

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 1118

By: Thompson (Roger), Hall, and  
Newhouse of the Senate

3 and

4 Wallace, Martinez, McBride,  
5 and Baker of the House

6  
7 An Act relating to schools; making an appropriation  
8 to the State Board of Education; providing purpose;  
9 directing the State Department of Education to  
10 establish certain pilot program to employ a literacy  
11 instructional team; providing for technical  
12 assistance and program implementation guidance to  
13 team members and schools; directing team members to  
14 be placed regionally statewide; providing duties for  
15 team; providing training requirements for team  
16 members; providing for Department oversight of team;  
17 establishing minimum criteria for team employees;  
18 providing hiring preferences for team members with  
19 certain knowledge and training; requiring submission  
20 of report by certain date; prescribing contents of  
21 report; providing for codification; providing an  
22 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

24 SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated to the State Board of  
Education from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the  
General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year  
ending June 30, 2022, the sum of Ten Million Dollars  
(\$10,000,000.00). These monies shall be used to implement the  
provisions of Section 2 of this act.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508H of Title 70, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the State  
5 Department of Education shall establish a three-year pilot program  
6 to employ a literacy instructional team to support school districts  
7 in implementation of the requirements of Section 1210.508C of Title  
8 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Department shall provide technical  
9 assistance for literacy instruction, dyslexia, and related  
10 disorders, and serve as a primary source of information and support  
11 for schools in addressing the needs of students struggling with  
12 literacy, dyslexia, and related disorders.

13 B. The Department shall employ a literacy instructional team  
14 with team members who are placed regionally across the state. The  
15 literacy instructional teams shall assist general education and  
16 special education teachers in recognizing educational needs to  
17 improve literacy outcomes for all students including those with  
18 dyslexia or identified with the risk characteristics associated with  
19 dyslexia. The role of the literacy instructional team shall also  
20 include increasing professional awareness and instructional  
21 competencies to meet the educational needs of all students including  
22 those with dyslexia or identified with risk characteristics  
23 associated with dyslexia. The Department shall prioritize supports  
24 and interventions including enrollment in reading trainings and

1 professional development for schools which have the highest  
2 percentage of students who do not demonstrate sufficient reading  
3 skills as established by the State Board of Education.

4 C. Literacy instructional team members employed by the  
5 Department shall have training in:

6 1. The science of how students learn to read including  
7 phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension,  
8 writing, and language;

9 2. Foundation of multisensory, explicit, systematic, and  
10 structured reading instruction;

11 3. Identification of and the appropriate interventions,  
12 accommodations, and teaching techniques for struggling students;

13 4. The requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act;

14 5. Special education laws and procedures; and

15 6. Appropriate interventions, accommodations, and assistive  
16 technology supports for students with dyslexia or a related  
17 disorder.

18 D. The literacy instructional team members employed by the  
19 Department shall report to the Director of Reading Sufficiency and  
20 have:

21 1. A minimum of five regional literacy leads, at least one who  
22 shall be designated by the Department as a dyslexia specialist to  
23 provide school districts with support and resources that are  
24 necessary to assist students with dyslexia. The Department shall

1 give preference to educators applying for regional literacy lead  
2 who:

- 3 a. have an endorsement or certification as a certified  
4 structured literacy dyslexia specialist or certified  
5 academic language therapist,
- 6 b. are knowledgeable of multitiered systems of support,  
7 and
- 8 c. have been trained in the identification of and  
9 intervention for dyslexia and related disorders  
10 including best practice interventions and treatment  
11 models for dyslexia; and

12 2. A minimum of ten literacy specialists. The Department shall  
13 give preference to educators applying for literacy specialist who:

- 14 a. have training in the science of reading,
- 15 b. are knowledgeable of multitiered systems of support,  
16 and
- 17 c. have been trained in the identification of and  
18 intervention for dyslexia and related disorders  
19 including best practice interventions and treatment  
20 models for dyslexia.

21 E. The State Department of Education shall submit a report to  
22 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the  
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2026, that  
24 includes an evaluation of the pilot program by school districts,

1 data on whether the program had an impact on increasing the number  
2 of students who demonstrate proficiency in reading, and  
3 recommendations for changes to the Reading Sufficiency Act.

4 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

5 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

9 Passed the Senate the 17th day of May, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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13 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
14 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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