

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 216

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEACHERS. Requires early literacy professional development for certain teachers.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:24.10 and 3996(B)(59), relative to early literacy; to require early literacy

3 training for certain teachers and administrators; to require reporting on such training;

4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.10 and 3996(B)(59) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§24.10. Early literacy professional development; purpose; requirements;**

8 **reporting; funding**

9 **A. As used in this Section:**

10 **(1) "Teacher" means each kindergarten through third grade teacher**

11 **who teaches reading, math, science or social studies.**

12 **(2) "Administrator" means a principal or assistant principal of a school**

13 **that includes kindergarten through third grade.**

14 **(3) "Approved professional development course" means a foundational**

15 **literacy skills instruction course that is based on the science of reading designed**

16 **for the professional development of educators, and includes information on**

17 **instructing students regarding phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,**

1 vocabulary, and comprehension.

2 B. The state Department of Education shall:

3 (1) Not later than December 1, 2021, develop a list of approved
4 professional development courses.

5 (2) Not later than the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year, require
6 each teacher and administrator to successfully complete at least one approved
7 professional development course and provide documentation of successful
8 completion of the course to their employing school. A teacher or administrator
9 who provides documentation of completion of an approved professional
10 development program within the five years prior to 2023 shall be deemed in
11 compliance with the provisions of this Paragraph.

12 (3) Require any teacher or administrator hired after August 1, 2023, to
13 provide documentation to his employing school of successful completion of an
14 approved professional development course within two years of his date of
15 employment.

16 (4)(a) Beginning May 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, require each city,
17 parish, or other local public school board to report to the department the
18 number and percentage of teachers and administrators who successfully
19 completed an approved professional development course.

20 (b) The data required in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall be
21 included in the department's school progress profiles required by R.S. 17:3911
22 and 3912.

23 C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt
24 rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the
25 provisions of this Section.

26 D. The provisions of this Section shall be subject to the appropriation of
27 funds.

28 * * *

29 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

* * *

B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(59) Early Literacy professional development, R.S. 17:24.10.

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 216 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Robert Mills

Proposed law requires each teacher who teaches kindergarten through third grade and each principal and assistant principal of a school that includes kindergarten through third grade to successfully complete a foundational literacy skills instruction course that is approved by the state Department of Education (DOE).

Proposed law requires, not later than December 1, 2021, the DOE to develop a list of approved professional development courses that are based on the science of reading, designed for the professional development of teachers, and include information on instructing students regarding phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Proposed law requires teachers and administrators to successfully complete at least one of the approved professional development courses and provide documentation of the successful completion to their employing school. Further requires teachers and administrators who provide documentation of completion of an approved program within five years prior to 2023 shall be deemed in compliance.

Proposed law requires newly hired teachers and administrators to document successful completion of an approved program to their employing school within two years of their date

of employment.

Proposed law requires, beginning May 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, that each city, parish, or other local school board report to DOE the number and percentage of teachers and administrators who have, within the past five years, successfully completed an approved course. Further requires the data to be reported on DOE's school progress profiles.

Proposed law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of the proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of the proposed law are subject to the appropriation of funds.

Present law provides for public charter schools and provides for requirements for those schools.

Proposed law requires public charter school to comply with provisions of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:24.10 and 3996(B)(59))