

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Ensuring That All Children Read by Second Grade

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Overview

Experts believe that children who struggle to learn to read are more different than they are alike in their needs, and that they need consistent, individualized support. Consequently, highly trained teachers familiar with a variety of instructional techniques are among the critical resources needed to successfully help struggling young readers.

Section

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 make staff development grants to school sites committed to ensuring that children can read at grade level by the end of second grade. The school site must:

- (1) demonstrate the interrelationship between staff development and early intervention and staff development programs currently offered at the site;
- (2) identify the number of children at the end of kindergarten who are at risk of not learning to read by the end of first grade;
- (3) identify the number of children at the end of first grade who are at risk of not learning to read by the end of second grade;
- (4) select a proven curriculum that requires considerable parental involvement;
- (5) plan for incorporating the site's reading results into existing student progress and staff development reports for the department of children, families and learning;
- (6) plan for encouraging parental involvement to ensure that every child can read at grade level by the end of second grade; and
- (7) at the site's option, plan to serve as a training site for teachers in other buildings or

school districts.

Subd. 3. Grant application. Requires a school site to submit an application in the form and manner the commissioner prescribes, consistent with the requirements in subdivision 2. Requires the applicant to describe how the applicant will meet the criteria under subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. Grant awards. (a) Allows a school site to receive an unspecified grant amount for every 17 children identified as at risk of failing to learn to read by the end of first grade. Allows a school site to receive an unspecified grant amount for every 10 children identified as at risk of failing to learn to read at grade level by the end of second grade. Requires grant recipients to provide one dollar in local matching funds, including in-kind contributions, for every five dollars of state funds received.

(b) Allows a school site to receive an unspecified grant amount for establishing the school site as a training site for teachers in other school districts, teacher training or other start-up costs related to enhancing curriculum for early intervention reading programs for first grade children.

2 **Appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified sum from the general fund in fiscal year 2002 to the commissioner of children, families and learning for grants under section 1. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2003.