

EHB 1591

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

THE STATE SENATE
Wednesday, April 1, 2009

ENGROSSED
House Bill No. 1591
As Amended

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1591 - By: Coody, Kern, Shumate and Tibbs
of the House and Jolley of the Senate.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.508B, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2006 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508B), which relates to the Reading Sufficiency Act; **encouraging** all reading instruction in certain grades to include certain elements of instruction; listing elements; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.508B, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2006 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508B), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508B A. The Legislature finds that it is essential for children in the public schools to read early and well in elementary school. The Legislature further finds that clear and visible goals, assessments to determine the reading level at each elementary school, annual measurements of elementary school reading improvement, and accountability in each level of the educational system will result in a significant increase in the number of children reading at or above grade level.

1 B. The purpose of the Reading Sufficiency Act is to ensure that
2 each child attains the necessary reading skills by completion of the
3 third grade which will enable that student to continue development
4 of reading skills and to succeed throughout school and life.

5 C. Each public school district in this state shall ensure that
6 a majority of the instructional time each day of the school year in
7 kindergarten through third grade is focused on reading and
8 mathematics. The State Board of Education shall encourage school
9 districts to integrate the teaching of the other curricular areas in
10 the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) adopted by the Board
11 with the instruction of mathematics and reading and mathematics,
12 which shall include instruction in the five elements of reading
13 instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency,
14 vocabulary, and comprehension.

15 D. The reading goal for Oklahoma public schools is as follows:
16 By July 1, 2008, and each year thereafter, all third-grade students
17 will read at or above grade level by the end of their third-grade
18 year, excluding up to fifteen percent (15%) of those students who
19 have an individualized education program (IEP), pursuant to the
20 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and excluding
21 those students who are English language learners who have been
22 determined not to be proficient in English as defined by a state-

1 designated English proficiency assessment. To achieve the reading
2 goal, each public elementary school shall:

3 1. Determine its baseline no later than September 1, 2005,
4 which shall be the percentage of students reading at or above third-
5 grade level as determined by the percentage of students scoring
6 satisfactory or above on the third-grade criterion-referenced test
7 in reading, administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title;
8 and

9 2. Set and achieve annual improvement goals necessary to
10 progress from the baseline established in 2005 to the reading goal
11 by July 1, 2008. The annual improvement goals shall be included in
12 the district's reading sufficiency plan required in Section
13 1210.508C of this title.

14 E. The State Board of Education shall recognize schools and
15 districts that attain or make progress toward achieving the reading
16 goal and shall provide technical assistance to schools and districts
17 that do not make progress toward the reading goal. The district
18 reading sufficiency plan shall be submitted to the State Board if
19 the district has any schools that are not achieving the required
20 annual improvement goals pursuant to this section.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 3-30-09 - DO
4 PASS, As Amended.