

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 649 (HB 244)

2024 Regular Session

Hughes

Existing law provides for a literacy program for certain public school students in grades K-5. New law expands the purpose of program to include mathematics and changes name from the "Steve Carter Literacy Program" to the "Steve Carter Education Program".

Existing 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 fifth grade, lacks a literacy or English language arts assessment result, and is recommended for the program by an English teacher.

New law expands eligible students to also include:

- (1) Enrolled in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and is at risk for mathematics difficulties according to a mathematics assessment.
- (2) Enrolled in the fourth through 12th grade and scored below mastery in mathematics on the state assessment in the prior school year.
- (3) Enrolled in the sixth through 12th grade and scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year.
- (4) Enrolled in kindergarten through the fifth grade, lacks a mathematics assessment result, and is recommended for the program by a mathematics teacher.

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

Existing law provides for payments of up to \$1,000 per student per school year for eligible services intended to improve reading or literacy skills. New law increases maximum payment from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and expands eligible services to also include those intended to improve mathematics skills.

Existing 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.

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

Existing law provides that implementation of the program is subject to the appropriation of funds or the availability of local funds.

Effective when an appropriation is made by the legislature specifically for the purpose of implementing existing law and new law.

(Amends R.S. 17:4032.1)