

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 3446

By: Baker

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; directing the State Department of Education to retain certain funds to employ literacy specialists; requiring the Department to provide certain assistance; placing literacy specialists and coaches at sites across the state; directing specialists to assist teachers; requiring specialists have certain training; providing preference for certain specialists; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.508D, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 171, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 1210.508D), which relates to the Reading Sufficiency Act; requiring certain districts to provide certain professional development and training; directing the Department to approve certain programs; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.517 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the State Department of Education shall retain no less than ten percent (10%)

1 of funds appropriated for the Reading Sufficiency Act to employ a  
2 team of literacy specialists to support districts in implementation  
3 of the requirements of Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
4 Statutes. The Department shall provide technical assistance for  
5 literacy instruction, dyslexia and related disorders and serve as a  
6 primary source of information and support for schools in addressing  
7 the needs of students struggling with literacy, dyslexia and related  
8 disorders.

9       B. With the funds provided by this Section, the Department  
10 shall employ a team of literacy specialists including literacy  
11 coaches to be placed regionally across the state. Literacy  
12 specialists shall assist general education and special education  
13 teachers in recognizing educational needs to improve literacy  
14 outcomes for all students including those with dyslexia or  
15 identified with the risk characteristics associated with dyslexia.  
16 The role of literacy specialist shall also include increasing  
17 professional awareness and instructional competencies to meet the  
18 educational needs of all students including those with dyslexia or  
19 identified with risk characteristics associated with dyslexia.

20       C. Literacy specialists employed by the state shall have  
21 training in:

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

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

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

5        4. Understanding of the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency  
6 Act;

7        5. Understanding of Special Education rules and procedures; and

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

11       C. The Department shall give preference to literacy specialists  
12 which:

13       1. Have an endorsement or certification as a certified  
14 structured literacy dyslexia specialist or certified academic  
15 language therapist;

16       2. Are knowledgeable of multi-tiered systems of support; and

17       3. Have been trained in the identification of and intervention  
18 for dyslexia and related disorders, including best practice  
19 interventions and treatment models for dyslexia.

20       SECTION 2.        AMENDATORY        70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.508D,  
21 as amended by Section 2, Chapter 171, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp.  
22 2019, Section 1210.508D), is amended to read as follows:

23       Section 1210.508D A. Contingent on the provision of  
24 appropriated funds designated for the Reading Sufficiency Act,

1 school districts may be allocated monies for each enrolled  
2 kindergarten student or first-, second- and third-grade student of  
3 the current school year, including any student who has been retained  
4 in the third grade pursuant to Section 1210.508C of this title, who  
5 is found to be in need of remediation or intervention in reading.  
6 The allocation shall be distributed to each school district upon  
7 approval of the reading sufficiency plan for the school district by  
8 the State Department of Education and the submittal of a child-count  
9 report to the Department that details the number of students  
10 identified as needing remediation or intervention in reading. To  
11 determine a per-student allocation amount, the total amount of funds  
12 available for allocation each year shall be divided by the total  
13 number of students in the state identified as in need of remediation  
14 or intervention in reading as provided for in Section 1210.508C of  
15 this title. Each school district shall be allocated an amount equal  
16 to the per-student allocation amount multiplied by the number of  
17 identified students enrolled in the school district.

18 B. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, districts  
19 receiving more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)  
20 pursuant to subsection A of this section shall spend no less than  
21 ten percent (10%) to provide professional development for teachers  
22 teaching prekindergarten through grade five. The professional  
23 development shall include training in the science of how students  
24

1 learn to read as well as instructional materials required for  
2 implementation.

3 C. By June 30, 2021, the Department shall approve programs that  
4 are evidence-based and directly address the cognitive science of how  
5 students learn to read for which districts are permitted to use the  
6 funds received under this section.

7 D. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules for the  
8 administration of reimbursements.

9 ~~C.~~ E. If a teacher attends and completes a professional  
10 development institute in elementary reading approved by the Oklahoma  
11 Commission for Teacher Preparation during the summer or when school  
12 is not in session, the teacher may receive a stipend equal to the  
13 amount of the cost for a substitute teacher, based on the amount of  
14 funds allocated.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.

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

20  
21 57-2-11406 AMM 02/25/20  
22  
23  
24