2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 911

1

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BEAULLIEU, BOYD, BRASS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, DAVIS, DEVILLIER, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FISHER, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GAROFALO, GLOVER, HARRIS, HILFERTY, HORTON, ILLG, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, JORDAN, KERNER, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MCKNIGHT, GREGORY MILLER, NELSON, NEWELL, CHARLES OWEN, PIERRE, PRESSLY, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHLEGEL, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STEFANSKI, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, VILLIO, WHITE, AND ZERINGUE

AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.9(B), (C)(5), and (D), 24.10(A)(2) and (3), 3 (B)(1)(introductory paragraph), and (D) through (F), and 24.12(C) and (D) and to 4 enact R.S. 17:24.10(G) and 24.12(E), relative to early literacy; to provide a short 5 title; to increase the number of administrations of a literacy screener to students in 6 grades kindergarten through three; to provide for reporting the results of the literacy 7 screener; to provide relative to literacy supports and interventions for certain 8 students; to require individual reading plans for certain students; to require literacy 9 coaches for teachers; and to provide for related matters. 10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 11 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Earl Michael Willis 12 Early Literacy Act". 13 Section 2. R.S. 17:24.9(B), (C)(5), and (D), 24.10(A)(2) and (3), (B)(1)(introductory 14 paragraph), and (D) through (F), and 24.12(C) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted 15 and R.S. 17:24.10(G) and 24.12(E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

HB NO. 911	ENROLLEI
110, 711	ENTOPPE

1	§24.9. Quality early literacy initiative; legislative findings; development; criteria;
2	implementation; limitations
3	* * *
4	B. The state Department of Education shall develop a comprehensive and
5	evidence-based early literacy initiative for students in kindergarten through third
6	grade. The department shall:
7	(1) Develop a program for early literacy that is applicable for all students in
8	kindergarten through third grade including special education students.
9	(2) Develop or select a literacy assessment screener to assess the literacy
10	level of each public school student in kindergarten through third grade.
11	(a) In developing or selecting the literacy assessment, screener, the
12	department shall consider:
13	(i) The scientific validity and reliability of the literacy assessment. screener.
14	(ii) The time required to conduct the literacy assessment, screener, with the
15	intention to minimize the impact on instructional time.
16	(iii) The cost of administering the literacy assessment. screener.
17	(iv) The timeliness and ease in reporting the results to teachers,
18	administrators, and parents.
19	(v) The integration of the literacy assessment screener with instruction.
20	(b) The literacy assessment screener shall:
21	(i) Measure, at a minimum, age-appropriate phonological awareness,
22	phonics, decoding, fluency, and comprehension.
23	(ii) Identify students whose literacy skills are below grade level.
24	(iii) Be a tool to assist in identifying students for further evaluation for
25	specific programming, including students who display characteristics of being
26	dyslexic or gifted.
27	(3) Provide the literacy assessment, screener, at no cost, to each public
28	school for use in identifying a student's foundational literacy skill level pursuant to
29	R.S. 17:24.10.

HB NO. 911 ENROLLED

(4) Establish the scores on the literacy assessment screener to determine whether a student's literacy skills are above grade level, on grade level, or below grade level.

- (5) Require, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each public school to administer the literacy assessment screener three times per school year to each student in kindergarten through third grade; The first screener shall be administered within the first thirty days of each school year, the second screener shall be administered in December, and the third screener shall be administered in April.
- (6) Provide, within thirty days after the each administration of the literacy assessment, a literacy assessment screener, a report to each public school governing authority, each public school, and each public school teacher who teaches students in kindergarten through third grade; that indicates the number and percentage of students with literacy skills determined to be above grade level, on grade level, or below grade level. The number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation or targeted for literacy intervention shall also be reported.
- (7)(a) Submit a report, not later than ninety days after the beginning of each school year, to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education detailing the results of the each literacy assessment screener for each public elementary school, each public school system, and the state as a whole. The report shall be submitted twice per school year. The first report shall include the results of the first screener administered and shall be submitted within the first ninety days of the school year. The second report shall include the results of the second and third screeners and shall be submitted not later than June first.
  - (b) The Each report shall include:
- (i) The number and percentage of students in kindergarten through third grade with literacy skills identified at each proficiency level.
- (ii) The number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation or targeted for literacy intervention.
  - (iii) Literacy levels by student subgroups.

HB NO. 911 ENROLLED

1	(c) The data reported shall be submitted in the aggregate and shall not
2	include any personally identifiable information pursuant to R.S. 17:3914.
3	(8) Report the data for each school, for each school system, and the state as
4	a whole, in the school progress profiles provided pursuant to R.S. 17:3911 and 3912.
5	C. Not later than July 31, 2022, the State Board of Elementary and
6	Secondary Education shall revise teacher certification requirements and the
7	requirements of teacher education programs to require foundational literacy skills
8	standards in all educator preparation programs of all candidates seeking certification
9	to teach students in kindergarten through third grade. The foundational literacy skills
10	standards shall include:
11	* * *
12	(5) How to administer literacy assessments screeners to students and use the
13	resulting data to improve literacy instruction for students.
14	D. The results from the literacy assessment screeners shall be used in
15	determining school and district performance scores pursuant to the state's school and
16	district accountability system.
17	* * *
18	§24.10. Early literacy instruction and assessment screening; parental notification;
19	reporting
20	A. Each public school shall:
21	* * *
22	(2) Within the first thirty days of each school year, in December, and in
23	April, administer the literacy assessment screener developed or selected and
24	provided by the state Department of Education pursuant to R.S. 17:24.9 to each
25	student in kindergarten through third grade to determine each student's literacy level.
26	(3) Provide literacy interventions and supports designed to improve the
27	foundational literacy skills of any student identified as having literacy skills below
28	grade level. The supports may include daily targeted small-group interventions,
29	before and after school literacy intervention provided by a teacher or tutor with
30	specialized literacy training, and at-home literacy programs that include literacy

HB NO. 911 ENROLLED

workshops for the parents and legal guardians of students and web-based or parent-guided home literacy activities, and summer learning opportunities, including but not limited to reading camps where students receive reading intervention services and supports.

\* \* \*

B.(1) Within fifteen days of identifying that a student in kindergarten through third grade is below grade level, based on the results of the annual literacy assessment any of the three literacy screeners administered per school year, the school shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian in writing that the student has been identified as being below grade level, and shall provide the student's parent with the following:

\* \* \*

- D. Each school shall post its foundational literacy skills plan and the latest report on the literacy assessment screener on its website.
- E. The results of the early literacy assessment screener shall not be used in determining school and district performance scores prior to the 2023-2024 school year.
- F. A student in grades kindergarten through three, within thirty days of being identified as having literacy skills that are below grade level based on the results of the literacy screener, shall receive an individual reading improvement plan. The plan shall be created by the teacher, principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the parent or legal guardian and shall describe the evidence-based reading intervention services the student will receive and shall give suggestions for strategies parents can use at home.
- F. G. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section.

1 §24.12. Early literacy professional development; purpose; requirements; reporting; 2 funding 3 4 C. Each public school governing authority shall provide for literacy coaches for reading teachers in kindergarten through third grade for the purposes of providing 5 6 on-site teacher training on evidence-based reading instruction, demonstrating 7 lessons, co-teaching or observation, and providing feedback for improving 8 instruction. 9 C. D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt 10 rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the 11 provisions of this Section. 12 D. E. The provisions of this Section shall be subject to the appropriation of 13 funds. 14 Section 3. The provisions of this Act shall be void and of no effect when all federal 15 and local funds have been exhausted unless the state provides a specific appropriation for 16 this Act. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

**ENROLLED** 

HB NO. 911

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_