

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reading instruction; amending s.
3 1011.62, F.S.; requiring K-12 comprehensive reading
4 plans to provide for intensive reading interventions
5 that are delivered by teachers who meet certain
6 criteria beginning with a specified school year;
7 providing requirements for such interventions;
8 amending s. 1012.586, F.S.; requiring the Department
9 of Education to consider the award of endorsements for
10 a teaching certificate to individuals who hold
11 specified certifications or who complete specified
12 programs that meet certain criteria in a specified
13 review; amending s. 1012.98, F.S.; requiring school
14 districts to provide access to training sufficient to
15 earn an endorsement in reading; providing an effective
16 date.

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18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section
21 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
23 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
24 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
25 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing

26 | the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
27 | follows:

28 | (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

29 | (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
30 | Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a K-12
31 | comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
32 | based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
33 | the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
34 | Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
35 | annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
36 | unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
37 | school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach
38 | agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may
39 | appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School
40 | districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing
41 | their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading
42 | intervention through innovative methods, including career
43 | academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from
44 | school district personnel, including teachers and principals,
45 | and shall provide for ~~allow courses in core, career, and~~
46 | ~~alternative programs that deliver~~ intensive reading
47 | interventions ~~remediation~~ through integrated curricula, provided
48 | that, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the
49 | interventions are delivered by a teacher who is certified or
50 | endorsed in reading. Such interventions must incorporate

51 strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant
52 to s. 1001.215(8) deemed highly qualified to teach reading or
53 ~~working toward that status.~~ No later than July 1 annually, the
54 department shall release the school district's allocation of
55 appropriated funds to those districts having approved plans. A
56 school district that spends 100 percent of this allocation on
57 its approved plan shall be deemed to have been in compliance
58 with the plan. The department may withhold funds upon a
59 determination that reading instruction allocation funds are not
60 being used to implement the approved plan. The department shall
61 monitor and track the implementation of each district plan,
62 including conducting site visits and collecting specific data on
63 expenditures and reading improvement results. By February 1 of
64 each year, the department shall report its findings to the
65 Legislature.

66 2. Each school district that has a school designated as
67 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified
68 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the
69 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the
70 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and
71 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the
72 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term
73 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies
74 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also
75 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use

76 of technology that targets specific reading skills and
77 abilities.

78 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
79 1012.586, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

80 1012.586 Additions or changes to certificates; duplicate
81 certificates.—A school district may process via a Department of
82 Education website certificates for the following applications of
83 public school employees:

84 (1) Addition of a subject coverage or endorsement to a
85 valid Florida certificate on the basis of the completion of the
86 appropriate subject area testing requirements of s.
87 1012.56(5) (a) or the completion of the requirements of an
88 approved school district program or the inservice components for
89 an endorsement.

90 (b) By July 1, 2018, and at least once every 5 years
91 thereafter, the department shall conduct a review of existing
92 subject coverage or endorsement requirements in the elementary,
93 reading, and exceptional student educational areas. The review
94 must include reciprocity requirements for out-of-state
95 certificates and requirements for demonstrating competency in
96 the reading instruction professional development topics listed
97 in s. 1012.98(4) (b)11. The review must also consider the award
98 of an endorsement to an individual who holds a certificate
99 issued by an internationally recognized organization that
100 establishes standards for providing evidence-based interventions

101 to struggling readers or who completes a postsecondary program
102 that is accredited by such organization. Any such certificate or
103 program must require an individual who completes the certificate
104 or program to demonstrate competence in reading intervention
105 strategies through clinical experience. At the conclusion of
106 each review, the department shall recommend to the state board
107 changes to the subject coverage or endorsement requirements
108 based upon any identified instruction or intervention strategies
109 proven to improve student reading performance. This paragraph
110 does not authorize the state board to establish any new
111 certification subject coverage.

112

113 The employing school district shall charge the employee a fee
114 not to exceed the amount charged by the Department of Education
115 for such services. Each district school board shall retain a
116 portion of the fee as defined in the rules of the State Board of
117 Education. The portion sent to the department shall be used for
118 maintenance of the technology system, the web application, and
119 posting and mailing of the certificate.

120 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
121 1012.98, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

122 1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

123 (4) The Department of Education, school districts,
124 schools, Florida College System institutions, and state
125 universities share the responsibilities described in this

126 section. These responsibilities include the following:

127 (b) Each school district shall develop a professional
128 development system as specified in subsection (3). The system
129 shall be developed in consultation with teachers, teacher-
130 educators of Florida College System institutions and state
131 universities, business and community representatives, and local
132 education foundations, consortia, and professional
133 organizations. The professional development system must:

134 1. Be approved by the department. All substantial
135 revisions to the system shall be submitted to the department for
136 review for continued approval.

137 2. Be based on analyses of student achievement data and
138 instructional strategies and methods that support rigorous,
139 relevant, and challenging curricula for all students. Schools
140 and districts, in developing and refining the professional
141 development system, shall also review and monitor school
142 discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of
143 parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers,
144 managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance
145 indicators to identify school and student needs that can be met
146 by improved professional performance.

147 3. Provide inservice activities coupled with followup
148 support appropriate to accomplish district-level and school-
149 level improvement goals and standards. The inservice activities
150 for instructional personnel shall focus on analysis of student

151 achievement data, ongoing formal and informal assessments of
152 student achievement, identification and use of enhanced and
153 differentiated instructional strategies that emphasize rigor,
154 relevance, and reading in the content areas, enhancement of
155 subject content expertise, integrated use of classroom
156 technology that enhances teaching and learning, classroom
157 management, parent involvement, and school safety.

158 4. Provide inservice activities and support targeted to
159 the individual needs of new teachers participating in the
160 professional development certification and education competency
161 program under s. 1012.56(8) (a).

162 5. Include a master plan for inservice activities,
163 pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, for all
164 district employees from all fund sources. The master plan shall
165 be updated annually by September 1, must be based on input from
166 teachers and district and school instructional leaders, and must
167 use the latest available student achievement data and research
168 to enhance rigor and relevance in the classroom. Each district
169 inservice plan must be aligned to and support the school-based
170 inservice plans and school improvement plans pursuant to s.
171 1001.42(18). Each district inservice plan must provide a
172 description of the training that middle grades instructional
173 personnel and school administrators receive on the district's
174 code of student conduct adopted pursuant to s. 1006.07;
175 integrated digital instruction and competency-based instruction

176 and CAPE Digital Tool certificates and CAPE industry
177 certifications; classroom management; student behavior and
178 interaction; extended learning opportunities for students; and
179 instructional leadership. District plans must be approved by the
180 district school board annually in order to ensure compliance
181 with subsection (1) and to allow for dissemination of research-
182 based best practices to other districts. District school boards
183 must submit verification of their approval to the Commissioner
184 of Education no later than October 1, annually. Each school
185 principal may establish and maintain an individual professional
186 development plan for each instructional employee assigned to the
187 school as a seamless component to the school improvement plans
188 developed pursuant to s. 1001.42(18). An individual professional
189 development plan must be related to specific performance data
190 for the students to whom the teacher is assigned, define the
191 inservice objectives and specific measurable improvements
192 expected in student performance as a result of the inservice
193 activity, and include an evaluation component that determines
194 the effectiveness of the professional development plan.

195 6. Include inservice activities for school administrative
196 personnel that address updated skills necessary for
197 instructional leadership and effective school management
198 pursuant to s. 1012.986.

199 7. Provide for systematic consultation with regional and
200 state personnel designated to provide technical assistance and

201 evaluation of local professional development programs.

202 8. Provide for delivery of professional development by
203 distance learning and other technology-based delivery systems to
204 reach more educators at lower costs.

205 9. Provide for the continuous evaluation of the quality
206 and effectiveness of professional development programs in order
207 to eliminate ineffective programs and strategies and to expand
208 effective ones. Evaluations must consider the impact of such
209 activities on the performance of participating educators and
210 their students' achievement and behavior.

211 10. For middle grades, emphasize:

212 a. Interdisciplinary planning, collaboration, and
213 instruction.

214 b. Alignment of curriculum and instructional materials to
215 the state academic standards adopted pursuant to s. 1003.41.

216 c. Use of small learning communities; problem-solving,
217 inquiry-driven research and analytical approaches for students;
218 strategies and tools based on student needs; competency-based
219 instruction; integrated digital instruction; and project-based
220 instruction.

221
222 Each school that includes any of grades 6, 7, or 8 must include
223 in its school improvement plan, required under s. 1001.42(18), a
224 description of the specific strategies used by the school to
225 implement each item listed in this subparagraph.

226 11. Provide training to reading coaches, classroom
227 teachers, and school administrators in effective methods of
228 identifying characteristics of conditions such as dyslexia and
229 other causes of diminished phonological processing skills;
230 incorporating instructional techniques into the general
231 education setting which are proven to improve reading
232 performance for all students; and using predictive and other
233 data to make instructional decisions based on individual student
234 needs. The training must help teachers integrate phonemic
235 awareness; phonics, word study, and spelling; reading fluency;
236 vocabulary, including academic vocabulary; and text
237 comprehension strategies into an explicit, systematic, and
238 sequential approach to reading instruction, including
239 multisensory intervention strategies. Each district must provide
240 all elementary grades instructional personnel access to training
241 sufficient to meet the requirements of s. 1012.585(3)(f) and to
242 earn an endorsement in reading consistent with s.
243 1012.586(1)(b).

244 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.