

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1906
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Bill Analysis

SB 1906 creates the Statewide Literacy Revolving Fund for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Subject to availability of funding, the bill directs the State Regents to use the fund to implement training in the science of reading in accredited teacher preparation programs. It states that beginning with students entering a teacher preparation program in the 2025-26 academic year, completion of training in the science of reading will lead to a micro-credential to be reflected on teaching certificates. It also directs the State Regents to use the fund to support teacher preparation programs in developing and implementing a micro-credential in the science of reading for certified teachers employed by school districts. The measure renames the Reading Sufficiency Act the Strong Readers Act.

The measure states legislative intent that after the effective date of the act, school districts and charter schools shall be prohibited from using the three-cueing system model of teaching students to read. The bill directs each student in kindergarten through third grade to be screened for reading skills at the beginning, middle, and end of each school year. It directs the State Board of Education to approve no fewer than 5 screening instruments. It modifies the reading skills the screening instrument is to measure. It modifies the interventions to be provided to students who are not meeting grade-level targets. It directs kindergarten through third grade students who exhibit a deficiency in reading at any time to receive an individual reading intervention plan within 30 days. The bill requires a third-grade student who is identified at any point in the year as having a significant reading deficiency to be provided intensive intervention services until he or she demonstrates proficiency at his or her grade level.

The bill removes language prohibiting the automatic promotion to fourth grade of a student who has not shown evidence of reading proficiency, and it removes good-cause exemptions for promotion. It modifies school district and State Department of Education reporting requirements. It directs a parent or legal guardian of a student in kindergarten through third grade to be notified if the student is not reading at grade level. The bill directs school districts that receive a certain amount of funding to provide training in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training for certified personnel designated as reading coaches, and it directs the LETRS training to be reflected on the teachers' certificate.

It modifies requirements for summer academies to allow students in kindergarten through third grade to attend. The measure directs the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, rather than the State Board of Education, to ensure that certain reading competencies are included in the competencies for special education teachers. It directs teachers

to be provided training in remediation strategies in the science of reading. It also requires teacher candidates enrolled in early childhood education or elementary education to pass a comprehensive assessment to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading.

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