

SENATE FILE 263  
BY LARSON

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to reading instruction in kindergarten through  
2 grade three and providing for related matters.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 263  
EDUCATION

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2003, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 52. Develop, in collaboration with the  
4 area education agencies, models for measuring student  
5 achievement levels in reading in kindergarten through grade  
6 three using multiple assessments. The models shall be made  
7 available to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools  
8 upon request.

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 53. Allocate any federal assistance  
10 provided to the department for purposes of teacher training  
11 and recruiting to accredited elementary schools for purposes  
12 of professional development relating to reading instruction  
13 for children in kindergarten through grade three. The  
14 department shall compile and make available a list of public  
15 and private providers of professional development relating to  
16 intensive reading instruction that use scientifically based  
17 research to teach children cognitive and language skills,  
18 provide for instructional improvement, and utilize evaluation  
19 components in accordance with section 284.6, subsection 1,  
20 paragraphs "b" through "d". Schools receiving assistance in  
21 accordance with this subsection may use the assistance to  
22 procure professional development for reading instruction from  
23 providers appearing on the list compiled by the department.

24 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2003,  
25 are amended to read as follows:

26 2. The kindergarten program shall include experiences  
27 designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits and  
28 growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well  
29 as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and  
30 protect and increase physical well-being with attention given  
31 to experiences relating to the development of life skills and  
32 human growth and development. If the kindergarten program  
33 includes instruction in reading, the program shall be based on  
34 the essential components of reading instruction and supported  
35 by scientifically based reading research as defined in

1 subsection 10. A kindergarten teacher shall be licensed to  
2 teach in kindergarten. An accredited nonpublic school must  
3 meet the requirements of this subsection only if the nonpublic  
4 school offers a kindergarten program.

5 3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one  
6 through six: English-language arts, social studies,  
7 mathematics, science, health, human growth and development,  
8 physical education, traffic safety, music, and visual art.  
9 Reading instruction programs for grades one through three  
10 shall be based on the essential components of reading  
11 instruction and supported by scientifically based reading  
12 research as defined in subsection 10. The health curriculum  
13 shall include the characteristics of communicable diseases  
14 including acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The state  
15 board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt  
16 curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary  
17 program.

18 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 10, Code 2003, is  
19 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

20 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. When twenty percent or more of the  
21 students in an attendance center who are enrolled in grade  
22 three do not meet the minimum grade three reading proficiency  
23 level adopted by the board of directors of a school district  
24 or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school  
25 in accordance with section 280.28, subsection 2. The  
26 accreditation committee appointed pursuant to this paragraph  
27 shall establish an intensive reading remediation plan, based  
28 on essential components of reading instruction and supported  
29 by scientifically based reading research, for the school  
30 district or school. The committee shall prescribe the  
31 procedures that must be taken to correct deficiencies in  
32 meeting the local minimum grade three reading proficiency  
33 level and shall establish a deadline date for correction of  
34 the deficiencies.

35 For purposes of this paragraph, unless the context

1 otherwise requires:

2 (1) "Essential components of reading instruction" means  
3 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading  
4 fluency, and reading comprehension.

5 (2) "Reading comprehension" means a complex system of  
6 deriving meaning from text that requires the skills and  
7 knowledge to understand how phonemes or speech sounds are  
8 connected to text, sufficient background information and  
9 vocabulary to foster the ability to decode unfamiliar words in  
10 order to read fluently, and the development of appropriate  
11 active strategies to construct meaning from text; and that  
12 results in the development and maintenance of a motivation to  
13 read.

14 (3) "Scientifically based reading research" means research  
15 that applies rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to  
16 obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development,  
17 reading instruction, and reading difficulties; employs  
18 systematic empirical methods that draw on observation or  
19 experiment, involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate  
20 to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general  
21 conclusions drawn; relies on measurements or observational  
22 methods that provide valid data across evaluators and  
23 observers and across multiple measurements and observations;  
24 has been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a  
25 panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous,  
26 objective, and scientific review; and relates to all of the  
27 essential components of reading instruction.

28 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 280.28 READING REQUIREMENTS.

29 1. The board of directors of each public school district  
30 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall  
31 devote reasonable efforts and resources to reading instruction  
32 and independent reading in grades one through three.

33 2. The board of directors of each public school district  
34 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall  
35 collaborate with the department of education to develop and



1 kindergarten through grade three using multiple assessments.  
2 The models must be made available to schools upon request.  
3 The director also must allocate any federal assistance  
4 provided to the department for purposes of teacher training  
5 and recruiting to accredited elementary schools for purposes  
6 of professional development relating to reading instruction.  
7 The department shall compile and make available a list of  
8 public and private professional development program providers.

9 The bill directs school districts and schools to adopt  
10 minimum grade three reading proficiency levels and to devote  
11 reasonable efforts and resources to reading instruction and  
12 independent reading in grades one through three.

13 The bill requires, under the education standards, that  
14 kindergarten through grade three reading programs be based on  
15 the "essential components of reading instruction" and  
16 supported by "scientifically based reading research", which,  
17 along with "reading comprehension", the bill defines.

18 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
19 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of any  
20 state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
21 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
22 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
23 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state  
24 mandate funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2.  
25 The inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate  
26 the requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any  
27 state mandates included in the bill.

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