

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

1 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:

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~~ screeener 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~~, screeener, the  
12 department shall consider:

13 (i) The scientific validity and reliability of the literacy ~~assessment~~, screeener.

14 (ii) The time required to conduct the literacy ~~assessment~~, screeener, with the  
15 intention to minimize the impact on instructional time.

16 (iii) The cost of administering the literacy ~~assessment~~, screeener.

17 (iv) The timeliness and ease in reporting the results to teachers,  
18 administrators, and parents.

19 (v) The integration of the literacy ~~assessment~~ screeener with instruction.

20 (b) The literacy ~~assessment~~ screeener 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~~, screeener, 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.

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

4 (5) Require, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each public school  
5 to administer the literacy ~~assessment~~ screeener three times per school year to each  
6 student in kindergarten through third grade; . The first screener shall be administered  
7 within the first thirty days of each school year, the second screener shall be  
8 administered in December, and the third screener shall be administered in April.

9 (6) Provide, within thirty days after ~~the~~ each administration of the literacy  
10 ~~assessment, a literacy assessment~~ screeener, a report to each public school governing  
11 authority, each public school, and each public school teacher who teaches students  
12 in kindergarten through third grade; that indicates the number and percentage of  
13 students with literacy skills determined to be above grade level, on grade level, or  
14 below grade level. The number of students identified for referral for gifted  
15 evaluation or targeted for literacy intervention shall also be reported.

16 (7)(a) Submit a report, ~~not later than ninety days after the beginning of each~~  
17 ~~school year~~, to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on  
18 Education detailing the results of ~~the~~ each literacy ~~assessment~~ screeener for each  
19 public elementary school, each public school system, and the state as a whole. The  
20 report shall be submitted twice per school year. The first report shall include the  
21 results of the first screener administered and shall be submitted within the first ninety  
22 days of the school year. The second report shall include the results of the second and  
23 third screeners and shall be submitted not later than June first.

24 (b) ~~The~~ Each report shall include:

25 (i) The number and percentage of students in kindergarten through third  
26 grade with literacy skills identified at each proficiency level.

27 (ii) The number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation or  
28 targeted for literacy intervention.

29 (iii) Literacy levels by student subgroups.

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~~ screner 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

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

5 \* \* \*

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

12 \* \* \*

13 D. Each school shall post its foundational literacy skills plan and the latest  
14 report on the literacy ~~assessment~~  screener on its website.

15 E. The results of the early literacy ~~assessment~~  screener shall not be used in  
16 determining school and district performance scores prior to the 2023-2024 school  
17 year.

18 F. A student in grades kindergarten through three, within thirty days of being  
19 identified as having literacy skills that are below grade level based on the results of  
20 the literacy screener, shall receive an individual reading improvement plan. The plan  
21 shall be created by the teacher, principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the  
22 parent or legal guardian and shall describe the evidence-based reading intervention  
23 services the student will receive and shall give suggestions for strategies parents can  
24 use at home.

25 F. G. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt  
26 rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the  
27 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  
5 for reading teachers in kindergarten through third grade for the purposes of providing  
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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_