

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0568.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

SENATE BILL 22-004

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED LITERACY  
102 INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS IN EARLY GRADES.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

By the beginning of the 2023-24 school year and continuing thereafter, the bill requires each school district, board of cooperative services, and charter school (local education provider) to ensure that the principal in a school that serves kindergarten or any of grades one through 3 and each school district administrator with responsibility that pertains to programs in kindergarten or any of grades one through 3 to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

successfully complete evidence-based training in the science of reading. The local education provider may request a one-year extension from the state board of education to ensure that the teachers, principals, and administrators whom it employs meet the training requirements. Each local education provider must submit to the department of education (department) evidence that it is in compliance with the principal and administrator training requirements to receive per-pupil intervention money in a budget year.

The bill requires the board of trustees for each public library to adopt a policy by January 1, 2023, to support parents and children in improving literacy through the science of reading. The policy must include a requirement that:

- Each librarian successfully complete evidence-based training in the science of reading;
- The director of the board of trustees maintain an accurate list on the library website of the librarians who successfully complete the training; and
- The director of the board of trustees identify materials and activities for parents and children to improve literacy and ensure that the materials and activities are available in the public library and are updated monthly.

Upon request of a local education provider or the board of trustees of a public library, the department shall provide training in the science of reading to principals and administrators of the local education provider and librarians of the public library for free.

The bill directs the state librarian to work with public libraries throughout the state to facilitate access to evidence-based training in the science of reading for librarians and assist in identifying materials and activities for parents and children to improve literacy.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1208, **amend**  
3 (6)(d); and **add** (6.5) as follows:

4 **22-7-1208. Local education providers - procedures - plans -**  
5 **training - rules.** (6) (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection  
6 (6)(a) of this section, a local education provider that is not in compliance  
7 with the requirements of this subsection (6) as of the beginning of the  
8 2022-23 school year or for a subsequent school year may request a

1 one-year extension from the ~~department~~ STATE BOARD based on a  
2 demonstration of good cause for inability to comply.

3 (6.5) (a) BY THE BEGINNING OF THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR AND  
4 CONTINUING FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH LOCAL  
5 EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT RECEIVES PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEY  
6 OR A GRANT THROUGH THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM IN ANY  
7 BUDGET YEAR STARTING WITH THE 2022-23 BUDGET YEAR SHALL ENSURE  
8 THAT EACH PRINCIPAL IN A SCHOOL THAT SERVES KINDERGARTEN OR ANY  
9 OF GRADES ONE THROUGH THREE AND EACH ADMINISTRATOR WITH  
10 RESPONSIBILITY THAT PERTAINS TO PROGRAMS IN KINDERGARTEN OR ANY  
11 OF GRADES ONE THROUGH THREE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES OR HAS  
12 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE  
13 OF READING. THE EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE OF READING  
14 MUST INCLUDE THE CONCEPTS OF PHONEMIC AWARENESS, PHONICS,  
15 VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT, READING FLUENCY, INCLUDING ORAL  
16 SKILLS, AND READING COMPREHENSION. TO COMPLY WITH THIS  
17 SUBSECTION (6.5)(a), A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL SUBMIT  
18 EVIDENCE, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6.5)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THAT  
19 EACH PRINCIPAL AND ADMINISTRATOR DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION  
20 (6.5)(a) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN  
21 THE SCIENCE OF READING THAT IS:

22 (I) INCLUDED AS A COURSE IN AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF  
23 PREPARATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-60.5-102 (8) FOR PRINCIPALS OR  
24 ADMINISTRATORS, OR AN INDIVIDUALIZED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL  
25 PROGRAM, OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, APPROVED  
26 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-305.5;

27 (II) INCLUDED AS A COURSE IN A POST-GRADUATE DEGREE

1 PROGRAM IN TEACHING READING OR LITERACY;

2 (III) PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR INCLUDED ON THE  
3 ADVISORY LIST OF RIGOROUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
4 PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1209 (2)(c);  
5 OR

6 (IV) PROVIDED BY A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER OR IS  
7 APPROPRIATE FOR LICENSE RENEWAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-110  
8 (3).

9 (b) A PRINCIPAL OR ADMINISTRATOR IS DEEMED TO HAVE  
10 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE  
11 OF READING IF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SUBMITS TO THE  
12 DEPARTMENT EVIDENCE THAT THE PRINCIPAL OR ADMINISTRATOR PASSED  
13 AN END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING AT THE COMPLETION OF  
14 THE EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING.

15 (c) AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER, THE  
16 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE, AT NO COST TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION  
17 PROVIDER, EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE OF READING TO  
18 ONE OR MORE PRINCIPALS OR ADMINISTRATORS, AS DESCRIBED IN  
19 SUBSECTION (6.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION, WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE LOCAL  
20 EDUCATION PROVIDER.

21 (d) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (6.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION, A  
22 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
23 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION (6.5) AS OF THE BEGINNING OF THE  
24 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR OR FOR A SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEAR MAY  
25 REQUEST A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION FROM THE STATE BOARD BASED ON A  
26 DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD CAUSE FOR INABILITY TO COMPLY.

27 (e) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO

1 SPECIFY THE TIME FRAMES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPLYING WITH THE  
2 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND  
3 FOR APPLYING FOR AN EXTENSION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6.5)(d) OF  
4 THIS SECTION AND THE FORM IN WHICH A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER  
5 MUST SUBMIT EVIDENCE OF THE COMPLETION OF AN END-OF-COURSE  
6 ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING AS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (6.5)(b) OF THIS  
7 SECTION.

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1209, **amend**  
9 (2)(c) introductory portion as follows:

10 **22-7-1209. State board - rules - department - duties.**

11 (2) (c) Using the procedure developed pursuant to subsection (3) of this  
12 section, the department shall create an advisory list of rigorous  
13 professional development programs ~~that~~ FOR TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, AND  
14 ADMINISTRATORS, WHICH PROGRAMS are related to addressing significant  
15 reading deficiencies and to applying intervention instruction and  
16 strategies, in addition to programs related to teaching general literacy, that  
17 local education providers are encouraged to use. The department shall  
18 include on the advisory list professional development programs that are  
19 available online. The department shall ensure that each professional  
20 development program included on the advisory list is:

21 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1210, **amend**  
22 (4)(d)(I)(E) as follows:

23 **22-7-1210. Early literacy fund - created.** (4) The money in the  
24 fund is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly to the  
25 department. The department shall annually expend the money in the fund  
26 as follows:

27 (d) (I) Beginning in the 2020-21 budget year and for budget years

1 thereafter, the department shall annually expend the money credited to the  
2 early literacy fund for the following purposes:

3 (E) To pay the costs incurred in providing to local education  
4 providers technical assistance in implementing this part 12, ~~and~~ training  
5 in teaching reading for teachers employed to teach kindergarten and  
6 grades one through three, TRAINING FOR PRINCIPALS AND  
7 ADMINISTRATORS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1208 (6.5), AND TRAINING  
8 FOR LIBRARIANS PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-90-121; monitoring the use of  
9 money received as per-pupil intervention money or grants through the  
10 early literacy grant program; and fulfilling the administrative  
11 requirements specified in this part 12.

12 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1210.5, **amend**  
13 (4)(g); and **add** (3)(b)(II.5) as follows:

14 **22-7-1210.5. Per-pupil intervention money - uses - distribution**  
15 **- monitoring - repeal.** (3) (b) To receive per-pupil intervention money  
16 in a budget year, a local education provider must meet the following  
17 requirements:

18 (II.5) FOR THE 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR AND BUDGET YEARS  
19 THEREAFTER, THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MUST SUBMIT EVIDENCE  
20 THAT IT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPAL AND ADMINISTRATOR  
21 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-7-1208 (6.5);

22 (4) A local education provider may use the per-pupil intervention  
23 money only as follows:

24 (g) To provide professional development programming to support  
25 educators in teaching reading. Professional development programming  
26 authorized in this subsection (4)(g) may include hiring a reading coach  
27 who is trained in teaching the foundational reading skills of phonemic

1 awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, including  
2 oral skills, and reading comprehension to provide job-embedded, ongoing  
3 professional development to support kindergarten-through-third-grade  
4 teacher competence in teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary  
5 development, reading fluency, including oral skills, and reading  
6 comprehension. A local education provider that has not fully complied  
7 with ~~section 22-7-1208 (6)~~ SECTION 22-7-1208 (6) OR (6.5) is strongly  
8 encouraged to use per-pupil intervention money to ensure that all teachers  
9 employed by the local education provider to teach kindergarten or any of  
10 grades one through three successfully complete evidence-based training  
11 in teaching reading, AND THE PRINCIPALS AND ADMINISTRATORS  
12 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-7-1208 (6.5)(a) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE  
13 EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE OF READING, before using the  
14 money for other authorized purposes.

15 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-90-121 as  
16 follows:

17 **24-90-121. Public libraries - science of reading - training -**  
18 **activities - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE  
19 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

20 (a) "BOARD OF TRUSTEES" MEANS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A  
21 PUBLIC LIBRARY APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-90-108.

22 (b) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF A BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
23 EMPLOYED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-90-109  
24 (1)(c).

25 (c) "EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE OF READING" OR  
26 "TRAINING" MEANS TRAINING THAT:

27 (I) IS BASED ON RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY, AND VALID EVIDENCE;

1 (II) INCLUDES EXPLANATION AND INSTRUCTION IN THE AREAS OF  
2 PHONEMIC AWARENESS, PHONICS, VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT, READING  
3 FLUENCY, INCLUDING ORAL SKILLS, AND READING COMPREHENSION; AND

4 (III) IS INCLUDED ON THE ADVISORY LIST OF RIGOROUS  
5 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CREATED AND MAINTAINED BY  
6 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1209 (2)(c).

7 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR  
8 EACH PUBLIC LIBRARY SHALL ADOPT A POLICY TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND  
9 CHILDREN IN IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH THE SCIENCE OF READING.

10 AT A MINIMUM, THE POLICY MUST REQUIRE:

11 (a) EACH PERSON EMPLOYED AS A LIBRARIAN BY THE PUBLIC  
12 LIBRARY TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE  
13 SCIENCE OF READING;

14 (b) EACH LIBRARIAN WHO IS EMPLOYED BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
15 AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023, TO SUBMIT TO THE DIRECTOR BY SEPTEMBER 1,  
16 2024, EVIDENCE THAT THE LIBRARIAN PASSED AN END-OF-COURSE  
17 ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING AT THE COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING;

18 (c) EACH LIBRARIAN WHO IS HIRED BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AFTER  
19 JANUARY 1, 2023, TO SUBMIT TO THE DIRECTOR, WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER  
20 THE LIBRARIAN'S BEGINNING EMPLOYMENT DATE, EVIDENCE THAT THE  
21 LIBRARIAN PASSED AN END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING AT THE  
22 COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING;

23 (d) THE DIRECTOR TO MAINTAIN AN ACCURATE LIST, ACCESSIBLE  
24 TO THE PUBLIC ON THE LIBRARY WEBSITE, OF THE LIBRARIANS WHO HAVE  
25 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE TRAINING; AND

26 (e) THE DIRECTOR TO IDENTIFY MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR  
27 PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO IMPROVE LITERACY, WHICH MATERIALS AND



1 ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE READING COMPETENCY IN THE  
2 AREAS OF PHONEMIC AWARENESS, PHONICS, VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT,  
3 READING FLUENCY, INCLUDING ORAL SKILLS, AND READING  
4 COMPREHENSION AND ARE APPROPRIATE FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH  
5 SECOND GRADE AND FOR THIRD THROUGH SIXTH GRADE. THE DIRECTOR  
6 SHALL ENSURE THAT THE MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN  
7 THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ARE UPDATED MONTHLY.

8 (3) AT THE REQUEST OF A DIRECTOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE, AT NO COST TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
10 EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE OF READING TO ONE OR MORE  
11 LIBRARIANS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

12 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-90-109, **amend**  
13 (2.5); and **add** (1)(r) as follows:

14 **24-90-109. Powers and duties of board of trustees.** (1) The  
15 board of trustees shall:

16 (r) ADOPT AND REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY  
17 TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH  
18 THE SCIENCE OF READING AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 24-90-121.

19 (2.5) At the close of each calendar year, the board of trustees of  
20 every public library shall make a report to the state library in the form of  
21 a response to a survey to be designed and administered by the state  
22 library. The report ~~shall~~ MUST contain such other statistics and  
23 information as may be required by the state library AND SHALL SPECIFY  
24 THE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S DEGREE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS  
25 FOR LIBRARIAN TRAINING SPECIFIED IN SECTION 24-90-121 AND THE  
26 POLICY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION.

27 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-90-105, **add**

1 (2)(g) as follows:

2 **24-90-105. Powers and duties of state librarian.** (2) The state  
3 librarian has the following powers and duties with respect to other  
4 publicly supported libraries in the state:

5 (g) TO WORK WITH PUBLIC LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO  
6 FACILITATE ACCESS TO EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN THE SCIENCE OF  
7 READING, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-90-121, FOR LIBRARIANS AND ASSIST  
8 IN IDENTIFYING MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN  
9 TO IMPROVE LITERACY, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-90-121.

10 **SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
13 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
14 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
15 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
16 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
17 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.