1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)
3	HOUSE BILL 3329 By: Conley
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6	<u>AS INTRODUCED</u>
7	An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8	Section 1210.508C, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section
9	1210.508C), which relates to the Reading Sufficiency Act; requiring dyslexia screening; providing screening development criteria; providing certain
10	guidance; designating dyslexia specialist; and providing an effective date.
11	providing an effective date.
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14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
15	SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.508C,
16	as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2019 (70 O.S.
17	Supp. 2019, Section 1210.508C), is amended to read as follows:
18	Section 1210.508C. A. 1. Each student enrolled in
19	kindergarten in a public school in this state shall be screened at
20	the beginning, middle and end of each school year for reading skills
21	including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, letter
22	recognition, and oral language skills and risk factors of dyslexia
23	as identified in the subject matter standards adopted by the State
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Board of Education. A screening instrument approved by the State Board shall be utilized for the purposes of this section.

- 2. For those kindergarten children at risk for reading difficulties at the beginning of the year, teachers shall emphasize reading skills as identified in the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education, monitor progress throughout the year and measure mid-year and year-end reading progress.
- 3. Kindergarten students who are not meeting grade-level targets by mid-year in reading shall be provided a program of reading instruction designed to enable the student to acquire the appropriate grade-level reading skills.
- 4. Classroom assistants, which may include parents, grandparents, or other volunteers, shall be provided in kindergarten classes to assist with the screening of students if a teacher aide is not already employed to assist in a kindergarten classroom.
- 5. Screenings for risk factors of dyslexia shall be developed collaboratively with experts on dyslexia, including representatives of nonprofit entities with expertise in issues related to dyslexia and the dyslexia specialist for the Department. The Department shall provide guidance for notifications sent by school districts to parents of students who are identified as being at risk for dyslexia based on a screening of risk factors. The Department shall also designate a dyslexia specialist for the Department to provide school

districts with support and resources that are necessary to assist students with dyslexia and their families.

- B. Each student enrolled in first, second and third grade of the public schools of this state shall be assessed at the beginning, middle and end of each school year using a screening instrument approved by the State Board of Education for the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- C. Any student enrolled in first, second or third grade who is assessed and who is not meeting grade-level targets in reading shall be provided a program of reading instruction designed to enable the student to acquire the appropriate grade level reading skills. The program of reading instruction shall include provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection P of this section. Throughout the year progress monitoring shall continue, and diagnostic assessment, if determined appropriate, shall be provided. Year-end reading skills shall be measured to determine reading success.
- D. The State Board of Education shall approve screening instruments for use at the beginning and end of the school year, for monitoring of progress, and for measurement of reading skills at the end of the school year as required in subsections A and B of this section; provided, at least one of the screening instruments shall meet the following criteria:

- Assess for phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension;
 - 2. Document the validity and reliability of each assessment;
- 3. Can be used for identifying students who are at risk for reading deficiency and progress monitoring throughout the school year;
- 4. Can be used to assess students with disabilities and English language learners; and
- 5. Accompanied by a data management system that provides profiles for students, class, grade level and school building. The profiles shall identify each student's instructional point of need and reading achievement level. The State Board shall also determine other comparable reading assessments for diagnostic purposes to be used for students at risk of reading failure. The State Board shall ensure that any assessments approved are in alignment with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.
- E. 1. The program of reading instruction required in subsections A and B of this section shall align with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education and shall include provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection P of this section. A program of reading instruction may include, but is not limited to:

a. sufficient additional in-school instructional time for the acquisition of phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension,

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- b. if necessary, tutorial instruction after regular school hours, on Saturdays and during summer; however, such instruction may not be counted toward the onehundred-eighty-day or one-thousand-eighty-hour school year required in Section 1-109 of this title, and
- c. assessments identified for diagnostic purposes and periodic monitoring to measure the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as identified in the student's program of reading instruction.
- 2. A student enrolled in first or second grades who has been assessed as provided for in subsection B of this section and found not to be meeting grade-level targets in reading, shall be entitled to supplemental instructional services and supports in reading until the student is determined by the results of a screening instrument to be meeting grade-level targets in reading. The program of reading instruction for each student shall be developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and shall include supplemental instructional services and supports. Each team shall be composed of:

a. the parent or quardian of the student,

- b. the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,
- and is assigned to teach in the next grade level of the student, and
- d. a certified reading specialist, if one is available.
- F. The program of reading instruction shall continue until the student is determined by the results of approved reading assessments to be meeting grade-level targets.
- G. 1. Every school district shall adopt, and implement a district reading sufficiency plan which has had input from school administrators, teachers, and parents and if possible a reading specialist, and which shall be submitted electronically to and approved by the State Board of Education. The plan shall be updated annually. School districts shall not be required to electronically submit the annual updates to the Board if the last plan submitted to the Board was approved and expenditures for the program include only expenses relating to individual and small group tutoring, purchase of and training in the use of screening and assessment measures, summer school programs and Saturday school programs. If any expenditure for the program is deleted or changed or any other type of expenditure for the program is implemented, the school district

shall be required to submit the latest annual update to the Board for approval. The district reading sufficiency plan shall include a plan for each site which includes an analysis of the data provided by the Oklahoma School Testing Program and other reading assessments utilized as required in this section, and which outlines how each school site will comply with the provisions of the Reading Sufficiency Act.

- 2. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the implementation and evaluation of the provisions of the Reading Sufficiency Act. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the data required in subsection S of this section.
- H. For any third-grade student found not to be meeting grade-level targets as determined by reading assessments administered pursuant to this section, a new program of reading instruction, including provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection P of this section, shall be developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and implemented as specified in subsection E of this section. In addition to other requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act, the plan may include specialized tutoring.
- I. 1. Any first-grade, second-grade or third-grade student who demonstrates end of year proficiency in reading at the third-grade level through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of

reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section shall not be subject to retention pursuant to this section. After a student has demonstrated proficiency through a screening instrument, the district shall provide notification to the parent or guardian of the student that they have satisfied the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act and will not be subject to retention pursuant to this section.

- 2. If a third-grade student is identified at any point of the academic year as having a significant reading deficiency, which shall be defined as not meeting grade-level targets on a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section, the district shall immediately begin a student reading portfolio as provided by subsection L of this section and shall provide notice to the parent of the deficiency pursuant to subsection J of this section.
- 3. If a student has not yet satisfied the proficiency requirements of this section prior to the completion of third grade and still has a significant reading deficiency, as identified based on assessments administered as provided for in subsection B of this section, has not accumulated evidence of third-grade proficiency through a student portfolio as provided in subsection L of this section, or is not subject to a good-cause exemption as provided in subsection L of this section, then the student shall not be eligible for automatic promotion to fourth grade.

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

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5. a. A student not eligible for automatic promotion as provided for under paragraph 3 of this subsection and who does not meet the criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title may be evaluated for probationary promotion by the Student Reading Proficiency Team

which was created for the student pursuant to subsection E of this section.

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- b. The student shall be promoted to the fourth grade if the team members unanimously recommend probationary promotion to the school principal and the school district superintendent and the principal and superintendent approve the recommendation that promotion is the best option for the student. If a student is allowed a probationary promotion, the team shall continue to review the reading performance of the student and repeat the requirements of this paragraph each academic year until the student demonstrates grade-level reading proficiency, as identified through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section, for the corresponding grade level in which the student is enrolled or transitions to a locally designed remediation plan after the fifth grade which shall have the goal of ensuring that the student is on track to be college and career ready.
- 6. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, students who do not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the

statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title, who are not subject to a good cause exemption as provided in subsection L of this section, and who do not qualify for promotion or probationary promotion as provided in this subsection, shall be retained in the third grade and provided intensive instructional services and supports as provided for in subsection O of this section.

- 7. Each school district shall annually report to the State
 Department of Education the number of students promoted to the
 fourth grade pursuant to this subsection and the number of students
 promoted to a subsequent grade pursuant to the provisions in
 paragraph 5 of this subsection. The State Department of Education
 shall publicly report the aggregate and district-specific number of
 students promoted on their website and shall provide electronic
 copies of the report to the Governor, Secretary of Education,
 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of
 Representatives, and to the respective chairs of the committees with
 responsibility for common education policy in each legislative
 chamber.
- J. The parent of any student who is found to have a reading deficiency and is not meeting grade-level reading targets and has been provided a program of reading instruction as provided for in subsection B of this section shall be notified in writing of the following:

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

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- 2. A description of the current services that are provided to the student pursuant to a conjoint measurement model such that a reader and a text are placed on the same scale;
- 3. A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that will be provided to the student that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency;
- 4. That the student will not be promoted to the fourth grade if the reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of the third grade, unless the student is otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection I of this section or is exempt for good cause as set forth in subsection L of this section;
- 5. Strategies for parents to use in helping their child succeed in reading proficiency;
 - 6. The grade-level performance scores of the student;
- 7. That while the results of the statewide assessments administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title are the initial determinant, they are not the sole determiner of promotion and that portfolio reviews and assessments are available; and
- 8. The specific criteria and policies of the school district for midyear promotion implemented as provided for in paragraph 4 of subsection O of this section.

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

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- L. For those students who do not meet the academic requirements for promotion and who are not otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection I of this section, a school district may promote the student for good cause only. Good-cause exemptions for promotion shall be limited to the following:
- English language learners who have had less than two (2)
 years of instruction in an English language learner program;
- 2. Students with disabilities whose individualized education program (IEP), consistent with state law, indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternate achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP);
- 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board of Education;
- 4. Students who demonstrate, through a student portfolio, that the student is reading on grade level as evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the state standards beyond the retention level;
- 5. Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide assessments administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title and who have an individualized education program that reflects that the student has received intensive remediation in reading and has

made adequate progress in reading pursuant to the student's
individualized education program;

- 6. Students who have received intensive remediation in reading through a program of reading instruction for two (2) or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in prekindergarten for academic reasons, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade; and
- 7. Students who have been granted an exemption for medical emergencies by the State Department of Education.
- M. A student who is otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection I of this section or is promoted for good cause as provided for in subsection L of this section shall be provided intensive reading instruction that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific reading strategies for each student until the student meets grade-level targets in reading. The school district shall assist schools and teachers to implement reading strategies for the promoted students that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.
- N. Requests to exempt students from the retention requirements based on one of the good-cause exemptions as described in subsection L of this section shall be made using the following process:
- 1. Documentation submitted from the teacher of the student to the school principal that indicates the student meets one of the good-cause exemptions and promotion of the student is appropriate.

- In order to minimize paperwork requirements, the documentation shall consist only of the alternative assessment results or student portfolio work and the individual education plan (IEP), as applicable;
 - 2. The principal of the school shall review and discuss the documentation with the teacher and, if applicable, the other members of the Student Reading Proficiency Team as described in subsection E of this section. If the principal determines that the student meets one of the good-cause exemptions and should be promoted based on the documentation provided, the principal shall make a recommendation in writing to the school district superintendent; and
 - 3. After review, the school district superintendent shall accept or reject the recommendation of the principal in writing.
 - O. Each school district shall:

1. Conduct a review of the program of reading instruction for all students who do not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title and did not meet the criteria for one of the good-cause exemptions as set forth in subsection L of this section. The review shall address additional supports and services, as described in this subsection, needed to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency. The school district shall require a student portfolio to be completed for each retained student;

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

a. small group instruction,

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- b. reduced teacher-student ratios,
- c. more frequent progress monitoring,
- d. tutoring or mentoring,
- e. transition classes containing third- and fourth-grade students,
- f. extended school day, week, or year, and
- g. summer reading academies as provided for in Section 1210.508E of this title, if available;
- 3. Provide written notification to the parent or guardian of any student who is to be retained as set forth in subsection I of this section that the student has not met the performance criteria required for promotion and was not otherwise promoted and the reasons the student is not eligible for a good-cause exemption. The notification shall include a description of proposed interventions

and intensive instructional supports that will be provided to the student to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency;

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- 4. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a retained student who can demonstrate that the student is a successful and independent reader, is reading at or above grade-level targets, and is ready to be promoted to the fourth grade. Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating any retained student may include screening assessments, alternative assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. Retained students may only be promoted midyear prior to November 1 and only upon demonstrating that the student has met the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title, or upon demonstrating proficiency in reading at the third-grade level through a screening instrument administered pursuant to subsection B of this section, and upon showing progress sufficient to master appropriate fourth-grade-level skills, as determined by the school. A midyear promotion shall be made only upon agreement of the parent or quardian of the student and the school principal;
- 5. Provide students who are retained with a high-performing teacher who can address the needs of the student, based on student performance data and above-satisfactory performance appraisals; and

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

- a. supplemental tutoring in scientific-research-based reading services in addition to the regular reading block, including tutoring before or after school,
- b. a parent-guided "Read at Home" assistance plan, as developed by the State Department of Education, the purpose of which is to encourage regular parent-guided home reading, or
- c. a mentor or tutor with specialized reading training.
- P. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each school district shall establish a Reading Enhancement and Acceleration Development (READ) Initiative. The focus of the READ Initiative shall be to prevent the retention of third-grade students by offering intensive accelerated reading instruction to third-grade students who failed to meet standards for promotion to fourth grade and to kindergarten through third-grade students who are exhibiting a reading deficiency. The READ Initiative shall:
- 1. Be provided to all kindergarten through third-grade students at risk of retention as identified by the assessments administered pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act. The assessment used shall measure phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;

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

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- 3. Provide a reading curriculum that, at a minimum, meets the following specifications:
 - a. assists students assessed as exhibiting a reading deficiency in developing the ability to read at grade level,
 - b. provides skill development in phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension,
 - c. provides a scientific-research-based and reliable assessment,
 - d. provides initial and ongoing analysis of the reading progress of each student, and
 - e. is implemented during regular school hours;
- 4. Establish at each school, where applicable, an Intensive Acceleration Class for retained third-grade students who subsequently do not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title. The focus of the Intensive Acceleration Class shall be to increase the reading level of a child at least two grade levels in one (1) school year. The Intensive Acceleration Class shall:

- a. be provided to any student in the third grade who does not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide assessments and who was retained in the third grade the prior year because of not meeting the performance criteria on the reading portion of the statewide assessments,
- b. have a reduced teacher-student ratio,
- c. provide uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of student contact time each day and incorporate opportunities to master the fourth-grade state standards in other core subject areas,
- d. use a reading program that is scientific-researchbased and has proven results in accelerating student reading achievement within the same school year,
- e. provide intensive language and vocabulary instruction using a scientific-research-based program, including use of a speech-language therapist, and
- f. include weekly progress monitoring measures to ensure progress is being made;
- 5. Provide reports to the State Board of Education, upon request, on the specific intensive reading interventions and supports implemented by the school district. The State

Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually prescribe the required components of the reports; and

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- 6. Provide to a student who has been retained in the third grade and has received intensive instructional services but is still not ready for grade promotion, as determined by the school district, the option of being placed in a transitional instructional setting.

 A transitional setting shall specifically be designed to produce learning gains sufficient to meet fourth-grade performance standards while continuing to remediate the areas of reading deficiency.
- Q. 1. Each school district board of education shall annually publish on the school website, and report in writing to the State Board of Education by September 1 of each year, the following information on the prior school year:
 - a. the provisions of this section relating to public school student progression and the policies and procedures of the school district on student retention and promotion,
 - b. the number and percentage of all students in grade three that did not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title,

c. by grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in grades three through ten,

- d. information on the total number and percentage of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause as specified above, and
- e. any revisions to the policies of the school district on student retention and promotion from the prior year.
- 2. The State Department of Education shall establish a uniform format for school districts to report the information required in this subsection. The format shall be developed with input from school districts and shall be provided not later than ninety (90) days prior to the annual due date. The Department shall annually compile the information required, along with state-level summary information, and report the information to the public, the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- R. The State Department of Education shall provide technical assistance as needed to aid school districts in administering the provision of the Reading Sufficiency Act.
- S. On or before January 31 of each year, the State Department of Education shall issue to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and members of the Senate and House of Representatives Education

- Committees a Reading Sufficiency Report which shall include, but is not limited to, trend data detailing three (3) years of data, disaggregated by student subgroups to include economically disadvantaged, major racial or ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English language learners, as appropriate for the following:
- 1. The number and percentage of students in kindergarten
 through third grade determined to be at risk for reading
 difficulties compared to the total number of students enrolled in
 each grade;

- 2. The number and percentage of students in kindergarten who continue to be at risk for reading difficulties as determined by the year-end measurement of reading progress;
- 3. The number and percentage of students in kindergarten through third grade who have successfully completed their program of reading instruction and are reading on grade level as determined by the results of approved reading assessments;
- 4. The number and percentage of students that meet or do not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title;
- 5. The number of students tested, the number of students promoted through meeting proficiency on a screening instrument as

provided for in subsection I of this section, the number of students promoted through each of the good-cause exemptions as provided for in subsection L of this section and the number of students retained and the number of students promoted through probationary promotion as provided for in subsection I of this section for each elementary site;

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- 6. Data tracking the progression of students promoted through each of the good-cause exemptions as provided for in subsection L of this section and students promoted through probationary promotion or students who are retained in third grade as provided for in subsection I of this section. The data shall include but not be limited to information regarding whether students graduate on time;
- 7. The amount of funds for reading remediation received by each district;
- 8. An evaluation and narrative interpretation of the report data analyzing the impact of the Reading Sufficiency Act on students' ability to read at grade level;
- 9. The type of reading instruction practices and methods currently being used by school districts in the state;
- 10. Socioeconomic information, access to reading resources outside of school and screening for and identification of learning disabilities for students not reading at the appropriate grade level by third grade;

1 The types of intensive remediation efforts being conducted 2 by school districts to identify best practices for students that are 3 not reading at the appropriate grade level and are not retained 4 under the provisions of this section; and 5 12. Any recommendations for improvements or amendments to the 6 Reading Sufficiency Act. 7 The State Department of Education may contract with an 8 independent entity for the reporting and analysis requirements of 9 this subsection. 10 Copies of the results of the assessments administered shall 11 be made a part of the permanent record of each student. 12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020. 1.3 14 57-2-9170 12/09/19 AMM 15 16 17 18 19 20 2.1 22 23 24