

2 **ESHB 2042** - S COMM AMD
3 By Committee on Education

4 ADOPTED 4/15/97

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature acknowledges the definition
8 of reading as "Reading is the process of constructing meaning from
9 written text. It is the complex skill requiring the coordination of a
10 number of interrelated sources of information." Marilyn Adams,
11 *Becoming a Nation of Readers* 7. The legislature also acknowledges the
12 role that reading accuracy and fluency plays in the comprehension of
13 text. The legislature finds that one way to determine if a child's
14 inability to read is problematic is to compare the child's reading
15 fluency and accuracy skills with that of other children. To accomplish
16 this objective, the legislature finds that assessments that test
17 students' reading fluency and accuracy skills must be scientifically
18 valid and reliable. The legislature further finds that early
19 identification of students with potential reading difficulties can
20 provide valuable information to parents, teachers, and school
21 administrators. The legislature finds that assessment of second grade
22 students' reading fluency and accuracy skills can assist teachers in
23 planning and implementing a reading curriculum that addresses students'
24 deficiencies in reading.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall identify a
28 collection of tests that can be used to measure second grade reading
29 accuracy and fluency skills. The purpose of the second grade reading
30 test is to provide information to parents, teachers, and school
31 administrators on the level of acquisition of reading accuracy and
32 fluency skills of each student at the beginning of second grade. Each
33 of the tests in the collection must:

34 (a) Provide a reliable and valid measure of student's reading
35 accuracy and fluency skills;

1 (b) Be able to be individually administered;

2 (c) Have been approved by a panel of nationally recognized
3 professionals in the area of beginning reading, whose work has been
4 published in peer-reviewed education research journals, and
5 professionals in the area of measurement and assessment; and

6 (d) Assess student skills in recognition of letter sounds, phonemic
7 awareness, word recognition, and reading connected text. Text used for
8 the test of fluency must be ordered in relation to difficulty.

9 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall select tests for
10 use by schools and school districts participating in pilot projects
11 under section 3 of this act during the 1997-98 school year. The final
12 collection must be selected by June 30, 1998.

13 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a per-
14 pupil cost for each of the tests in the collection that details the
15 costs for booklets, scoring services, and training required to reliably
16 administer the test. To the extent funds are appropriated, the
17 superintendent of public instruction shall pay for booklets or other
18 testing material, scoring services, and training required to administer
19 the test.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall create a pilot
23 project to identify which second grade reading tests selected under
24 section 2 of this act will be included in the final collection of tests
25 that must be available by June 30, 1998.

26 (2) Schools and school districts may voluntarily participate in the
27 second grade reading test pilot projects in the 1997-98 school year.
28 Schools and school districts voluntarily participating in the pilot
29 project test are not required to have the results available by the fall
30 parent-teacher conference.

31 (3)(a) Starting in the 1998-99 school year, school districts must
32 select a test from the collection adopted by the superintendent of
33 public instruction. Selection must be at the entire school district
34 level and must remain in place at that school district for at least
35 three years.

36 (b) Students who score substantially below grade level when tested
37 in the fall shall be tested at least one more time during the second
38 grade. Test performance deemed to be "substantially below grade level"

1 is to be determined for each test in the collection by the
2 superintendent of public instruction during the pilot year of 1997-98.

3 (c) If a student, while taking the test, reaches a point at which
4 the student's performance will be considered "substantially below grade
5 level" regardless of the student's performance on the remainder of the
6 test, the test may be discontinued.

7 (d) Each school must have the test results available by the fall
8 parent-teacher conference. Schools must notify parents about the
9 second grade reading test during the conferences, inform the parents of
10 their students' performance on the test, identify actions the school
11 intends to take to improve the child's reading skills, and provide
12 parents with strategies to help the parents improve their child's
13 score.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a
17 primary grade reading grant program. The purpose of the grant program
18 is to enhance teachers' skills in using teaching methods that have
19 proven results gathered through quantitative research and to assist
20 students in beginning reading.

21 (2) Schools and school districts may apply for primary grade
22 reading grants. To qualify for a grant, the grant proposal shall
23 provide that the grantee must:

24 (a) Document that the instructional model the grantee intends to
25 implement, including teaching methods and instructional materials, is
26 based on results validated by quantitative methods;

27 (b) Agree to work with the independent contractor identified under
28 subsection (3) of this section to determine the effectiveness of the
29 instructional model selected and the effectiveness of the staff
30 development provided to implement the selected model; and

31 (c) Provide evidence of a significant number of students who are
32 not achieving at grade level.

33 To the extent funds are appropriated, the superintendent of public
34 instruction shall make initial grants available by September 1, 1997,
35 for schools and school districts voluntarily participating in pilot
36 projects under section 3 of this act. Subject to available funding,
37 additional applications may be submitted to the superintendent of

1 public instruction by September 1, 1998, and by September 1st in
2 subsequent years. Grants will be awarded for two years.

3 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall contract with an
4 independent contractor who has experience in program evaluation and
5 quantitative methods to evaluate the impact of the grant activities on
6 students' reading skills and the effectiveness of the staff development
7 provided to teachers to implement the instructional model selected by
8 the grantee. Five percent of the funds awarded for grants shall be set
9 aside for the purpose of the grant evaluation conducted by the
10 independent contractor.

11 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall submit
12 biennially to the legislature and the governor a report on the primary
13 grade reading grant program. The first report must be submitted not
14 later than December 1, 1999, and each succeeding report must be
15 submitted not later than December 1st of each odd-numbered year.
16 Reports must include information on how the schools and school
17 districts used the grant money, the instructional models used, how they
18 were implemented, and the findings of the independent contractor.

19 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall disseminate
20 information to the school districts five years after the beginning of
21 the grant program regarding the results of the effectiveness of the
22 instructional models and implementation strategies.

23 (6) Funding under this section shall not become part of the state's
24 basic program of education obligation as set forth under Article IX of
25 the state Constitution.

26 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.230.190 and 1990 c 101 s 6 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) Every school district is encouraged to test pupils in grade two
29 by an assessment device designed or selected by the school district.
30 This test shall be used to help teachers in identifying those pupils in
31 need of assistance in the skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and
32 language arts. The test results are not to be compiled by the
33 superintendent of public instruction, but are only to be used by the
34 local school district. School districts shall test students for second
35 grade reading accuracy and fluency skills starting in the 1998-99
36 school year as provided in section 3 of this act.

37 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and
38 conduct, with the assistance of school districts, a standardized

1 achievement test to be given annually to all pupils in grade four. The
2 test shall assess students' skill in reading, mathematics, and language
3 arts and shall focus upon appropriate input variables. Results of such
4 tests shall be compiled by the superintendent of public instruction,
5 who shall make those results available annually to the legislature, to
6 all local school districts and subsequently to parents of those
7 children tested. The results shall allow parents to ascertain the
8 achievement levels and input variables of their children as compared
9 with the other students within the district, the state and, if
10 applicable, the nation.

11 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
12 to the legislature on the achievement levels of students in grade four.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.630.886 and 1995 c 303 s 2 are each
14 repealed.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The superintendent of public instruction may use up to one
18 percent of the appropriated funds for administration of the primary
19 grade reading grant program established in chapter . . . , Laws of 1997
20 (this act).

21 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt timelines
22 and rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to administer the
23 primary reading grant program in section 2 of this act.

24 (3) Funding under this section shall not become a part of the
25 state's basic program of education obligation as set forth under
26 Article IX of the state Constitution.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
29 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
30 immediately.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for section 4 of this
32 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number and section number,
33 is not provided by June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act,
34 sections 4 and 7 of this act are null and void."

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4 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "grades;" strike the
5 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.230.190; adding new
6 sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW
7 28A.630.886; and declaring an emergency."

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