
DIGEST

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HB 656 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Emerson

Abstract: Provides relative to provisions that require each governing authority of a public elementary school to implement, and issue reports on, a reading program.

Present law provides that each governing authority of a public elementary school shall implement a reading program at each school that is designed and intended to teach each student to read at grade level by not later than the end of the first grade.

Present law provides that not later than 30 days after the beginning of each school year, each second grade teacher and each third grade teacher shall report the number of students in the teacher's class who cannot read at grade level. Provides that copies of this report shall be sent simultaneously by the teacher to the school's principal and to the system superintendent.

Proposed law changes requirement so that each second grade student and third grade student shall be administered a literacy screener to identify the number of students who read below, at, and above grade level. Provides that students scoring above grade level shall be considered for evaluation into a gifted program. Further provides that, not later than 45 days after the beginning of the school year, a literacy screening report describing the number of students who read below, at, and above grade level shall be sent simultaneously by the teacher to the principal of the school and to the system superintendent. Also provides that the report shall also include the number of children who were referred to gifted evaluation as a result of their screening results.

Present law provides that, not later than 60 days after the beginning of each school year, the information required to be submitted by the teachers shall be forwarded by each system superintendent to the state superintendent of education and to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that not later than 90 days after the beginning of each school year, BESE shall compile and submit a report to the House and Senate education committees showing for each public elementary school, for each school system, and for the state as a whole the number of students in second or third grade who cannot read at grade level. Specifies that the data shall be reported in school progress profiles. Proposed law retains present law and authorizes state Department of Education, in times of crisis or natural disasters, to extend deadlines for administration and reporting results of the screening instruments.

(Amends R.S. 17:182(B))