

256.25 Reading instruction pilot project grant program.

1. Subject to an appropriation of sufficient funds by the general assembly, the department shall establish a reading instruction pilot project grant program that provides for conducting at least two direct reading instruction pilot projects and at least two comprehensive reading instruction pilot projects to demonstrate the ability of both approaches to positively affect student learning for any or all grades from kindergarten through grade three in selected school district attendance centers.
2. Each pilot project shall be conducted for a minimum of one year, subject to an appropriation by the general assembly to the department for that purpose. The department, in consultation with experts in the delivery of direct reading and comprehensive reading instruction, shall establish a pilot project grant application process that specifies the design and implementation expectations of each grantee, criteria for the selection of pilot project participant school districts, and a system of assessments which all grantees will use to assist teachers and the department in measuring student growth in reading accuracy, fluency, phonemic awareness, oral reading ability, and comprehension skills, including but not limited to the dynamic indicator of basic early literacy. Grantees shall be evenly distributed between urban and rural school districts.
3. The department and the experts consulted in accordance with subsection 2 shall jointly develop and agree upon the evaluation criteria and the system of assessments used to evaluate effectiveness of the instruction methods to achieve reading success. The evaluation criteria and the system of assessments shall employ specifically designed evaluation models employing objective, valid, and reliable assessments.
4. Grant moneys shall be distributed to qualifying school districts by the department no later than September 1, 2006. Grantees shall use moneys received pursuant to this section to provide for ongoing support and training of the teachers implementing the pilot projects. Grant amounts shall be distributed as determined by the department.
5. The department shall retain one hundred thousand dollars annually from the amount appropriated for the pilot project grant program for the administration of the program and one hundred thousand dollars annually for the development and implementation of an independent, external program and results evaluation.
6. The department, in collaboration with an independent, external evaluator, shall submit a final report summarizing the results of the pilot projects, including student achievement results, to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house of representatives standing committees on education by January 15, 2008.
7. Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered or unobligated funds remaining on June 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated for the pilot project grant program shall not revert but shall be available for expenditure for the following fiscal year for purposes of this section.
8. This section is repealed effective June 30, 2008.

2006 Acts, ch 1180, §15

Appropriation of funds; 2006 Acts, ch 1180, §6