

House Bill 3455

Sponsored by Representatives JOHNSON, BUEHLER; Representative REARDON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative within Department of Education. Directs department to award extended learning grants and professional development grants as part of initiative. Directs department to ensure staff development is coordinated and to identify evidence-based early literacy curriculum.

Establishes Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to early reading programs; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative is established**
5 **within the Department of Education as provided by sections 1 to 6 of this 2017 Act. The**
6 **purpose of the initiative is to establish and support a coordinated system that ensures that**
7 **all students can read at grade level by the end of grade three.**

8 **(2) As part of the initiative, the department shall ensure that the following are provided:**

9 **(a) Literacy standards that are coordinated between early childhood service providers and**
10 **public providers of kindergarten through grade three;**

11 **(b) Systematic support for early reading programs, literacy instruction, assessments and**
12 **leadership;**

13 **(c) Additional time for learning through a summer program or a before-school or after-**
14 **school program;**

15 **(d) Methods to identify students in need of literacy instruction;**

16 **(e) High-quality, aligned professional development;**

17 **(f) Staff development that is coordinated between early childhood service providers and**
18 **public providers of kindergarten through grade three; and**

19 **(g) An evidence-based, effective and culturally responsive early literacy curriculum.**

20 **(3) To ensure that the supports identified in subsection (2) of this section are provided,**
21 **the department shall:**

22 **(a) Award extended learning grants to school districts to implement early reading pro-**
23 **grams as provided by section 2 of this 2017 Act;**

24 **(b) Award professional development grants to school districts as provided by section 3**
25 **of this 2017 Act;**

26 **(c) Ensure that staff development is coordinated between early childhood service provid-**
27 **ers and public providers of kindergarten through grade three as provided by section 4 of this**
28 **2017 Act; and**

29 **(d) Identify an evidence-based early literacy curriculum as provided by section 5 of this**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 2017 Act.

2 **SECTION 2.** (1) As part of the Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative es-
 3 tablished by sections 1 to 6 of this 2017 Act, the Department of Education shall award ex-
 4 tended learning grants each fiscal year to school districts to implement early reading
 5 programs.

6 (2) An early reading program that is eligible for an extended learning grant:

7 (a) May be provided:

8 (A) As a summer program or as a before-school or after-school program; or

9 (B) During the regular school day.

10 (b) Must serve public school students who:

11 (A) Are in kindergarten through grade three or who will be enrolled in kindergarten at
 12 the beginning of the next school year; and

13 (B) Have been identified as needing literacy instruction.

14 (3) To qualify for an extended learning grant, a school district must have an early reading
 15 program that focuses on students who are expected to be a grade level behind by the end of
 16 grade three or who are struggling to read.

17 (4) A school district may apply to the department for an extended learning grant by
 18 submitting an application to the department in a form prescribed by the State Board of Ed-
 19 ucation by rule.

20 (5) The amount of each extended learning grant shall be determined based on:

21 (a) The average daily membership, as defined in ORS 327.006, for kindergarten through
 22 grade three students in poverty families, as determined by the department for each school
 23 district; and

24 (b) The amount of funds available for the grants, as determined by the department.

25 (6) Transportation costs incurred by school districts for transporting students to early
 26 reading programs implemented under this section shall be considered approved transporta-
 27 tion costs for purposes of ORS 327.013.

28 (7) The department shall review and approve applications submitted under this section
 29 based on criteria established by the State Board of Education by rule. In developing the cri-
 30 teria, the board shall solicit recommendations from school districts.

31 **SECTION 3.** (1) As part of the Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative es-
 32 tablished under sections 1 to 6 of this 2017 Act, the Department of Education shall award
 33 professional development grants each fiscal year to school districts.

34 (2) The grants shall be used by school districts to provide:

35 (a) Literacy-specific professional development and staffing; and

36 (b) Literacy screening and devices to report student progress toward reading at grade
 37 level by the end of grade three.

38 (3) To receive a grant under this section, a school district must have an early reading
 39 program with the following elements:

40 (a) Implementation of a full-day kindergarten program, as provided by ORS 336.095, in
 41 all schools operated by the school district that provide kindergarten unless the school dis-
 42 trict has received a waiver from the State Board of Education for this grant requirement;

43 (b) Implementation of an evidence-based early reading program that is aligned to aca-
 44 demic standards and that is tailored to the specific needs of the students served in the school
 45 district;

1 (c) Goals and objectives that address the achievement gap between student groups iden-
2 tified by disability, poverty, language and race and other student groups, in areas including
3 the percentage of students reading at grade level, the percentage of kindergarten students
4 who attend at least 90 percent of the instructional days of the school year and the percentage
5 of kindergarten students enrolled on October 1 who remain enrolled by the end of the school
6 year;

7 (d) Implementation of evidence-based interventions;

8 (e) Coordination with an Early Learning Hub designated as provided by ORS 417.827 to:

9 (A) Identify students struggling to read; and

10 (B) Work to improve attendance and reduce absenteeism;

11 (f) At least 90 minutes per day of literacy instruction and at least an additional 30 min-
12 utes per day of intervention services provided to kindergarten through grade three students;

13 (g) To the extent practicable, a process to engage parents and community-based organ-
14 izations;

15 (h) Use of data-driven instruction;

16 (i) Use of instructional coaches; and

17 (j) A professional development plan for staff.

18 (4) The amount of each grant under this section shall be determined based on:

19 (a) The average daily membership, as defined in ORS 327.006 and determined by the de-
20 partment, for kindergarten through grade three students;

21 (b) An additional weight that is added to the average daily membership, as determined
22 by the department, and that is the proportion of the total weights received by the school
23 district under ORS 327.013 attributable for kindergarten through grade three students; and

24 (c) The amount of funds available for the grants, as determined by the department.

25 (5) A school district that receives a grant under this section shall make grant moneys
26 available to any public charter school located in the school district that offers kindergarten
27 through grade three and that meets the early reading program requirements of subsection
28 (3) of this section.

29 (6)(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule criteria for:

30 (A) Reviewing and approving applications for grants submitted under this section.

31 (B) Granting a waiver from the grant requirement for providing a full-day kindergarten
32 program, as described in subsection (3)(a) of this section.

33 (b) The department shall review and approve applications based on criteria established
34 by the State Board of Education by rule.

35 **SECTION 4.** As part of the Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative estab-
36 lished under sections 1 to 6 of this 2017 Act, the Department of Education shall ensure that
37 staff development for early childhood service providers and public providers of kindergarten
38 through grade three is coordinated by providing:

39 (1) Professional learning communities related to literacy instruction for staffs of school
40 districts; and

41 (2) Assistance with the development of early reading programs and professional develop-
42 ment programs and with staff development for early childhood service providers and public
43 providers of kindergarten through grade three.

44 **SECTION 5.** (1) As part of the Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative es-
45 tablished under sections 1 to 6 of this 2017 Act, the Department of Education shall identify

1 an evidence-based early literacy curriculum. The curriculum must be effective and culturally
2 responsive.

3 (2) The department may provide funds to school districts for up to 25 percent of the total
4 amount necessary to purchase the early literacy curriculum identified by the department
5 under subsection (1) of this section.

6 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account is es-
7 tablished in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest
8 earned by the Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account shall be credited
9 to the account.

10 (2) Moneys in the Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account are con-
11 tinuously appropriated to the Department of Education for the purposes of sections 1 to 6
12 of this 2017 Act and may be used to pay administrative costs incurred by the department and
13 school districts.

14 **SECTION 7.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, extended learning
15 grants and professional development grants awarded under sections 2 and 3 of this 2017 Act
16 must first be available for use by school districts for the summer of 2018.

17 (2) The Department of Education may establish a pilot program and may award grants
18 as described in sections 2 and 3 of this 2017 Act to school districts during the 2017-2018 school
19 year.

20 **SECTION 8.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
21 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect
22 July 1, 2017.
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