

SENATE BILL NO. 216

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

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

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:24.10 and 3996(B)(59), relative to early literacy; to require early literacy training for certain teachers and administrators; to require reporting on such training; to provide relative to funding; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§24.10. Early literacy professional development; purpose; requirements; reporting; funding

A. As used in this Section:

(1) "Teacher" means each kindergarten through third grade teacher who teaches reading, math, science, or social studies.

(2) "Administrator" means a principal or assistant principal of a school that includes kindergarten through third grade.

(3) "Approved professional development course" means a foundational literacy skills instruction course that is based on the science of reading designed for the professional development of educators, and includes information on instructing students regarding phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

B. The state Department of Education shall:

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

(2) Not later than the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year, require each teacher and administrator to successfully complete at least one approved professional development course and provide documentation of successful completion of the course to their employing school. A teacher or administrator

1 who provides documentation of completion of an approved professional
2 development program within the five years prior to 2023 shall be considered in
3 compliance with the provisions of this Paragraph.

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

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

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

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

18 D. The provisions of this Section shall be subject to the appropriation of
19 funds.

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21 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

22 * * *

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

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

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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.

Section 3. No state funds or obligated federal funds shall be used to implement the provisions of this Act.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____