

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 626

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NASHEED.

Pre-filed December 1, 2019, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

3775S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 167, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to student retention.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 167, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 167.730, to read as follows:

167.730. 1. Beginning July 1, 2021, every public school in the metropolitan school district, including charter schools, shall incorporate a response-to-intervention tiered approach to reading instruction to focus resources on students who are determined by their school to need additional or changed instruction to make progress as readers. At a minimum, the reading levels of students in kindergarten through tenth grade shall be assessed at the beginning and middle of the school year, and students who score below district objectives for reading shall be provided with intensive, systematic reading instruction.

2. Beginning January 1, 2021, and every January first thereafter, every public school in the metropolitan school district, including charter schools, shall prepare a personalized learning plan for any kindergarten or first grade student whose most recent school-wide reading assessment result shows the student is performing below grade level unless the student has been determined by other means in the current school year to be performing at grade level or above. The provisions of this section shall not apply to students otherwise served under an individualized education program, to students receiving services through a plan prepared under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that includes an element addressing reading

22 below grade level, or to students determined to have limited English
23 proficiency.

24 3. For any student that is required by this section to have a
25 personalized learning plan, the student's main teacher shall consult
26 with the student's parent or guardian during the preparation of the
27 plan and shall consult, as appropriate, any district personnel or
28 department of elementary and secondary education personnel with
29 necessary expertise to develop such a plan. The school shall require
30 the written consent of the parent or guardian to implement the plan;
31 however, if the school is unsuccessful in contacting the parent or
32 guardian by January fifteenth, the school may send a letter by certified
33 mail to the student's last known address stating its intention to
34 implement the plan by February first.

35 4. After implementing the personalized learning plan through the
36 end of the student's first grade year, the school shall refer any student
37 who still performs below grade level for assessment to determine if an
38 individualized education program is necessary for the student. A
39 student who is assessed as not needing an individualized education
40 program but who is reading below grade level at the end of the first
41 grade shall continue to be required to have a personalized learning
42 plan until the student is reading at grade level.

43 5. A student who is not reading at second-grade level by the end
44 of second grade may be promoted to the third grade only under one of
45 the following circumstances:

46 (1) The school provides additional reading instruction during the
47 summer and demonstrates the student is ready for third grade at the
48 end of the summer school;

49 (2) The school provides a combined classroom in which the
50 student continues with the same teacher, sometimes referred to as
51 "looping". If the student in such a classroom is not reading at third-
52 grade level by the end of third grade, the student shall be retained in
53 third grade; or

54 (3) The student's parents or guardians have signed a notice that
55 they prefer to have their student promoted although the student is
56 reading below grade level. The school shall have the final
57 determination on the issue of retention.

58 6. The metropolitan school district and each charter school

59 located in it shall provide in its annual report card under section
60 160.522 the numbers and percentages by grade from first grade to tenth
61 grade in each school of any students at any grade level who have been
62 promoted who have been determined as reading below grade level,
63 except that no reporting shall permit the identification of an individual
64 student.

✓

Unofficial

Bill

Copy