

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 415 (HB 85)

2021 Regular Session

McKnight

New law creates a literacy program for certain public school students in kindergarten through the 5th grade.

New law provides that a public school student who is in one of the following categories is eligible for the program:

- (1) Enrolled in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and reads below grade level or is at risk for reading difficulties according to a literacy assessment.
- (2) Enrolled in the fourth or fifth grade and scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year.
- (3) Enrolled in kindergarten through the 5th grade, lacks a literacy or English language arts assessment result, and is recommended for the program by an English teacher.

New law gives priority to the lowest-performing, economically disadvantaged students for participation in the program.

New law provides for payments of up to \$1000 per student per school year for eligible services intended to improve reading or literacy skills.

New law requires the Dept. of Education to administer the program pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education. Further requires the department to:

- (1) Develop an application process and accept applications for both students and service providers.
- (2) Evaluate students and service providers for eligibility.
- (3) Remit payments to service providers for services rendered.
- (4) Evaluate program provider effectiveness through participants' La. Educational Assessment Program assessment scores and literacy assessment results.
- (5) Notify public school governing authorities about the program and the application process.
- (6) Annually report to the House and Senate education committees regarding the program.

New law (Act No. 108 of the 2021 R.S.) requires certain teachers to complete a foundational literacy skills instruction course.

New law requires any person providing tutoring through the literacy program established by new law to complete the foundational literacy skills instruction course.

New law requires public school governing authorities to notify the parents or legal guardians of eligible students of the program and the application process.

New law provides that implementation of the program is subject to the appropriation of funds or the availability of local funds. Authorizes the department to use funds appropriated for the purpose of increasing early literacy or supporting academic achievement among elementary school students.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Adds R.S. 17:4032.1)