An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1118

By: Thompson (Roger), Hall, Newhouse, and Pugh of the Senate

and

Wallace, Martinez, McBride, and Baker of the House

An Act relating to schools; making an appropriation to the State Board of Education; providing purpose; directing the State Department of Education to establish certain pilot program to employ a literacy instructional team; providing for technical assistance and program implementation guidance to team members and schools; directing team members to be placed regionally statewide; providing duties for team; providing training requirements for team members; providing for Department oversight of team; establishing minimum criteria for team employees; providing hiring preferences for team members with certain knowledge and training; requiring submission of report by certain date; prescribing contents of report; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: State Board of Education

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated to the State Board of Education from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the sum of Ten Million Dollars

($10,000,000.00). These monies shall be used to implement the provisions of Section 2 of this act.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508H of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the State Department of Education shall establish a three-year pilot program to employ a literacy instructional team to support school districts in implementation of the requirements of Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Department shall provide technical assistance for literacy instruction, dyslexia, and related disorders, and serve as a primary source of information and support for schools in addressing the needs of students struggling with literacy, dyslexia, and related disorders.

B. The Department shall employ a literacy instructional team with team members who are placed regionally across the state. The literacy instructional teams shall assist general education and special education teachers in recognizing educational needs to improve literacy outcomes for all students including those with dyslexia or identified with the risk characteristics associated with dyslexia. The role of the literacy instructional team shall also include increasing professional awareness and instructional competencies to meet the educational needs of all students including those with dyslexia or identified with risk characteristics associated with dyslexia. The Department shall prioritize supports and interventions including enrollment in reading trainings and professional development for schools which have the highest percentage of students who do not demonstrate sufficient reading skills as established by the State Board of Education.

C. Literacy instructional team members employed by the Department shall have training in:

1. The science of how students learn to read including phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language;

2. Foundation of multisensory, explicit, systematic, and structured reading instruction;

3. Identification of and the appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for struggling students;

4. The requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act;

5. Special education laws and procedures; and

6. Appropriate interventions, accommodations, and assistive technology supports for students with dyslexia or a related disorder.

D. The literacy instructional team members employed by the Department shall report to the Director of Reading Sufficiency and have:

1. A minimum of five regional literacy leads, at least one who shall be designated by the Department as a dyslexia specialist to provide school districts with support and resources that are necessary to assist students with dyslexia. The Department shall give preference to educators applying for regional literacy lead who:

a. have an endorsement or certification as a certified structured literacy dyslexia specialist or certified academic language therapist,

b. are knowledgeable of multitiered systems of support, and

c. have been trained in the identification of and intervention for dyslexia and related disorders including best practice interventions and treatment models for dyslexia; and

2. A minimum of ten literacy specialists. The Department shall give preference to educators applying for literacy specialist who:

a. have training in the science of reading,

b. are knowledgeable of multitiered systems of support, and

c. have been trained in the identification of and intervention for dyslexia and related disorders including best practice interventions and treatment models for dyslexia.

E. The State Department of Education shall submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2026, that includes an evaluation of the pilot program by school districts, data on whether the program had an impact on increasing the number of students who demonstrate proficiency in reading, and recommendations for changes to the Reading Sufficiency Act.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 17th day of May, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 19th

day of May, 20 23, at 2:43 o'clock p. M.

By: Summer Curry

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 25th

day of May, 20 23, at 4:57 o'clock p. M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 25th

day of May, 20 23, at 5:50 o'clock P. M.

By: Brian Bingman