

OKLAHOMA STATE SENATE  
CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE REPORT

May 21, 2024

Mr. President

Mr. Speaker

The Conference Committee, to which was referred

SB362

By: Pugh of the Senate and Baker and Davis of the House


Title: Reading Sufficiency Act; renaming to Strong Readers Act; assessments, screening Effective date. Emergency


together with Engrossed House Amendments thereto, beg leave to report that we have had the same under consideration and herewith return the same with the following recommendations:


1. That the House recede from all Amendments
2. That the attached Conference Committee Substitute (Request # 3801) be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

SENATE CONFEREES:

  
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 Pugh

  
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 Seifried

  
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 Thompson, K

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Rader

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Hicks

HOUSE CONFEREES:

Conference Committee on Common Education

Senate Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ House Action \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 362

6 By: Pugh of the Senate

7 and

8 Baker and Davis of the  
9 House

10 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to the Reading Sufficiency Act;  
12 creating the Statewide Literacy Revolving Fund;  
13 specifying source of fund; providing for expenditures  
14 subject to availability of certain funding; providing  
15 purpose of fund; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-  
16 200, which relates to development of residency  
17 committees; updating statutory language; requiring  
18 electronic submission of certain report; updating  
19 statutory references; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section  
20 1210.508A, which relates to short title; renaming act  
21 the Strong Readers Act; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
22 Section 1210.508B, which relates to legislative  
23 intent; modifying intent; modifying purpose of act;  
24 providing legislative intent to prohibit certain  
model of teaching beginning in certain school year;  
defining term; updating statutory language; amending  
70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508C, which relates to  
reading assessments; requiring students in certain  
grades to be screened for certain reading skills with  
certain frequency; directing approval of certain  
screening instrument to be done with certain  
consultation; directing certain factors to be  
considered in approving certain screening instrument;  
removing language regarding students in kindergarten  
who are at risk for reading difficulties or are not  
meeting grade-level targets; removing language  
requiring provision of certain classroom assistants;  
removing language requiring certain program of  
reading instruction to include certain initiative;

1 requiring certain number of screening instruments to  
2 be approved beginning in certain school year;  
3 modifying criteria for screening instruments;  
4 providing exemptions from screening requirements to  
5 certain students; requiring schools that grant  
6 certain exemptions to provide certain ongoing  
7 evidence; requiring, rather than allowing, program of  
8 reading instruction to include certain provisions;  
9 directing an individual reading intervention plan to  
10 be provided within certain time period to certain  
11 students; requiring the plan to include certain  
12 provisions; requiring notification of a parent or  
13 legal guardian within certain time period of  
14 identification of certain deficiency; removing  
15 requirement for development of new program of reading  
16 instruction; providing certain exemption for certain  
17 students who demonstrate proficiency in reading;  
18 requiring continued monitoring of such student;  
19 requiring intensive intervention services to be  
20 provided to certain students beginning in certain  
21 school year; removing language prohibiting automatic  
22 promotion of certain students; removing language  
23 regarding minimum criteria for grade-level  
24 performance; removing language allowing probationary  
promotion; removing language requiring retention of  
certain third-grade students; requiring certain  
report to be submitted electronically to additional  
recipients; expanding contents of report; removing  
language establishing good-cause exemptions for  
promotion; removing language regarding exemptions to  
retention; removing language requiring school  
districts to conduct certain review of certain  
program; removing language directing school districts  
to establish a Reading Enhancement and Acceleration  
Development (READ) Initiative; requiring certain  
reports to be submitted electronically to additional  
recipients; modifying contents of reports; amending  
70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508D, which relates to  
Reading Sufficiency Act funding; updating statutory  
language; directing funds allocated for professional  
development to be used to provide certain training;  
amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508E, which  
relates to summer academies; expanding grade levels  
for which summer academies may be provided; modifying  
reason for which a student may participate in an  
academy; removing requirement to retain certain  
student for not completing certain academy; updating

1 statutory language; updating statutory references;  
2 amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508F, which  
3 relates to reading competencies for certain teachers;  
4 directing the Commission for Educational Quality and  
5 Accountability rather than the State Board of  
6 Education to ensure certain teachers are provided  
7 certain training in the science of reading; directing  
8 the Commission to develop and administer certain  
9 assessment to certain teacher candidates beginning on  
10 certain date; requiring candidates for certain  
11 teaching certificates to complete instruction in the  
12 science of reading; amending Section 2, Chapter 288,  
13 O.S.L. 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 1210.508H),  
14 which relates to literacy instructional teams;  
15 updating statutory language; updating statutory  
16 references; requiring electronic submission of  
17 certain report; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section  
18 1210.520, which relates to dyslexia screening;  
19 updating statutory language; updating statutory  
20 references; providing for codification; providing an  
21 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

22  
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

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

A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving  
fund for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to be  
designated the "Statewide Literacy Revolving Fund". The fund shall  
be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and  
shall consist of all monies received by the State Regents from state  
appropriations provided for the purpose of implementing the  
provisions of subsection B of this section. All monies accruing to  
the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted

1 and expended by the State Regents for the purpose provided for in  
2 this subsection. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon  
3 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as  
4 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and  
5 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

6 B. Subject to the availability of funding, the Oklahoma State  
7 Regents for Higher Education shall utilize the Statewide Literacy  
8 Revolving Fund created in subsection A of this section to:

9 1. Implement training in the science of reading in teacher  
10 preparation programs accredited by the Commission for Educational  
11 Quality and Accountability. For the purposes of this section,  
12 training in the science of reading includes providing explicit and  
13 systematic instruction in phonological awareness, decoding, fluency,  
14 vocabulary, and comprehension and implementing reading strategies  
15 that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among  
16 students with reading difficulties. Beginning with students  
17 entering a teacher preparation program accredited by the Commission  
18 for Educational Quality and Accountability in the 2025-2026 academic  
19 year, completion of training required by this paragraph shall lead  
20 to a micro-credential in the science of reading which shall be  
21 reflected on teaching certificates awarded to such individuals; and

22 2. Support teacher preparation programs accredited by the  
23 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability in developing  
24 and implementing a micro-credential in the science of reading for

1 certified teachers employed by school districts and charter schools  
2 in this state. A micro-credential awarded pursuant to this  
3 paragraph shall be reflected on a teacher's certificate to teach.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-200, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 6-200. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the  
7 State Board of Education shall have authority to develop and  
8 administer training for residency committees and training for  
9 professional development through professional development  
10 institutes. Included in the professional development ~~institutes~~  
11 institute training shall be technology training. ~~Professional~~  
12 ~~development institutes~~ "Professional development institutes" shall  
13 be defined as continuing education experiences which consist of a  
14 minimum of thirty (30) clock hours. The institutes shall be  
15 competency-based, emphasize effective learning practices, require  
16 collaboration among participants, and require each participant to  
17 prepare a work product which can be utilized in the classroom by the  
18 participant. Any state professional development institutes  
19 administered by the Board shall be chosen through a competitive bid  
20 process and, if funds are available, subject to peer review. The  
21 Board, prior to offering any professional development institute,  
22 shall promulgate rules related to administering state professional  
23 development institutes.

24

1 B. The State Board of Education shall develop, offer, and  
2 administer professional development institutes to train elementary  
3 school teachers in reading education and, if funds are available,  
4 which may include but not be limited to grant, foundation, or other  
5 funds, to train middle school teachers in reading education. Funds  
6 appropriated for this purpose shall be used for the cost of  
7 developing, administering, and contracting for the professional  
8 development institutes. When possible, certified reading  
9 specialists shall be included as consultants. All costs of the  
10 institutes shall be included in the contract price, and no tuition  
11 or registration fee shall be collected from teachers attending the  
12 institutes. The institutes shall be offered by or through the  
13 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability. Working in  
14 conjunction with the State Department of Education, the Commission  
15 shall develop a state plan for administration of such institutes and  
16 shall report electronically on or before November 1 of each year to  
17 the Governor and the Legislature on the format of and participation  
18 in the institutes. The State Department of Education shall  
19 cooperate with and provide any information requested, including data  
20 available through the state student record system, to the State  
21 Board of Education as is necessary to carry out the provisions of  
22 this section.

23 C. Subject to the availability of funds, the State Board of  
24 Education shall:

1           1. Contract for an independent evaluation of the reading  
2 professional development institutes. The evaluation shall determine  
3 adherence to program requirements as provided in this section and  
4 the program's effectiveness in increasing teacher knowledge and  
5 student achievement; and

6           2. Provide continued support of the reading professional  
7 development institutes through ongoing teacher development at  
8 individual school sites. Funds may be used for the cost of mentor  
9 training, payment for substitute teachers, on-site facilitation, and  
10 any other costs necessary to ensure improved reading by students.

11          D. 1. For the purpose of implementing comprehensive reading  
12 reform and systemic change, the State Board of Education shall award  
13 one-year grants renewable for up to two (2) additional years to  
14 public schools that serve students in kindergarten through third  
15 grade. The grants ~~will~~ shall provide for:

16           a. a five-day initial professional development institute  
17               in elementary school reading for teachers of  
18               kindergarten through third grade, instructional  
19               leaders, and principals,

20           b. a three-day follow-up professional development  
21               institute in elementary school reading for teachers of  
22               kindergarten through third grade and instructional  
23               leaders, and



1 c. continued support through ongoing teacher development  
2 at school sites, including four (4) days of  
3 professional development for principals and literacy  
4 resource specialists, and six (6) days of on-site  
5 visits by a program consultant.

6 2. In order to qualify for a grant pursuant to this subsection,  
7 the following requirements shall be met:

8 a. at least eighty percent (80%) of the teachers of  
9 kindergarten through third grade at the school shall  
10 have demonstrated support for the training program  
11 provided pursuant to this subsection,

12 b. the principal shall ensure that all members of the  
13 leadership team and all teachers of kindergarten  
14 through third grade will participate in all phases of  
15 the training program,

16 c. the school district shall ensure that any new teacher  
17 of kindergarten through third grade or principal at  
18 the school will participate in all phases of the  
19 training program, and

20 d. the school district shall employ a literacy resource  
21 specialist for at least two (2) years after completion  
22 of the training provided in this subsection. One or  
23 more districts may share a literacy resource  
24 specialist upon approval of the Board.

1           3. Any school which has been determined by the State Board of  
2 Education to be a school in need of improvement shall be given  
3 priority for receipt of a grant. Grants to local school districts  
4 may be awarded based on the amount of funds allocated to the State  
5 Board of Education for the purposes of this section. Funds may be  
6 used for payment for substitute teachers, program consultants, on-  
7 site facilitation, and literacy resource specialists.

8           4. For program evaluation purposes, each school awarded a grant  
9 pursuant to this subsection shall provide to the Commission for  
10 Educational Quality and Accountability student-level data and  
11 results of the reading assessments administered pursuant to the  
12 Oklahoma School Testing Program Act for the year prior to the grant  
13 award, for each year a grant is received by the school, and for  
14 three (3) years after completion of the program. If funds are not  
15 sufficient to award grants to all eligible applicants, schools may  
16 be placed on a waiting list for priority consideration for the  
17 following year's round of grant awards which shall be superior to  
18 the priority given to schools as provided in paragraph 3 of this  
19 subsection, if the school provides student data for the current year  
20 to the Board as provided in this paragraph.

21           5. The professional development institutes in elementary  
22 reading provided pursuant to this section shall incorporate the  
23 requirements of the ~~Reading Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers Act.  
24

1 E. As additional funds become available for such purpose, the  
2 Board shall develop and offer professional development institutes  
3 in:

4 1. Mathematics for teachers in grades kindergarten through  
5 nine;

6 2. The use of technology in the classroom;

7 3. Training of residency committee members in teacher  
8 mentoring; and

9 4. Hands-on inquiry-based science for elementary teachers.

10 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508A,  
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 Section 1210.508A. Sections 1210.508A through ~~1210.508E~~  
13 1210.508H of this title shall be known and may be cited as the  
14 ~~"Reading Sufficiency Act"~~ "Strong Readers Act".

15 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508B,  
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1210.508B. A. The Legislature finds that it is  
18 essential for children in the public schools to read early and well  
19 in elementary school. The Legislature further finds that clear and  
20 visible goals, assessments to determine the reading level at each  
21 elementary school, ~~annual~~ use of a scientifically based and  
22 researched methodology in reading instruction in addition to regular  
23 and periodic measurements of elementary school reading improvement,  
24 and accountability in each level of the educational system will

1 result in a significant increase in the number of children reading  
2 at or above grade level.

3 B. The purpose of the ~~Reading Sufficiency Act~~ Strong Readers  
4 Act is to ensure that ~~each child attains the necessary reading~~  
5 ~~skills by completion of the third grade which will enable that~~  
6 ~~student to continue development of reading skills and to succeed~~  
7 ~~throughout school and life~~ progression from one grade to another is  
8 determined, in part, upon proficiency in reading, that school  
9 district board of education policies facilitate reading instruction  
10 and intervention services to address student reading needs, and that  
11 each student and his or her parent or legal guardian be informed of  
12 that student's reading progress.

13 C. Each public school district in this state shall ensure that  
14 all students receive a well-rounded education that is focused on  
15 building deep foundations in reading, writing, and mathematics. The  
16 State Board of Education shall encourage school districts to  
17 integrate the teaching of the other curricular areas in the subject  
18 matter standards adopted by the Board with the instruction of  
19 reading, writing, and mathematics. All teachers of reading in the  
20 public schools in this state in kindergarten through third grade  
21 shall incorporate into instruction the five elements of reading  
22 instruction which are ~~phonemic~~ phonological awareness, ~~phonics~~  
23 decoding, ~~reading~~ fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

24

1        D. It is the intent of the Legislature that beginning with the  
2 2025-2026 school year, school districts and charter schools in this  
3 state shall be prohibited from using the three-cueing system model  
4 of teaching students to read. For the purposes of this section, the  
5 “three-cueing system” means any model of teaching students to read  
6 based on meaning, structure, syntax, and visual cues, which may also  
7 be known as meaning, structure, and visual (MSV), balanced literacy,  
8 or whole language.

9        SECTION 5.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508C,  
10 is amended to read as follows:

11        Section 1210.508C. A. ~~1. Each~~ To identify students who have a  
12 reading deficiency including identifying students with  
13 characteristics of dyslexia, each student enrolled in kindergarten  
14 and first, second, and third grade in a public school in this state  
15 shall be screened at the beginning, middle, and end of each school  
16 year for reading skills including, but not limited to, ~~phonemic~~  
17 phonological awareness, letter recognition decoding, fluency,  
18 vocabulary, and oral language skills as identified in the subject  
19 matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education  
20 comprehension. A screening instrument approved by the State Board  
21 of Education, in consultation with the Commission for Educational  
22 Quality and Accountability and the Secretary of Education, shall be  
23 utilized for the purposes of this section. In determining which  
24 screening instrument to approve, the State Board of Education, the

1 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, and the  
2 Secretary of Education shall take into consideration at a minimum  
3 the following factors:

4 1. The time required to conduct the screening instrument with  
5 the intention of minimizing the impact on instructional time;

6 2. The timeliness in reporting screening instrument results to  
7 teachers, administrators, and parents and legal guardians of  
8 students; and

9 3. The integration of the screening instrument into reading  
10 curriculum.

11 ~~2. For those kindergarten children at risk for reading~~  
12 ~~difficulties at the beginning of the year, teachers shall emphasize~~  
13 ~~reading skills as identified in the subject matter standards adopted~~  
14 ~~by the State Board of Education, monitor progress throughout the~~  
15 ~~year and measure mid-year and year-end reading progress.~~

16 ~~3. Kindergarten students who are not meeting grade-level~~  
17 ~~targets by mid-year in reading shall be provided a program of~~  
18 ~~reading instruction designed to enable the student to acquire the~~  
19 ~~appropriate grade-level reading skills.~~

20 ~~4. Classroom assistants, which may include parents,~~  
21 ~~grandparents, or other volunteers, shall be provided in kindergarten~~  
22 ~~classes to assist with the screening of students if a teacher aide~~  
23 ~~is not already employed to assist in a kindergarten classroom.~~

24

1       ~~B. Each student enrolled in first, second and third grade of~~  
2 ~~the public schools of this state shall be assessed at the beginning,~~  
3 ~~middle and end of each school year using a screening instrument~~  
4 ~~approved by the State Board of Education for the acquisition of~~  
5 ~~reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness,~~  
6 ~~phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.~~

7       ~~C. Any student enrolled in first, second or third grade who is~~  
8 ~~assessed and who is not meeting grade level targets in reading shall~~  
9 ~~be provided a program of reading instruction designed to enable the~~  
10 ~~student to acquire the appropriate grade level reading skills. The~~  
11 ~~program of reading instruction shall include provisions of the READ~~  
12 ~~Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in~~  
13 ~~subsection P of this section. Throughout the year progress~~  
14 ~~monitoring shall continue, and diagnostic assessment, if determined~~  
15 ~~appropriate, shall be provided. Year-end reading skills shall be~~  
16 ~~measured to determine reading success.~~

17       ~~D. The Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, the State Board~~  
18 ~~of Education shall approve no fewer than three (3) screening~~  
19 ~~instruments for use at the beginning, middle, and end of the school~~  
20 ~~year, for monitoring of progress, and for measurement of reading~~  
21 ~~skills at the end of the school year as required in subsections~~  
22 ~~subsection A and B of this section; provided, at least one of the.~~  
23 ~~The screening instruments shall meet the following criteria:~~

- 1 1. Assess for ~~phonemic~~ phonological awareness, ~~phonics~~  
2 decoding, ~~reading~~ fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;
- 3 2. Document the validity and reliability of each assessment;
- 4 3. Can be used for identifying students who are at risk for  
5 reading deficiency and progress monitoring throughout the school  
6 year;
- 7 4. Can be used to assess students with disabilities and English  
8 language learners; and
- 9 5. Accompanied by a data management system that provides  
10 profiles ~~for~~ of students, class, grade level, and school building.  
11 The profiles shall identify each student's instructional point of  
12 need and reading achievement level. The State Board shall also  
13 determine other comparable reading assessments for diagnostic  
14 purposes to be used for students at risk of reading failure. ~~The~~  
15 ~~State Board shall ensure that any assessments approved are in~~  
16 ~~alignment with the subject matter standards adopted by the State~~  
17 ~~Board of Education.~~

18 E. C. 1. Exemptions to the screening requirements of this  
19 section may be provided to students who have documented evidence  
20 that they meet at least one of the following criteria as related to  
21 the provision of classroom instruction:

- 22 a. the student participates in the Oklahoma Alternate  
23 Assessment Program (OAAP) and is taught using  
24 alternate methods,



- 1           b. the student's primary expressive or receptive  
2           communication is sign language,
- 3           c. the student's primary form of written or read text is  
4           Braille, or
- 5           d. the student's primary expressive or receptive language  
6           is not English, the student is identified as an  
7           English learner using a state-approved identification  
8           assessment, and the student has had less than one (1)  
9           school year of instruction in an English-learner  
10           program.

11           2. A public school that grants an exemption pursuant to  
12 paragraph 1 of this subsection shall provide ongoing evidence of  
13 student progression toward English language acquisition with the  
14 same frequency as administration of screening assessments. Evidence  
15 may include, but not be limited to, student progression toward OAAP  
16 reading essential elements, proficiency in sign language and reading  
17 comprehension, and proficiency in Braille and reading comprehension.

18           D. 1. Students who are administered a screening instrument  
19 pursuant to subsection A of this section and are found not to be  
20 meeting grade-level targets shall be provided a program of reading  
21 instruction designed to enable students to acquire the appropriate  
22 grade-level reading skills. The program of reading instruction  
23 required in subsections A and B of this section shall be based on  
24 scientific reading research and align with the subject matter

1 standards adopted by the State Board of Education ~~and shall include~~  
2 ~~provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as~~  
3 ~~provided for in subsection P of this section.~~ A program of reading  
4 instruction ~~may include, but is not limited to~~ shall include:

5 a. sufficient additional in-school instructional time for  
6 the acquisition of ~~phonemic~~ phonological awareness,  
7 ~~phonics~~ decoding, ~~reading~~ fluency, vocabulary, and  
8 comprehension,

9 b. if necessary and if funding is available, tutorial  
10 instruction after regular school hours, on Saturdays,  
11 and during summer; however, such instruction may not  
12 be counted toward the one-hundred-eighty-day or one-  
13 thousand-eighty-hour school year required in Section  
14 1-109 of this title, ~~and~~

15 c. assessments identified for diagnostic purposes and  
16 periodic monitoring to measure the acquisition of  
17 reading skills including, but not limited to, ~~phonemic~~  
18 phonological awareness, ~~phonics~~ decoding, ~~reading~~  
19 fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as identified  
20 in the student's program of reading instruction,

21 d. high-quality instructional materials grounded in  
22 scientifically based reading research, and

23 e. a means of providing every family of a student in  
24 prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first, second, and

1 third grade access to free online evidence-based  
2 literacy instruction resources to support the  
3 student's literacy development at home.

4 2. A student enrolled in kindergarten or first ~~or~~, second,  
5 ~~grades or third grade~~ who ~~has been assessed as provided for in~~  
6 ~~subsection B of this section and found not to be meeting grade-level~~  
7 ~~targets in reading,~~ exhibits a deficiency in reading at any time  
8 based on the screening instrument administered pursuant to  
9 subsection A of this section shall ~~be entitled to supplemental~~  
10 ~~instructional services and supports in reading until the student is~~  
11 ~~determined by the results of a screening instrument to be meeting~~  
12 ~~grade-level targets in reading~~ receive an individual reading  
13 intervention plan no later than thirty (30) days after the  
14 identification of the deficiency in reading. The reading  
15 intervention plan shall be provided in addition to core reading  
16 instruction that is provided to all students. The reading  
17 intervention plan shall:

18 a. describe the research-based reading intervention  
19 services the student will receive to remedy the  
20 deficiency in reading,

21 b. provide explicit and systematic instruction in  
22 phonological awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary,  
23 and comprehension, as applicable,

- 1        c. monitor the reading progress of each student's reading  
2        skills throughout the school year and adjust  
3        instruction according to the student's needs, and  
4        d. continue until the student is determined to be meeting  
5        grade-level targets in reading based on screening  
6        instruments administered pursuant to subsection A of  
7        this section or assessments identified for diagnostic  
8        purposes and periodic monitoring pursuant to  
9        subparagraph c of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

10        3. The ~~program of reading instruction~~ intervention plan for  
11 each student identified with a deficiency in reading shall be  
12 developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and shall include  
13 supplemental instructional services and supports. Each team shall  
14 be composed of:

- 15        a. the parent or legal guardian of the student,  
16        b. the teacher assigned to the student who had  
17        responsibility for reading instruction in that  
18        academic year,  
19        c. a teacher who is responsible for reading instruction  
20        and is assigned to teach in the next grade level of  
21        the student, and  
22        d. a certified reading specialist, if one is available.

23        4. A school district shall notify the parent or legal guardian  
24 of any student in kindergarten or first, second, or third grade who

1 exhibits a deficiency in reading at any time based on the screening  
2 instrument administered pursuant to subsection A of this section.  
3 The notification shall occur no later than thirty (30) days after  
4 the identification of the deficiency in reading.

5 ~~F. The program of reading instruction shall continue until the~~  
6 ~~student is determined by the results of approved reading assessments~~  
7 ~~to be meeting grade-level targets.~~

8 ~~G.~~ E. 1. Every school district shall adopt, and implement a  
9 district ~~reading sufficiency~~ strong readers plan which has had input  
10 from school administrators, teachers, and parents and legal  
11 guardians and if possible a reading specialist, and which shall be  
12 submitted electronically to and approved by the State Board of  
13 Education. The plan shall be updated annually. School districts  
14 shall not be required to electronically submit the annual updates to  
15 the Board if the last plan submitted to the Board was approved and  
16 expenditures for the program include only expenses relating to  
17 individual and small group tutoring, purchase of and training in the  
18 use of screening and assessment measures, summer school programs,  
19 and Saturday school programs. If any expenditure for the program is  
20 deleted or changed or any other type of expenditure for the program  
21 is implemented, the school district shall be required to submit the  
22 latest annual update to the Board for approval. The district  
23 ~~reading sufficiency~~ strong readers plan shall include a plan for  
24 each site which includes an analysis of the data provided by the

1 Oklahoma School Testing Program and other reading assessments  
2 utilized as required in this section, and which outlines how each  
3 school site will comply with the provisions of the ~~Reading~~  
4 ~~Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers Act.

5 2. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the  
6 implementation and evaluation of the provisions of the ~~Reading~~  
7 ~~Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers Act. The evaluation shall include, but  
8 not be limited to, an analysis of the data required in subsection ~~S~~  
9 L of this section.

10 ~~H. For any third-grade student found not to be meeting grade-~~  
11 ~~level targets as determined by reading assessments administered~~  
12 ~~pursuant to this section, a new program of reading instruction,~~  
13 ~~including provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school~~  
14 ~~district as provided for in subsection P of this section, shall be~~  
15 ~~developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and implemented as~~  
16 ~~specified in subsection E of this section. In addition to other~~  
17 ~~requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act, the plan may include~~  
18 ~~specialized tutoring.~~

19 ~~I. F.~~ 1. Any first-grade, second-grade, or third-grade student  
20 who demonstrates ~~end of year~~ proficiency in reading at the ~~third-~~  
21 ~~grade level~~ through a grade-level appropriate screening instrument  
22 ~~which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria~~ approved  
23 pursuant to subsection B of this section shall not ~~be subject to~~  
24 ~~retention pursuant to this section~~ require a program of reading

1 instruction or an individual reading intervention plan. After a  
2 student has demonstrated proficiency through a screening instrument,  
3 the district shall provide notification to the parent or legal  
4 guardian of the student that ~~they have~~ he or she has satisfied the  
5 requirements of the ~~Reading Sufficiency Act~~ and will not be subject  
6 ~~to retention pursuant to this section~~ Strong Readers Act. The  
7 district shall continue to monitor the student in the next  
8 successive grade level to ensure he or she maintains proficiency.

9 2. ~~If~~ Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, if a third-  
10 grade student is identified at any point of the academic year as  
11 having a significant reading deficiency, which shall be defined as  
12 not meeting grade-level targets on a screening instrument ~~which~~  
13 ~~meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria~~ administered  
14 pursuant to subsection ~~B~~ A of this section, the district shall  
15 ~~immediately begin a student reading portfolio as provided by~~  
16 ~~subsection L of this section and shall provide notice to the parent~~  
17 ~~of the deficiency pursuant to subsection J of this section~~ provide  
18 the student with intensive intervention services for the appropriate  
19 amount of the instructional day consistent with the individual  
20 reading intervention plan developed pursuant to paragraph 2 of  
21 subsection D of this section and as determined by the Student  
22 Reading Proficiency Team. Intensive intervention services shall  
23 continue until the student demonstrates proficiency at his or her

24

1 grade level based on a screening instrument administered pursuant to  
2 subsection A of this section.

3 ~~3. If a student has not yet satisfied the proficiency~~  
4 ~~requirements of this section prior to the completion of third grade~~  
5 ~~and still has a significant reading deficiency, as identified based~~  
6 ~~on assessments administered as provided for in subsection B of this~~  
7 ~~section, has not accumulated evidence of third-grade proficiency~~  
8 ~~through a student portfolio as provided in subsection L of this~~  
9 ~~section, or is not subject to a good-cause exemption as provided in~~  
10 ~~subsection L of this section, then the student shall not be eligible~~  
11 ~~for automatic promotion to fourth grade.~~

12 ~~4. The minimum criteria for grade-level performance of third-~~  
13 ~~grade students pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act shall be that~~  
14 ~~students are able to read and comprehend grade-level text. To~~  
15 ~~determine the promotion and retention of third-grade students~~  
16 ~~pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act, the State Board of~~  
17 ~~Education shall use only the scores for the standards for reading~~  
18 ~~foundations/processes and vocabulary portions of the statewide~~  
19 ~~third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of~~  
20 ~~this title and shall not use the scores from the other language arts~~  
21 ~~portions of the assessment. The performance levels established by~~  
22 ~~the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability pursuant~~  
23 ~~to Section 1210.508 of this title shall ensure that students meeting~~  
24 ~~the performance-level criteria are performing at grade level on the~~



1 ~~reading foundations and vocabulary portions of the statewide third-~~  
2 ~~grade assessment.~~

3 ~~5. a. A student not eligible for automatic promotion as~~  
4 ~~provided for under paragraph 3 of this subsection and~~  
5 ~~who does not meet the criteria established by the~~  
6 ~~Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability~~  
7 ~~on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade~~  
8 ~~assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508~~  
9 ~~of this title may be evaluated for probationary~~  
10 ~~promotion by the Student Reading Proficiency Team~~  
11 ~~which was created for the student pursuant to~~  
12 ~~subsection E of this section.~~

13 ~~b. The student shall be promoted to the fourth grade if~~  
14 ~~the team members unanimously recommend probationary~~  
15 ~~promotion to the school principal and the school~~  
16 ~~district superintendent and the principal and~~  
17 ~~superintendent approve the recommendation that~~  
18 ~~promotion is the best option for the student. If a~~  
19 ~~student is allowed a probationary promotion, the team~~  
20 ~~shall continue to review the reading performance of~~  
21 ~~the student and repeat the requirements of this~~  
22 ~~paragraph each academic year until the student~~  
23 ~~demonstrates grade-level reading proficiency, as~~  
24 ~~identified through a screening instrument which meets~~

1 ~~the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to~~  
2 ~~subsection B of this section, for the corresponding~~  
3 ~~grade level in which the student is enrolled or~~  
4 ~~transitions to a locally designed remediation plan~~  
5 ~~after the fifth grade which shall have the goal of~~  
6 ~~ensuring that the student is on track to be college~~  
7 ~~and career ready.~~

8 ~~6. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, students who do~~  
9 ~~not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for~~  
10 ~~Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the~~  
11 ~~statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section~~  
12 ~~1210.508 of this title, who are not subject to a good cause~~  
13 ~~exemption as provided in subsection I of this section, and who do~~  
14 ~~not qualify for promotion or probationary promotion as provided in~~  
15 ~~this subsection, shall be retained in the third grade and provided~~  
16 ~~intensive instructional services and supports as provided for in~~  
17 ~~subsection O of this section.~~

18 ~~7. G. Each school district shall annually report in an~~  
19 ~~electronic format to the State Department of Education, the Office~~  
20 ~~of Educational Quality and Accountability, and the Secretary of~~  
21 ~~Education the number of students ~~promoted to the fourth grade~~~~  
22 ~~pursuant to this subsection and the number of students promoted to a~~  
23 ~~subsequent grade pursuant to the provisions in paragraph 5 of this~~  
24 ~~subsection in kindergarten through third grade per grade level who~~

1 exhibit grade-level reading proficiency, the number of students per  
2 grade level who received intensive intervention services pursuant to  
3 paragraph 2 of subsection F of this section, the number of students  
4 per grade level who attended a summer academy as provided for in  
5 Section 1210.508E of this title, the number of students per grade  
6 level who exhibited improved reading proficiency after completion of  
7 intensive intervention services, and the number of students per  
8 grade level who are still in need of intensive intervention  
9 services. The State Department of Education shall publicly report  
10 the aggregate and district-specific ~~number of students promoted~~  
11 numbers submitted pursuant to this subsection on ~~their~~ its website  
12 and shall provide electronic copies of the report to the Governor,  
13 Secretary of Education, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker  
14 of the House of Representatives, and to the respective chairs of the  
15 committees with responsibility for common education policy in each  
16 legislative chamber.

17 ~~J.~~ H. The parent of any student who is found to have a reading  
18 deficiency and is not meeting grade-level reading targets and has  
19 been provided a program of reading instruction as provided for in  
20 paragraph 1 of subsection B D of this section shall be notified in  
21 writing of the following:

22 1. That the student has been identified as having a substantial  
23 deficiency in reading;

24

1           2. A description of the current services that are provided to  
2 the student pursuant to ~~a conjoint measurement model such that a~~  
3 ~~reader and a text are placed on the same scale~~ subsection D of this  
4 section;

5           3. A description of the proposed ~~supplemental instructional~~  
6 intensive intervention services and supports that will be provided  
7 to the student that are designed to remediate the identified area of  
8 reading deficiency as provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection F of  
9 this section;

10          4. That ~~the~~ a student ~~will not be~~ who is promoted to the fourth  
11 grade ~~if the reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of the~~  
12 ~~third grade, unless the student is otherwise promoted as provided~~  
13 ~~for in subsection I of this section or is exempt for good cause as~~  
14 ~~set forth in subsection L of this section~~ shall receive supplemental  
15 intensive intervention services;

16          5. Strategies for parents to use in helping their child succeed  
17 in reading proficiency; and

18          6. The grade-level performance scores of the student;

19          ~~7. That while the results of the statewide assessments~~  
20 ~~administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title are the~~  
21 ~~initial determinant, they are not the sole determiner of promotion~~  
22 ~~and that portfolio reviews and assessments are available; and~~

23

24

1       ~~8. The specific criteria and policies of the school district~~  
2 ~~for midyear promotion implemented as provided for in paragraph 4 of~~  
3 ~~subsection O of this section.~~

4       ~~K. I.~~ No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely  
5 on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.

6       ~~L. For those students who do not meet the academic requirements~~  
7 ~~for promotion and who are not otherwise promoted as provided for in~~  
8 ~~subsection I of this section, a school district may promote the~~  
9 ~~student for good cause only. Good cause exemptions for promotion~~  
10 ~~shall be limited to the following:~~

11       ~~1. English language learners who have had less than two (2)~~  
12 ~~years of instruction in an English language learner program;~~

13       ~~2. Students with disabilities whose individualized education~~  
14 ~~program (IEP), consistent with state law, indicates that the student~~  
15 ~~is to be assessed with alternate achievement standards through the~~  
16 ~~Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP);~~

17       ~~3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance~~  
18 ~~on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the~~  
19 ~~State Board of Education;~~

20       ~~4. Students who demonstrate, through a student portfolio, that~~  
21 ~~the student is reading on grade level as evidenced by demonstration~~  
22 ~~of mastery of the state standards beyond the retention level;~~

23       ~~5. Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide~~  
24 ~~assessments administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title~~

1 ~~and who have an individualized education program that reflects that~~  
2 ~~the student has received intensive remediation in reading and has~~  
3 ~~made adequate progress in reading pursuant to the student's~~  
4 ~~individualized education program;~~

5 ~~6. Students who have received intensive remediation in reading~~  
6 ~~through a program of reading instruction for two (2) or more years~~  
7 ~~but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were~~  
8 ~~previously retained in prekindergarten for academic reasons,~~  
9 ~~kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade; and~~

10 ~~7. Students who have been granted an exemption for medical~~  
11 ~~emergencies by the State Department of Education.~~

12 ~~M. A student who is otherwise promoted as provided for in~~  
13 ~~subsection I of this section or is promoted for good cause as~~  
14 ~~provided for in subsection L of this section shall be provided~~  
15 ~~intensive reading instruction that includes specialized diagnostic~~  
16 ~~information and specific reading strategies for each student until~~  
17 ~~the student meets grade-level targets in reading. The school~~  
18 ~~district shall assist schools and teachers to implement reading~~  
19 ~~strategies for the promoted students that research has shown to be~~  
20 ~~successful in improving reading among low performing readers.~~

21 ~~N. Requests to exempt students from the retention requirements~~  
22 ~~based on one of the good cause exemptions as described in subsection~~  
23 ~~L of this section shall be made using the following process:~~

1       ~~1. Documentation submitted from the teacher of the student to~~  
2 ~~the school principal that indicates the student meets one of the~~  
3 ~~good cause exemptions and promotion of the student is appropriate.~~  
4 ~~In order to minimize paperwork requirements, the documentation shall~~  
5 ~~consist only of the alternative assessment results or student~~  
6 ~~portfolio work and the individual education plan (IEP), as~~  
7 ~~applicable;~~

8       ~~2. The principal of the school shall review and discuss the~~  
9 ~~documentation with the teacher and, if applicable, the other members~~  
10 ~~of the Student Reading Proficiency Team as described in subsection E~~  
11 ~~of this section. If the principal determines that the student meets~~  
12 ~~one of the good cause exemptions and should be promoted based on the~~  
13 ~~documentation provided, the principal shall make a recommendation in~~  
14 ~~writing to the school district superintendent; and~~

15       ~~3. After review, the school district superintendent shall~~  
16 ~~accept or reject the recommendation of the principal in writing.~~

17       ~~0. Each school district shall:~~

18       ~~1. Conduct a review of the program of reading instruction for~~  
19 ~~all students who do not meet the performance criteria established by~~  
20 ~~the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the~~  
21 ~~reading portion of the statewide assessment administered pursuant to~~  
22 ~~Section 1210.508 of this title and did not meet the criteria for one~~  
23 ~~of the good cause exemptions as set forth in subsection L of this~~  
24 ~~section. The review shall address additional supports and services,~~

1 ~~as described in this subsection, needed to remediate the identified~~  
2 ~~areas of reading deficiency. The school district shall require a~~  
3 ~~student portfolio to be completed for each retained student;~~

4 ~~2. Provide to students who have been retained as set forth in~~  
5 ~~subsection I of this section with intensive interventions in~~  
6 ~~reading, intensive instructional services and supports to remediate~~  
7 ~~the identified areas of reading deficiency, including a minimum of~~  
8 ~~ninety (90) minutes of daily, uninterrupted, scientific research-~~  
9 ~~based reading instruction. Retained students shall be provided~~  
10 ~~other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may~~  
11 ~~include, but are not limited to:~~

12 ~~a. small group instruction,~~

13 ~~b. reduced teacher-student ratios,~~

14 ~~c. more frequent progress monitoring,~~

15 ~~d. tutoring or mentoring,~~

16 ~~e. transition classes containing third- and fourth-grade~~  
17 ~~students,~~

18 ~~f. extended school day, week, or year, and~~

19 ~~g. summer reading academies as provided for in Section~~  
20 ~~1210.508E of this title, if available;~~

21 ~~3. Provide written notification to the parent or guardian of~~  
22 ~~any student who is to be retained as set forth in subsection I of~~  
23 ~~this section that the student has not met the performance criteria~~  
24 ~~required for promotion and was not otherwise promoted and the~~



1 ~~reasons the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption. The~~  
2 ~~notification shall include a description of proposed interventions~~  
3 ~~and intensive instructional supports that will be provided to the~~  
4 ~~student to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency;~~

5 4. ~~Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a retained~~  
6 ~~student who can demonstrate that the student is a successful and~~  
7 ~~independent reader, is reading at or above grade-level targets, and~~  
8 ~~is ready to be promoted to the fourth grade. Tools that school~~  
9 ~~districts may use in reevaluating any retained student may include~~  
10 ~~screening assessments, alternative assessments, and portfolio~~  
11 ~~reviews, in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.~~  
12 ~~Retained students may only be promoted midyear prior to November 1~~  
13 ~~and only upon demonstrating that the student has met the performance~~  
14 ~~criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and~~  
15 ~~Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade~~  
16 ~~assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title,~~  
17 ~~or upon demonstrating proficiency in reading at the third-grade~~  
18 ~~level through a screening instrument administered pursuant to~~  
19 ~~subsection B of this section, and upon showing progress sufficient~~  
20 ~~to master appropriate fourth-grade-level skills, as determined by~~  
21 ~~the school. A midyear promotion shall be made only upon agreement~~  
22 ~~of the parent or guardian of the student and the school principal;~~

23  
24

1 ~~5. Provide students who are retained with a high-performing~~  
2 ~~teacher who can address the needs of the student, based on student~~  
3 ~~performance data and above-satisfactory performance appraisals; and~~

4 ~~6. In addition to required reading enhancement and acceleration~~  
5 ~~strategies, provide students who are retained with at least one of~~  
6 ~~the following instructional options:~~

7 ~~a. supplemental tutoring in scientific-research-based~~  
8 ~~reading services in addition to the regular reading~~  
9 ~~block, including tutoring before or after school,~~

10 ~~b. a parent-guided "Read at Home" assistance plan, as~~  
11 ~~developed by the State Department of Education, the~~  
12 ~~purpose of which is to encourage regular parent-guided~~  
13 ~~home reading, or~~

14 ~~c. a mentor or tutor with specialized reading training.~~

15 ~~P. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each school~~  
16 ~~district shall establish a Reading Enhancement and Acceleration~~  
17 ~~Development (READ) Initiative. The focus of the READ Initiative~~  
18 ~~shall be to prevent the retention of third-grade students by~~  
19 ~~offering intensive accelerated reading instruction to third-grade~~  
20 ~~students who failed to meet standards for promotion to fourth grade~~  
21 ~~and to kindergarten through third-grade students who are exhibiting~~  
22 ~~a reading deficiency. The READ Initiative shall:~~

23 ~~1. Be provided to all kindergarten through third-grade students~~  
24 ~~at risk of retention as identified by the assessments administered~~

1 ~~pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act. The assessment used shall~~  
2 ~~measure phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary,~~  
3 ~~and comprehension;~~

4 ~~2. Be provided during regular school hours in addition to the~~  
5 ~~regular reading instruction;~~

6 ~~3. Provide a reading curriculum that, at a minimum, meets the~~  
7 ~~following specifications:~~

8 ~~a. assists students assessed as exhibiting a reading~~  
9 ~~deficiency in developing the ability to read at grade~~  
10 ~~level;~~

11 ~~b. provides skill development in phonemic awareness,~~  
12 ~~phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and~~  
13 ~~comprehension;~~

14 ~~c. provides a scientific-research-based and reliable~~  
15 ~~assessment;~~

16 ~~d. provides initial and ongoing analysis of the reading~~  
17 ~~progress of each student, and~~

18 ~~e. is implemented during regular school hours;~~

19 ~~4. Establish at each school, where applicable, an Intensive~~  
20 ~~Acceleration Class for retained third-grade students who~~  
21 ~~subsequently do not meet the performance criteria established by the~~  
22 ~~Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading~~  
23 ~~portion of the statewide assessment administered pursuant to Section~~  
24 ~~1210.508 of this title. The focus of the Intensive Acceleration~~

1 ~~Class shall be to increase the reading level of a child at least two~~  
2 ~~grade levels in one (1) school year. The Intensive Acceleration~~

3 ~~Class shall:~~

- 4       ~~a. be provided to any student in the third grade who does~~  
5           ~~not meet the performance criteria established by the~~  
6           ~~Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability~~  
7           ~~on the reading portion of the statewide assessments~~  
8           ~~and who was retained in the third grade the prior year~~  
9           ~~because of not meeting the performance criteria on the~~  
10          ~~reading portion of the statewide assessments,~~
- 11       ~~b. have a reduced teacher-student ratio,~~
- 12       ~~c. provide uninterrupted reading instruction for the~~  
13           ~~majority of student contact time each day and~~  
14           ~~incorporate opportunities to master the fourth-grade~~  
15           ~~state standards in other core subject areas,~~
- 16       ~~d. use a reading program that is scientific-research-~~  
17           ~~based and has proven results in accelerating student~~  
18           ~~reading achievement within the same school year,~~
- 19       ~~e. provide intensive language and vocabulary instruction~~  
20           ~~using a scientific-research-based program, including~~  
21           ~~use of a speech-language therapist, and~~
- 22       ~~f. include weekly progress monitoring measures to ensure~~  
23           ~~progress is being made;~~

1       ~~5. Provide reports to the State Board of Education, upon~~  
2 ~~request, on the specific intensive reading interventions and~~  
3 ~~supports implemented by the school district. The State~~  
4 ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually prescribe the~~  
5 ~~required components of the reports; and~~

6       ~~6. Provide to a student who has been retained in the third~~  
7 ~~grade and has received intensive instructional services but is still~~  
8 ~~not ready for grade promotion, as determined by the school district,~~  
9 ~~the option of being placed in a transitional instructional setting.~~  
10 ~~A transitional setting shall specifically be designed to produce~~  
11 ~~learning gains sufficient to meet fourth-grade performance standards~~  
12 ~~while continuing to remediate the areas of reading deficiency.~~

13       ~~Q. J.~~ 1. Each school district board of education shall  
14 annually publish on the school website~~7~~ and report ~~in writing~~  
15 electronically to the State ~~Board~~ Department of Education, the  
16 Office of Educational Quality and Accountability, and the Secretary  
17 of Education by September 1 of each year~~7~~ the following information  
18 on the prior school year:

- 19           a. ~~the provisions of this section relating to public~~  
20 ~~school student progression and the policies and~~  
21 ~~procedures of~~ adopted by the school district ~~on~~  
22 ~~student retention and promotion~~ board of education to  
23 implement the provisions of this section. The  
24 information submitted shall include expenditures

1 related to implementing the provisions of this  
2 section, the number of staff implementing the  
3 provisions of this section, and average daily  
4 classroom time devoted to implementing the provisions  
5 of this section,

6 b. by grade, the number and percentage of all students in  
7 ~~grade three that did not meet the performance criteria~~  
8 ~~established by the Commission for Educational Quality~~  
9 ~~and Accountability on the reading portion of the~~  
10 ~~statewide assessment administered pursuant to Section~~  
11 ~~1210.508 of this title~~ kindergarten through third  
12 grade who did not meet grade-level targets based on a  
13 screening instrument administered pursuant to  
14 subsection A of this section,

15 c. by grade, the number and percentage of all students  
16 ~~retained in grades three through ten~~ in kindergarten  
17 through third grade who have been enrolled in the  
18 district for fewer than two (2) years,

19 d. ~~information on the total number and percentage of~~  
20 ~~students who were promoted for good cause, by each~~  
21 ~~category of good cause as specified above, and~~ by  
22 grade, the number and percentage of students in  
23 kindergarten through third grade who demonstrated  
24 grade-level proficiency based on a screening

1 instrument administered pursuant to subsection A of  
2 this section, and

- 3 e. ~~any revisions to the policies of the school district~~  
4 ~~on student retention and promotion from the prior year~~  
5 by grade, the number and percentage of students in  
6 kindergarten through third grade who are on an  
7 individualized education program (IEP) in accordance  
8 with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
9 (IDEA) and who demonstrated grade-level proficiency  
10 based on a screening instrument administered pursuant  
11 to subsection A of this section or an alternative  
12 assessment prescribed by the student's IEP.

13 2. The State Department of Education shall establish a uniform  
14 format for school districts to report the information required in  
15 this subsection. The format shall be developed with input from  
16 school districts and shall be provided not later than ninety (90)  
17 days prior to the annual due date. The Department shall annually  
18 compile the information required, along with state-level summary  
19 information, and electronically report the information to the  
20 public, the Governor, the Secretary of Education, the President Pro  
21 Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives.

1       ~~R.~~ K. The State Department of Education shall provide technical  
2 assistance as needed to aid school districts in administering the  
3 ~~provision~~ provisions of the ~~Reading Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers Act.

4       ~~S.~~ L. On or before January 31 of each year, the State  
5 Department of Education shall ~~issue~~ electronically submit to the  
6 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of  
7 the House of Representatives, and members of the ~~Senate and House of~~  
8 ~~Representatives Education Committees~~ committees with responsibility  
9 over common education in both houses of the Legislature a ~~Reading~~  
10 ~~Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers Report which shall include, but is not  
11 limited to, trend data detailing three (3) years of data,  
12 disaggregated by student subgroups to include economically  
13 disadvantaged, major racial or ethnic groups, students with  
14 disabilities, and English language learners, as appropriate for the  
15 following:

16       1. The statewide aggregate number and percentage of students in  
17 kindergarten through third grade determined to be at risk for  
18 reading difficulties compared to the total number of students  
19 enrolled in each grade;

20       2. The statewide aggregate number and percentage of students in  
21 kindergarten who continue to be at risk for reading difficulties as  
22 determined by the year-end ~~measurement of reading progress~~  
23 administration of the screening instrument required subsection A of  
24 this section;



1        3. The statewide aggregate number and percentage of students in  
2 kindergarten through third grade who have successfully completed  
3 their program of reading instruction and are reading on grade level  
4 as determined by the results of screening instruments ~~approved~~  
5 ~~reading assessments~~ administered pursuant to subsection A of this  
6 section;

7        4. The statewide aggregate and district-specific number and  
8 percentage of students that meet or do not meet ~~the performance~~  
9 ~~criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and~~  
10 ~~Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade~~  
11 ~~assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title~~  
12 grade-level targets for reading based on screening instruments  
13 administered pursuant to subsection A of this section;

14        5. ~~The number of students tested, the number of students~~  
15 ~~promoted through meeting proficiency on a screening instrument as~~  
16 ~~provided for in subsection I of this section, the number of students~~  
17 ~~promoted through each of the good-cause exemptions as provided for~~  
18 ~~in subsection L of this section and the number of students retained~~  
19 ~~and the number of students promoted through probationary promotion~~  
20 ~~as provided for in subsection I of this section for each elementary~~  
21 ~~site;~~

22        6. ~~Data tracking the progression of students promoted through~~  
23 ~~each of the good-cause exemptions as provided for in subsection L of~~  
24 ~~this section and students promoted through probationary promotion or~~

1 ~~students who are retained in third grade as provided for in~~  
2 ~~subsection I of this section. The data shall include but not be~~  
3 ~~limited to information regarding whether students graduate on time;~~

4 ~~7.~~ The amount of funds ~~for reading remediation~~ received by each  
5 district for implementation of the Strong Readers Act;

6 ~~8.~~ 6. An evaluation and narrative interpretation of the report  
7 data analyzing the impact of the ~~Reading Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers  
8 Act on students' ability to read at grade level;

9 ~~9.~~ 7. The type of reading instruction practices and methods  
10 currently being used by school districts in the state;

11 ~~10.~~ 8. Socioeconomic information, access to reading resources  
12 outside of school, and screening for and identification of learning  
13 disabilities for students not reading at the appropriate grade level  
14 by third grade in kindergarten and first through third grade;

15 ~~11.~~ 9. By grade level, the types of intensive ~~remediation~~  
16 intervention efforts being conducted by school districts ~~to identify~~  
17 ~~best practices~~ for students that who are not on an IEP and who are  
18 not reading at the appropriate grade level and are not retained  
19 under the provisions of this section and for students who are on an  
20 IEP and who are not reading at the appropriate grade level; and

21 ~~12.~~ 10. Any recommendations for improvements or amendments to  
22 the ~~Reading Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers Act.

23

24

1 The State Department of Education may contract with an  
2 independent entity for the reporting and analysis requirements of  
3 this subsection.

4 ~~F.~~ M. Copies of the results of the ~~assessments~~ screening  
5 instruments administered pursuant to subsection A of this section  
6 shall be made a part of the permanent record of each student.

7 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508D,  
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 1210.508D. A. Contingent on the provision of  
10 appropriated funds designated for the ~~Reading Sufficiency Strong~~  
11 Readers Act, school districts may be allocated monies for each  
12 enrolled kindergarten student or first-, second-, and third-grade  
13 student of the current school year, ~~including any student who has~~  
14 ~~been retained in the third grade pursuant to Section 1210.508C of~~  
15 ~~this title~~, who is found to be in need of remediation or intensive  
16 intervention services in reading. The allocation shall be  
17 distributed to each school district upon approval of the ~~reading~~  
18 ~~sufficiency strong readers~~ plan for the school district by the State  
19 ~~Department~~ Board of Education and the submittal of a child-count  
20 report to the State Department of Education that details the number  
21 of students identified as needing remediation or intensive  
22 intervention services in reading. To determine a per-student  
23 allocation amount, the total amount of funds available for  
24 allocation each year shall be divided by the total number of

1 students in the state identified as in need of remediation or  
2 intensive intervention services in reading as provided for in  
3 Section 1210.508C of this title. Each school district shall be  
4 allocated an amount equal to the per-student allocation amount  
5 multiplied by the number of identified students enrolled in the  
6 school district.

7 B. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, districts  
8 receiving more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)  
9 pursuant to subsection A of this section shall spend no less than  
10 ten percent (10%) to provide professional development for teachers  
11 teaching prekindergarten through grade five. The professional  
12 development shall include training in the science of reading  
13 including how students learn to read; training in providing explicit  
14 and systematic instruction in phonological awareness, decoding,  
15 fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; implementing reading  
16 strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving  
17 reading among students with reading difficulties; as well as and  
18 instructional materials required for implementation.

19 C. By June 30, 2022, the Department shall approve and publish a  
20 list of professional development programs that are evidence-based  
21 and directly address the cognitive science of how students learn to  
22 read for which districts are permitted to use the funds received  
23 under this section.

24

1 D. If a teacher attends and completes a professional  
2 development institute in elementary reading approved by the ~~Oklahoma~~  
3 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational  
4 Quality and Accountability during the summer or when school is not  
5 in session, the teacher may receive a stipend equal to the amount of  
6 the cost for a substitute teacher, based on the amount of funds  
7 allocated.

8 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508E,  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 Section 1210.508E. A. If a teacher determines that a ~~third-~~  
11 ~~grade~~ student in kindergarten or first through third grade is not  
12 reading at grade level by the end of the second quarter of the  
13 school year, the parent or legal guardian of the student shall be  
14 notified of:

- 15 1. The reading level of the student;
- 16 2. The program of reading instruction for the student as  
17 required pursuant to the ~~Reading Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers Act; and
- 18 3. The potential need for the student to participate in a  
19 summer academy or other program designed to assist the student in  
20 attaining grade-level reading skills.

21 B. A teacher who determines a ~~third-grade~~ student in  
22 kindergarten or first through third grade is ~~unable to meet~~  
23 ~~competencies required~~ not meeting grade-level targets for reading  
24 ~~for completion of third grade and promotion to fourth grade~~ may,

1 after consultation with the parent or legal guardian of the student,  
2 recommend that the ~~promotion of the student to the fourth grade is~~  
3 ~~contingent upon the participation~~ participate in and ~~successful~~  
4 ~~completion of the required competencies for reading by the student~~  
5 at complete a summer academy or other program. ~~If the student does~~  
6 ~~not participate in the summer academy or other program or does not~~  
7 ~~successfully complete the competencies in the summer academy or~~  
8 ~~other program, the student shall be retained in the third grade as~~  
9 ~~set forth in Section 1210.508C of this title.~~

10 C. Summer academy programs shall be designed to ensure that  
11 participating students successfully complete the grade-level  
12 ~~competencies necessary in reading for promotion to fourth grade and~~  
13 to enhance next-grade readiness. A summer academy reading program  
14 shall be a program that incorporates the content of a scientifically  
15 research-based professional development program administered by the  
16 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for  
17 Educational Quality and Accountability or a scientifically research-  
18 based reading program administered by the State Board of Education  
19 and is taught by teachers who have successfully completed  
20 professional development in the reading program or who are certified  
21 as reading specialists.

22 D. School districts may approve an option for students who are  
23 unable to attend a summer academy. The optional program may  
24 include, but is not limited to, an approved private provider of

1 instruction, approved computer- or Internet-based instruction, or an  
2 approved program of reading instruction monitored by the parent or  
3 legal guardian. School districts shall not be required to pay for  
4 the optional program, but shall clearly communicate to the parent or  
5 legal guardian the expectations of the program and any costs that  
6 may be involved.

7 E. Subject to the availability of funds, beginning one (1) year  
8 after implementation of this section, the requirements of subsection  
9 B of this section may be expanded to apply to ~~fourth-grade student~~  
10 ~~promotion to fifth~~ students in fourth grade. Each year thereafter,  
11 the requirements may be expanded by one grade level until the  
12 requirements apply to third-grade students through eighth-grade  
13 students. Summer academy programs shall be designed for each grade  
14 level. Nothing in this section shall prevent the State Board of  
15 Education or a school district board of education from utilizing  
16 private, local, or federal funds to implement this section.

17 F. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement  
18 the provisions of this section which shall include requirements for  
19 instructional time for summer ~~school~~ academy programs, teacher  
20 qualifications, and evaluation of student achievement as a result of  
21 summer academy programs or other optional programs.

22 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.508F,  
23 is amended to read as follows:  
24

1 Section 1210.508F. A. ~~The State Board of Education~~ Commission  
2 for Educational Quality and Accountability shall ensure that the  
3 reading competencies for elementary teachers are included in the  
4 competencies for special education teachers.

5 B. ~~The State Board of Education and the~~ Commission for  
6 Educational Quality and Accountability in collaboration with the  
7 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall ensure that all  
8 teachers of early childhood education, elementary education, and  
9 special education are provided quality training in intervention,  
10 instruction, and remediation strategies ~~in order to meet the needs~~  
11 ~~of students in kindergarten through third grade who are determined~~  
12 ~~to be at risk of reading difficulties~~ in the science of reading to  
13 provide explicit and systematic instruction in phonological  
14 awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and  
15 implement reading strategies that research has shown to be  
16 successful in improving reading among students with reading  
17 difficulties. In addition, quality education for prospective  
18 teachers shall be provided in research-based instructional  
19 strategies for instruction, assessment, and intervention for  
20 literacy development for all students, including advanced readers,  
21 typically developing readers, and struggling readers who are coping  
22 with a range of challenges, including, but not limited to, English  
23 learners and learners with handicapping conditions and learning  
24 disabilities ~~(including dyslexia)~~, including dyslexia. Quality



1 training shall include guidance from professional resources such as  
2 the Report of the National Reading Panel, Response to Intervention  
3 guidelines, and professional organizations such as the Council for  
4 Exceptional Children, International Dyslexia Association,  
5 International Literacy Association, National Council of Teachers of  
6 English, and National Association for the Education of Young  
7 Children.

8 C. All institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
9 Education that offer elementary, early childhood education, or  
10 special education programs approved by the Commission for  
11 Educational Quality and Accountability shall incorporate into those  
12 programs the requirement that teacher candidates study the five  
13 elements of reading instruction which are ~~phonemic~~ phonological  
14 awareness, ~~phonics~~ decoding, ~~reading~~ fluency, vocabulary, and  
15 comprehension. Teacher candidates shall study strategies including,  
16 but not limited to, instruction that is explicitly taught,  
17 sequenced, multimodal (reading, writing, speaking, listening, hands-  
18 on, etc.), multidisciplinary, and reflective to adapt for individual  
19 learners.

20 D. Effective July 1, ~~2010~~ 2025, teacher candidates enrolled in  
21 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education  
22 in a special education, early childhood education, or elementary  
23 education program approved by the Commission for Educational Quality  
24 and Accountability shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive

1 assessment to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading  
2 instruction. The assessment shall be developed and administered by  
3 the ~~institutions that offer special education programs that lead to~~  
4 ~~certification~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability.  
5 The assessment shall measure the knowledge and understanding of the  
6 teacher candidate in the teaching of the five elements of reading  
7 instruction which are ~~phonemic~~ phonological awareness, ~~phonics~~  
8 decoding, ~~reading~~ fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The  
9 results of the assessment shall be ~~reported annually by the~~  
10 ~~institution to the Commission for Educational Quality and~~  
11 ~~Accountability as a part of the~~ included in the Commission's  
12 required annual report for ~~the~~ each institution. The Commission  
13 shall include the data in the annual report to the ~~Oklahoma~~  
14 Legislature as required pursuant to Section 6-186 of this title. It  
15 is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that teachers graduating  
16 from institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
17 Education have the knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading  
18 to all children.

19 E. Candidates applying for an alternative placement teaching  
20 certificate or an emergency teaching certificate in elementary  
21 education shall complete instruction in the science of reading as  
22 determined by the Commission for Educational Quality and  
23 Accountability and the State Board of Education.  
24

1 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 288, O.S.L.  
2 2023 (70 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 1210.508H), is amended to read as  
3 follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 4. The requirements of the ~~Reading Sufficiency~~ Strong Readers  
15 Act;

16 5. Special education laws and procedures; and

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

20 D. The literacy instructional team members employed by the  
21 Department shall report to the Program Director of Reading  
22 ~~Sufficiency~~ for Literacy at the Department and have:

23 1. A minimum of five regional literacy leads, at least one who  
24 shall be designated by the Department as a dyslexia specialist to

1 provide school districts with support and resources that are  
2 necessary to assist students with dyslexia. The Department shall  
3 give preference to educators applying for regional literacy lead  
4 who:

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

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

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

23 E. The State Department of Education shall electronically  
24 submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the

1 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December  
2 31, 2026, that includes an evaluation of the pilot program by school  
3 districts, data on whether the program had an impact on increasing  
4 the number of students who demonstrate proficiency in reading, and  
5 recommendations for changes to the ~~Reading Sufficiency Strong~~  
6 Readers Act.

7 SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.520,  
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Section 1210.520. A. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year  
10 and for each school year thereafter, any student enrolled in  
11 kindergarten, first, second, or third grade in a public school in  
12 this state who is assessed through the ~~Reading Sufficiency Strong~~  
13 Readers Act pursuant to Section 1210.508C of ~~Title 70 of the~~  
14 ~~Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title and who is not meeting grade-level  
15 targets in reading after the beginning-of-the-year assessment shall  
16 be screened for dyslexia. Screening also may be requested for a  
17 student by his or her parent or legal guardian, teacher, counselor,  
18 speech-language pathologist, or school psychologist.

19 B. No later than July 1, 2021, the State Board of Education  
20 shall develop policies for dyslexia screening required under this  
21 subsection and shall include, but not be limited to:

22 1. The definition and characteristics of dyslexia and related  
23 language disorders;

24

1           2. The process for referring students in kindergarten and  
2 grades one through three for screening;

3           3. A process for providing notification to parents or legal  
4 guardians of the use of a qualified dyslexia-screening tool and  
5 notification of the results of the screening;

6           4. A process for providing the parents or legal guardians of  
7 students screened for dyslexia with information and resource  
8 material regarding dyslexia;

9           5. A process for monitoring the student's progress after the  
10 positive identification of characteristics of dyslexia<sup>7</sup> or other  
11 disorders; and

12           6. Requirements and qualifications for screeners that  
13 demonstrate an understanding of and training to administer the  
14 screening instrument.

15           C. The Board shall adopt a list of approved qualified dyslexia  
16 screening tools that address the following components, as  
17 developmentally appropriate:

- 18           1. Phonological awareness;
- 19           2. Advanced phonemic awareness;
- 20           3. Sound symbol recognition;
- 21           4. Alphabet knowledge;
- 22           5. Decoding skills;
- 23           6. Encoding skills;
- 24           7. Rapid naming; and

1 8. Developmental language.

2 D. Screening shall be conducted in accordance with the policies  
3 developed by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection B  
4 of this section and the Oklahoma Dyslexia Handbook, including  
5 policies and information developed relating to universal screening  
6 of kindergarten students for characteristics of dyslexia.

7 E. Beginning June 30, 2023, and for each year thereafter,  
8 school districts shall provide the following data to the State  
9 Department of Education:

10 1. The number of students by grade level in kindergarten  
11 through grade three who were screened for dyslexia in a school year;

12 2. The number of students by grade level in kindergarten  
13 through grade three who were newly identified as having  
14 characteristics of dyslexia in a school year;

15 3. The process or tools used to evaluate student progress;

16 4. The number of trained school system personnel or licensed  
17 professionals used to administer the qualified dyslexia screening  
18 tool;

19 5. The number of students in kindergarten through grade three  
20 who were participating in interventions within the school setting  
21 and the number of students participating in interventions outside  
22 the school setting; and

23 6. The programs used by districts for intervention within the  
24 school setting.



1 F. By December 31, 2023, and for each year thereafter, the  
2 State Department of Education shall provide a report electronically  
3 containing all of the information provided in subsection E of this  
4 section to the Governor and Legislature and make the report  
5 available on the Department's website.

6 G. As funds are available, beginning with the 2021-2022 school  
7 year, the Department shall provide training on the best practices  
8 for screening for dyslexia.

9 H. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules necessary  
10 to implement the provisions of this section.

11 SECTION 11. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

12 SECTION 12. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
13 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16  
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