

**Subject** Reading instruction in early care and education programs

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## Overview

In 2023, the Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act, or the Read Act, was enacted with the goal of having every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten. To meet the goal, the act directs school districts to provide teachers with MDE (Minnesota Department of Education)-approved training on evidence-based reading instruction and provide the instruction to students. The act also directs districts to provide training to staff in early childhood programs on providing early literacy-based instruction.

H.F. 4406 extends aspects of the Read Act to early care and education programs. The bill directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure that resources available under Parent Aware and Develop, the state's voluntary systems for assessing the quality of early care and education programs and tracking employees' professional development, align with the instruction requirements in the Read Act. The bill directs MDE, in consultation with DHS, to establish and evaluate three pilot projects that focus on the development of early literacy skills. The bill appropriates unspecified amounts of onetime funding for each provision.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>Parent Aware.</b>
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	Directs DHS to review and revise, as needed, the list of approved curricula and child assessment tools under Parent Aware to only include curricula and assessment tools that are aligned with the reading instruction in the state's Read Act. Requires that DHS include, in a report to the legislature by December 31, 2024, the updated list and a determination of the cost of establishing an incentive program and implementation plan to help early learning providers purchase and use the approved curricula and assessment tools.
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Section	Description
2	<p><b>Develop.</b></p> <p>Directs DHS to contract with an independent entity to review the professional development resources that are part of Develop to ensure that the resources are aligned with the reading instruction in the state’s Read Act. Provides that the review must include resources not already included in Develop and the costs of creating an incentive program to help early learning providers participate in the approved offerings.</p>
3	<p><b>Early learning multitiered system of support.</b></p> <p>Directs MDE, in consultation with DHS, to establish a pilot program of a system of individualized literacy supports in a variety of early childhood programs that participate in Parent Aware and evaluate the program’s effectiveness on children’s development of early literacy skills. Requires that MDE build on the work of the department’s existing efforts, including the Minnesota multitiered system of support for elementary and secondary schools.</p>
4	<p><b>Parent engagement to enhance early literacy.</b></p> <p>Directs MDE, in consultation with DHS, to establish a pilot program on parent engagement strategies focused on building early literacy skills, and directs MDE to evaluate the effects of the different strategies on children’s development of early literacy skills.</p>
5	<p><b>Program effectiveness assessment.</b></p> <p>Directs MDE, in consultation with DHS, to establish a three-year pilot program on language and early literacy instruction for children in publicly funded early childhood programs the year before kindergarten entry. Directs MDE to compile a list of assessment tools that are aligned with the state’s Read Act and select a variety of programs from across the state to participate in the pilot program.</p>
6	<p><b>Appropriations; Department of Human Services.</b></p> <p>Appropriates unspecified amounts to DHS for the reviews of the resources available under Parent Aware and Develop as required under sections 1 and 2 of the bill.</p>
7	<p><b>Appropriations; Department of Education.</b></p> <p>Appropriates unspecified amounts to MDE for the three pilot programs established under this bill.</p>



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