

House File 2618 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2618
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 650)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to elementary literacy by modifying teacher
2 preparation program requirements, requiring personalized
3 reading plans for certain students, and providing parent and
4 guardian discretion for their students to be retained at
5 grade level.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, Code 2024, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *m.* (1) Administer, prior to a student's
4 completion of the approved practitioner preparation program, an
5 examination identical to the foundations of reading assessment
6 administered in 2012 as part of the Massachusetts tests
7 for educator licensure, or the most current version of such
8 assessment. To successfully complete the program, a student
9 must attain a score on the assessment that is at or above
10 the minimum passing score established by the department. In
11 establishing the minimum passing score for purposes of this
12 paragraph, the department shall consider the minimum passing
13 score recommended by the developer of the assessment and the
14 current teaching standards in this state.

15 (2) The higher education institution shall report to the
16 department no later than August 1 annually, in the form and
17 manner prescribed by the department, the percentage of students
18 whose scores on the assessment administered during the prior
19 school year were above, at, and below the passing score, and
20 shall report any services or opportunities to retake the
21 assessment the institution may make available to a student
22 who fails the assessment. The department shall compile the
23 reports submitted under this subparagraph and publish on the
24 department's internet site the compiled reports related to
25 students enrolled in the practitioner preparation program who
26 plan to teach in kindergarten through grade six.

27 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
28 by adding the following new paragraphs:

29 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* (1) Each school district shall provide
30 written notice to the parent or guardian of any student in
31 grade three who is not reading proficiently of the student's
32 level of reading or reading readiness. The written notice
33 shall contain a description of the parent's or guardian's
34 authority to request that the student be retained in grade
35 three pursuant to subparagraph (2).

1 (2) A school district shall not promote a student who is
2 not reading proficiently to grade four, and shall retain the
3 student in grade three for the subsequent school year, if the
4 student's parent or guardian submits to the school district a
5 request that the student be retained in grade three pursuant to
6 subparagraph (1).

7 (3) Notwithstanding subparagraph (2), if during the
8 student's grade three year, the administrator and the student's
9 classroom teacher provide evidence to the student's parent
10 or guardian that the student has made adequate progress and
11 is reading at grade level, as determined by the student's
12 consistently proficient performance on valid and reliable
13 measures of reading ability, the student's parent or guardian
14 may withdraw the request and the school district may promote
15 the student to grade four.

16 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* A school district shall provide to
17 students who are not reading proficiently at the start of
18 the student's grade three school year with a personalized
19 reading plan. The school district shall continue to provide
20 personalized reading plans to students in grade three through
21 the end of grade six if necessary, until the student is reading
22 at grade level, as determined by the student's consistently
23 proficient performance on valid and reliable measures of
24 reading ability.

25 Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
26 3, shall not apply to this Act.

27 EXPLANATION

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 This bill relates to elementary literacy by modifying
31 teacher preparation program requirements, requiring
32 personalized reading plans for certain students, and providing
33 parent and guardian discretion for their students to be
34 retained at grade level.

35 The bill requires higher education institutions providing

1 practitioner preparation programs to administer, prior to a
2 student's completion of the program, an examination identical
3 to the foundations of reading assessment administered in 2012
4 as part of the Massachusetts tests for educator licensure,
5 or the most current version of such assessment. The bill
6 establishes that, to successfully complete the program,
7 a student must attain a score on the assessment that is
8 at or above the minimum passing score established by the
9 department. In establishing the minimum passing score, the
10 bill requires the department to consider the minimum passing
11 score recommended by the developer of the assessment and the
12 current teaching standards in this state. The bill requires
13 higher education institutions to report to the department
14 annually the scores students receive on the assessment and
15 any services or opportunities the institution makes available
16 to students who fail the assessment. Additionally, the bill
17 requires the department to compile these reports and publish
18 on the department's internet site the compiled reports related
19 to students enrolled in the program who plan to teach in
20 kindergarten through grade six.

21 The bill requires a school district to provide written
22 notice to the parent or guardian of any student in grade
23 three who is not reading proficiently of the student's level
24 of reading or reading readiness. The bill provides that the
25 written notice shall indicate that if the parent or guardian
26 submits a request that the student be retained in grade three,
27 the school district shall not promote the student to grade four
28 but shall retain the student at grade three for the subsequent
29 school year. However, the bill establishes that, if during the
30 student's grade three year, the administrator and the student's
31 classroom teacher provide evidence to the student's parent or
32 guardian that the student has made adequate progress and is
33 reading at grade level, the student's parent or guardian may
34 withdraw the request and the school district may promote the
35 student to grade four.

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1 The bill requires a school district to provide to students
2 who are not reading proficiently at the start of the student's
3 grade three school year with a personalized reading plan.
4 The bill provides that the school district shall continue to
5 provide such plans to students in grade three through the end
6 of grade six if necessary.

7 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
8 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section 25B.2,
9 subsection 3, which would relieve a political subdivision from
10 complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of
11 the state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore,
12 political subdivisions are required to comply with any state
13 mandate included in the bill.