shall annually submit to the department
29 of education on or before October 1 an updated K-3 reading program plan
30 ~~that includes data on program expenditures and results,~~ EXCEPT THAT A
31 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT DOES NOT CHANGE THE K-3 READING
32 PROGRAM PLAN FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR MAY RESUBMIT THE K-3 READING PROGRAM
33 PLAN FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

34 E. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT
35 THE PLAN REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION IF ANY OF THE
36 FOLLOWING APPLIES:

37 1. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL IS ASSIGNED A LETTER GRADE
38 OF A OR B PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-241.

39 2. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S AVERAGE READING SCORE
40 FOR PUPILS IN GRADE THREE ACCORDING TO THE READING PORTION OF THE
41 STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-741 EXCEEDS THE
42 STATEWIDE AVERAGE READING SCORE FOR PUPILS IN GRADE THREE.

43 3. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S AVERAGE READING GROWTH
44 FOR PUPILS IN GRADE THREE ACCORDING TO THE READING PORTION OF THE
45 STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-741 FOR EACH OF THE

1 TWO IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEARS EXCEEDS THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE READING
2 GROWTH FOR PUPILS IN GRADE THREE.

3 ~~F.~~ F. School districts and charter schools shall use monies
4 generated by the K-3 reading support level weight established in section
5 15-943 only on instructional purposes ~~based on the plan submitted pursuant~~
6 ~~to subsection D of this section~~ intended to improve reading proficiency
7 for pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three with
8 particular emphasis on pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one and
9 two.

10 ~~F.~~ G. Each school district and charter school that is assigned a
11 letter grade of C, D or F pursuant to section 15-241 or that has more than
12 ten percent of its pupils in grade three who do not demonstrate sufficient
13 reading skills as established by the state board of education according to
14 the reading portion of the statewide assessment **ADOPTED PURSUANT TO**
15 **SECTION 15-741** shall receive monies generated by the K-3 reading support
16 level weight established in section 15-943 only after the K-3 reading
17 program plan of the school district or charter school has been submitted,
18 reviewed and recommended for approval by the department of education and
19 approved by the state board. The state board must give approval to a
20 school district or charter school before any portion of the monies
21 generated by the K-3 reading support level weight may be distributed to
22 the school district or charter school pursuant to this subsection. **THE**
23 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL CLEARLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN REQUIRED**
24 **COMPONENTS AND RECOMMENDED COMPONENTS OF A K-3 READING PROGRAM PLAN IN**
25 **EACH REVIEW CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION. IF A K-3 READING**
26 **PROGRAM PLAN INCLUDES ALL OF THE REQUIRED COMPONENTS PRESCRIBED IN THE**
27 **GUIDANCE DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION L OF THIS SECTION, THE**
28 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MUST RECOMMEND THE K-3 READING PROGRAM PLAN FOR**
29 **APPROVAL BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
30 **MUST APPROVE THE K-3 READING PROGRAM PLAN.**

31 ~~G.~~ H. Pupils in a charter school that is in its first year of
32 operation and that is sponsored by the state board of education, the state
33 board for charter schools, a university under the jurisdiction of the
34 Arizona board of regents, a community college district or a group of
35 community college districts are eligible for the K-3 reading support level
36 weight.

37 ~~H.~~ I. The department of education shall solicit gifts, grants and
38 donations from any lawful public or private source in order to provide
39 additional funding for the K-3 reading program.

40 ~~I.~~ J. The state board of education may establish rules and
41 policies for the K-3 reading program, including:

42 1. The proper use of monies in accordance with subsection ~~F.~~ F of
43 this section.

44 2. The distribution of monies by the department of education in
45 accordance with subsection D of this section.

1 3. The compliance of reading proficiency plans submitted pursuant
2 to subsection D of this section with section 15-704.

3 K. WHEN ESTABLISHING RULES OR POLICIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION J OF
4 THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL:

5 1. CONSIDER THE REGULATORY BURDEN AND COSTS OF COMPLIANCE FOR
6 SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS.

7 2. REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO REPORT ONLY
8 INFORMATION THAT IS NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE IN REPORTS THAT SCHOOL
9 DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR THE
10 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

11 3. ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO ADOPT A CURRICULUM
12 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE SCHOOL'S STUDENT
13 POPULATION AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

14 ~~J~~. L. Pursuant to subsection ~~J~~ of this section, the department
15 of education shall develop program implementation guidance for school
16 districts and charter schools to assist schools in administering an
17 effective K-3 evidence-based reading program plan. This guidance shall
18 include identifying and recommending appropriate program expenditures,
19 providing technical oversight and assistance for annually updating reading
20 program plans, selecting and adopting evidence-based reading curricula and
21 providing and promoting teacher professional development that is based on
22 evidence-based reading research. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ENSURE
23 THAT THE GUIDANCE DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION CLEARLY IDENTIFIES
24 THE COMPONENTS OF A READING PROGRAM PLAN AS EITHER RECOMMENDED COMPONENTS
25 OR REQUIRED COMPONENTS. The department shall prioritize supports and
26 interventions, including enrollment in reading trainings and professional
27 development, for school districts and charter schools that have the
28 highest percentage of pupils who do not demonstrate sufficient reading
29 skills as established by the state board of education. The department
30 shall deposit any monies received for offering reading trainings or
31 professional development, including coaching, in the department of
32 education professional development revolving fund established by section
33 15-237.01.

34 ~~K~~. M. On or before December 15, the department of education shall
35 submit an annual report on the K-3 reading program to the governor, the
36 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives
37 and shall provide a copy of this annual report to the secretary of state,
38 the state board of education and the chairpersons of the education
39 committees of the senate and the house of representatives. The report
40 shall contain all of the following:

41 1. Information on the improvement of K-3 reading in this state,
42 including achievement data statewide and achievement data at the school
43 district and charter school level. The information pursuant to this
44 paragraph shall include data and information on continued proficiency on
45 the statewide assessment in subsequent grades.

1 2. A description of the activities of the department to support
2 school districts and charter schools in improving K-3 reading.

3 3. Specific findings on methods by which the department may
4 continue to improve support and assistance for school districts and
5 charter schools in the administration of K-3 reading program plans.

6 4. Information and data on K-3 reading program plans throughout
7 this state and the expenditure of K-3 reading monies by school districts
8 and charter schools.

9 5. Data reported pursuant to section 15-701, subsection A,
10 paragraph 2, subdivision (d).

11 Sec. 2. Section 15-219, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
12 read:

13 15-219. Dyslexia and reading impairment screening,
14 intervention, accommodation and technology;
15 continuing education; rules; training

16 A. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow
17 certificated teachers, ~~literacy coaches, literacy specialists~~ DESIGNATED
18 EMPLOYEES and administrators to count training regarding screening,
19 intervention, accommodation, use of technology and advocacy for students
20 with reading impairments, including dyslexia, as continuing education
21 credits.

22 B. The department of education shall annually develop a list of
23 training opportunities related to dyslexia that satisfy the requirements
24 prescribed in subsection C of this section.

25 C. The training opportunities related to dyslexia developed
26 pursuant to this section must meet professional development requirements
27 and all of the following requirements:

28 1. Include at least one training opportunity that is provided
29 entirely online.

30 2. Include the knowledge and practice standards of an international
31 organization on dyslexia that is designated by the department of
32 education.

33 3. Enable teachers, ~~literacy coaches, literacy specialists~~
34 DESIGNATED EMPLOYEES and administrators to understand and recognize
35 dyslexia.

36 4. Enable teachers, ~~literacy coaches, literacy specialists~~
37 DESIGNATED EMPLOYEES and administrators to implement structured literacy
38 instruction that is systematic, explicit, multisensory and evidence-based
39 to meet the educational needs of students with dyslexia.

40 Sec. 3. Section 15-249.09, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
41 read:

42 15-249.09. Early literacy program fund; report; definitions

43 A. The early literacy program fund is established to provide
44 support to improve reading skills, literacy and proficiency for students
45 in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three in addition to

1 monies received pursuant to section 15-211. The fund shall be
2 administered by the department of education. The state board of education
3 shall develop policies and procedures to be administered by the department
4 of education.

5 B. Subject to review and approval by the state board of education,
6 the department of education shall award monies to eligible schools based
7 on available monies on a per pupil basis. The per pupil amount shall be
8 calculated using the student count for pupils in kindergarten programs and
9 grades one, two and three.

10 C. Eligible schools that receive monies pursuant to this section
11 shall submit data on expenditures and results and other information
12 required by subsection E of this section.

13 D. Eligible schools may use monies for eligible expenses to
14 increase the reading proficiency of students in kindergarten programs and
15 grades one, two and three. Eligible schools may also use monies to
16 provide a full-day kindergarten program that is structured to increase
17 reading proficiency. Monies must be used to expand, enhance and support
18 the components included in a school's reading program plan submitted
19 pursuant to section 15-211.

20 E. Subject to review and approval by the state board of education,
21 the department of education shall include a report on the early literacy
22 program in the K-3 reading program plan required by section 15-211. The
23 report shall contain the following:

- 24 1. A description of the monies awarded each year.
- 25 2. A summary of the funded activities.
- 26 3. Information on the recipient schools' progress toward
27 achievement goals.
- 28 4. Specific findings on strategies and activities and their level
29 of effectiveness in improving reading proficiency in the recipient
30 schools.

31 F. For the purposes of this section:

32 1. "Eligible expenses" means expenses for evidence-based strategies
33 and interventions designed to improve the reading proficiency of students
34 in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three pursuant to
35 sections 15-211 and 15-704, including ~~literacy coaches and literacy~~
36 ~~specialists~~ DESIGNATED EMPLOYEES, reading curricula, kindergarten
37 readiness assessments, summer programs or tutoring programs.

38 2. "Eligible school" means a public school with at least ninety
39 percent of students who are eligible for free and reduced-priced lunches
40 under the national school lunch and child nutrition acts (42 United States
41 Code sections 1751 through ~~1785~~ 1793).

42 3. "Student count" means the average daily membership for pupils in
43 kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three, as prescribed in
44 section 15-901 for the current year.