

2 **2SSB 5508** - CONF REPT  
3 By Conference Committee

4

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a clear and  
8 visible goal, assessments to determine the reading level at each  
9 building, measurements of annual building improvement, and creating  
10 accountability in each level of the educational system will result in  
11 a significant increase in the number of children reading at or above  
12 grade level.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the third  
14 grade reading accountability act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The definitions in this section apply  
16 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (1) "Actual percentage" means the head count enrollment of third  
18 grade students reading at or above third grade level divided by the  
19 head count enrollment of third grade students in the building on the  
20 date the state-wide third grade reading assessment is administered.

21 (2) "Adjusted percentage" means the actual percentage minus those  
22 students who were not in the district at least one-half of each of the  
23 student's second and third grade years, and minus those students who  
24 have been enrolled in a bilingual program for two or fewer years from  
25 both the numerator and denominator.

26 (3) "At or above third grade level" means at or above the grade  
27 level equivalent for the month that the third grade reading assessment  
28 defined in subsection (8) of this section is administered.

29 (4) "Building baseline" means the building's actual percentage in  
30 the spring of 1998.

31 (5) "Equal annual incremental improvement" is one-fourth of the  
32 improvement necessary to progress from the building baseline to the  
33 reading goal by the spring of 2002 and is calculated by taking the

1 state goal of ninety percent less the building baseline divided by  
2 four.

3 (6) "Factored equal annual incremental improvement" means the state  
4 goal of ninety percent less the building's adjusted percentage in the  
5 spring of 1998 divided by four.

6 (7) "Reading goal" means ninety percent of a public elementary  
7 school building's annual head count enrollment of third grade students  
8 reading at or above grade level as measured by the state-wide third  
9 grade reading assessment.

10 (8) "Third grade reading assessment" means the reading portion of  
11 the third grade California test of basic skills or the reading subtest  
12 of such other standardized achievement test given annually to all  
13 students in grade three under RCW 28A.230.190.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The reading goal of chapter . . . , Laws of  
15 1997 (this act) is: By the year 2002, and each year thereafter, ninety  
16 percent or more of all Washington public school third graders reading  
17 at or above grade level.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** To achieve the state reading goal:

19 (1) Each school district shall use classroom-based assessments to  
20 evaluate the reading level of its kindergarten, first, and second  
21 graders annually for purposes of intervention and remediation  
22 commencing in the spring of 1998. Each school district shall assess  
23 the reading level of its third graders in the spring of 1998 and each  
24 year thereafter using the third grade reading assessment for the  
25 primary purpose of system accountability and not primarily for the  
26 purpose of remediation commencing at grade four;

27 (2) Each elementary school shall determine its building baseline,  
28 which shall be its actual percentage of students reading at or above  
29 third grade level as determined by the third grade reading assessment  
30 administered in the spring of 1998; and

31 (3) Each public elementary school building is expected to make  
32 equal annual incremental improvement from its baseline. Equal annual  
33 incremental improvement is one-fourth of the reading improvement  
34 necessary to progress from the building baseline in the spring of 1998  
35 to the state reading goal of ninety percent in the spring of 2002 and  
36 shall be calculated and measured on a building-by-building basis. The  
37 percentage of required improvement will be different for different

1 public schools since it is based on the individual building baselines.  
2 For financial accountability purposes only, the required improvement  
3 shall not exceed twelve percent annually.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The seven levels of system accountability  
5 necessary to achieve the reading goal shall be the parents, the state,  
6 the professional associations, the principals, the teachers, the public  
7 school buildings, and the school district.

8 (1) Parents are a child's first and most influential teacher.  
9 Public school districts shall encourage and support parents to read  
10 with their children at least twenty minutes a day from birth through  
11 third grade.

12 (2) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
13 superintendent's designee shall:

14 (a) Report annually to the senate and the house of representatives  
15 education committees on the state-wide progress toward the reading  
16 goal;

17 (b) Provide progress reports on the state-wide third grade reading  
18 assessment scores to the public in clear, understandable terms on a  
19 building, district, and state-wide basis, and by reference to fixed  
20 standards at each grade level;

21 (c) Provide information to public schools and school districts  
22 regarding organizational and instructional practices of representative  
23 buildings that are making or exceeding the equal annual incremental  
24 improvement toward the reading goal; and

25 (d) Not adopt a specific instructional approach. The standard for  
26 instruction in this area shall be what works.

27 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
28 coordinate the activities of relevant professional associations. It  
29 shall:

30 (a) Meet and confer with each relevant professional association  
31 regarding voluntary alignment of association resources to support the  
32 achievement of the reading goal; and

33 (b) Report annually to the senate and the house of representatives  
34 education committees on the efforts of professional associations to  
35 support the achievement of the reading goal.

36 (4) Each public elementary school principal has the primary  
37 responsibility within the building for providing leadership in reaching  
38 the reading goal. An increasing portion of each public elementary

1 school principal's annual evaluation should result from each school  
2 district's professional appraisal of effective leadership in this area.

3 (5) Each third grade teacher shall annually report to the parent or  
4 guardian the reading level of the parent's child as measured by the  
5 reading assessment commencing June 1998 and each year thereafter. The  
6 report shall reference grade level and monthly increments.

7 (6) Each public elementary school shall annually report to its  
8 community the number, the actual percentage, and the adjusted  
9 percentage of third grade students reading at or above third grade  
10 level and the distribution and range of all reading scores by grade and  
11 monthly increments on the third grade reading assessment required under  
12 section 5 of this act.

13 (7) Each district shall report to the superintendent of public  
14 instruction annually beginning October 1998 the number, the actual  
15 percentage, and the adjusted percentage of third grade students reading  
16 at or above third grade level on the third grade reading assessment  
17 required under section 5 of this act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Consistent with chapter 28A.630 RCW,  
19 districts shall be eligible for block grants for achievement of  
20 factored equal annual incremental improvement. Block grants under this  
21 section are intended to engage the districts and shall not be linked to  
22 either the principal or the elementary school building.

23 (1) Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, each school district is  
24 eligible to receive annual block grants as appropriated by the  
25 legislature and distributed by the superintendent of public instruction  
26 for each elementary school building that achieves the lesser of the  
27 factored equal annual incremental improvement or twelve percent per  
28 year, calculated on an annual or cumulative year basis.

29 (2) Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, each school district  
30 is eligible to receive annual block grants as appropriated by the  
31 legislature and distributed by the superintendent of public instruction  
32 for each elementary school building that achieves the lesser of one-  
33 half of the factored equal annual incremental improvement or six  
34 percent per year, calculated on an annual or cumulative year basis.

35 (3) School districts shall maintain eligibility for block grant  
36 funding under subsection (1) of this section for each elementary school  
37 building that achieves and continues to maintain the reading goal.

1 (4) Funding under this section shall not become part of the state's  
2 basic program of education obligation as set forth under Article IX of  
3 the state Constitution.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The superintendent of public instruction  
5 shall adopt rules to prorate the amount paid under section 7 of this  
6 act for elementary buildings with a third grade full-time equivalent  
7 enrollment of fewer than seventy-five students.

8 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28A.230.190 and 1990 c 101 s 6 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) Every school district is encouraged to test pupils in grade two  
11 by an assessment device designed or selected by the school district.  
12 This test shall be used to help teachers in identifying those pupils in  
13 need of assistance in the skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and  
14 language arts. The test results are not to be compiled by the  
15 superintendent of public instruction, but are only to be used by the  
16 local school district.

17 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and  
18 conduct with the assistance of school districts, a standardized norm-  
19 referenced achievement test to be given annually to all students in  
20 grade three. The test shall only assess students' skills in reading.  
21 Results of the test shall be available before May 15th of each year to  
22 all local school districts and to parents of the students tested.

23 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and  
24 conduct, with the assistance of school districts, a standardized  
25 achievement test to be given annually to all pupils in grade four. The  
26 test shall assess students' skill in reading, mathematics, and language  
27 arts and shall focus upon appropriate input variables. Results of such  
28 tests shall be compiled by the superintendent of public instruction,  
29 who shall make those results available annually to the legislature, to  
30 all local school districts and subsequently to parents of those  
31 children tested. The results shall allow parents to ascertain the  
32 achievement levels and input variables of their children as compared  
33 with the other students within the district, the state and, if  
34 applicable, the nation.

35 ~~((+3+))~~ (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall report  
36 annually to the legislature on the achievement levels of students in  
37 grade four.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    This chapter does not provide a cause of  
2    legal action for damages or specific performance.

3        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 11.**    Sections 1 through 8 and 10 of this act  
4    constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 12.**    If any provision of this act or its  
6    application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
7    remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
8    persons or circumstances is not affected."

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12        On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "accountability;" strike the  
13    remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.230.190; and adding  
14    a new chapter to Title 28A RCW."

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