

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Wagenius and others

Subject: Grants to ensure children's ability to read by second grade

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Overview

Establishes a grant program to help school sites ensure that children can read by the end of second grade.

1 Staff development grants to ensure reading ability.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes staff development grants to ensure that children can read by the end of second grade.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Directs the commissioner of children, families and learning to award grants to school sites that meet 7 criteria, including requiring a school site to:

(1) demonstrate the interrelationship between staff development and early intervention programs;

(2) use a reliable screening tool to identify children at risk of not learning to read by the end of first grade;

(3) use a reliable screening tool to identify children at risk of not learning to read by the end of second grade;

(4) select an early intervention reading curriculum that involves parents;

(5) incorporate reading results into site reports on student progress;

(6) encourage parental involvement; and

(7) decide whether or not to serve as a training site for other teachers.

Subd. 3. Grant application. Requires a school site to apply to the commissioner and describe

how the applicant will meet the criteria under subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. Grant awards. (a) Permits an eligible school site to receive an unspecified grant amount for every 17 children identified at the end of first grade as at risk of failing to learn to read. Allocates an unspecified grant amount for every 10 children identified at the end of second grade as at risk of failing to learn to read. Requires grant recipients to match five state dollars with one local dollar, which may include in-kind contributions.

(b) Allocates an unspecified amount to a school site serving as a training site for teacher training or other curriculum-related start-up costs of first grade early intervention reading programs.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the department of children, families and learning in fiscal year 2000 for reading grants under section 1. Makes the appropriation available until 6/30/2000.

3 Effective date. Makes sections 1 and 2 effective 7/1/99.