

1 AN ACT relating to early literacy education and making an appropriation therefor.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 → Section 1. KRS 158.791 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that reading proficiency is a gateway skill
5 necessary for all of Kentucky students to achieve the academic goals established in
6 KRS 158.6451. It is Kentucky's goal that all children learn to read well before
7 exiting ~~the~~ ***grade three (3)*** ~~primary program~~ and that all middle and high school
8 students have the skills necessary to read complex materials in specific core
9 subjects and comprehend and constructively apply the information.

10 (2) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

11 (a) Every elementary school:

- 12 1. Provide ~~a~~ comprehensive schoolwide reading ***instruction aligned to***
13 ***reading and writing standards required by KRS 158.6453 and outlined***
14 ***in administrative regulation promulgated by the Kentucky Board of***
15 ***Education*** ~~program~~;
- 16 2. Provide ***a multi-tiered system of supports, as set forth in and required***
17 ***by Section 2 of this Act, to support and engage all students in***
18 ***learning*** ~~diagnostic reading assessments and intervention services for~~
19 ~~those students who need them to learn~~ to read at the proficient level,
20 ***meaning a level that reflects developmentally appropriate grade-level***
21 ***performance, by the end of grade three (3)***;
- 22 3. Ensure quality instruction by highly trained teachers ***and intervention by***
23 ***individuals most qualified to provide the intervention***; and
- 24 4. Provide high quality library media programs;

25 (b) Every middle and high school:

- 26 1. Provide direct, explicit instruction to students lacking skills in how to
27 read, learn, and analyze information in key subjects, including language,

1 reading, English, mathematics, science, social studies, arts and
 2 humanities, practical living skills, and career studies; and

3 2. Ensure that teachers have the skills to help all students develop critical
 4 strategies and skills for subject-based reading;

5 (c) The Kentucky Department of Education provide technical assistance to local
 6 school districts in the identification of professional development activities,
 7 including teaching strategies to help teachers in each subject area to:

8 1. Implement evidence-based reading, intervention, and instructional
 9 strategies that emphasize phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
 10 vocabulary, comprehension, and connections between reading and
 11 writing acquisition, and motivation to read to address the diverse
 12 needs of students;

13 2. Identify and teach the skills that students need to comprehend the
 14 concepts and content of each subject area; and

15 3.~~[2.]~~ Use activities and materials that will help the students comprehend and
 16 constructively apply information based on the unique content of each
 17 subject area;~~[and]~~

18 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board review and revise when deemed
 19 necessary the teacher certification and licensure requirements to ensure that all
 20 teachers, regardless of the subject area taught, are prepared to improve
 21 students' subject reading skills; and

22 (e) The department shall collaborate with the Department for Libraries and
 23 Archives, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, and Kentucky
 24 Educational Television to establish and maintain a partnership to support
 25 the use of high quality, evidence-based year-round programming, materials,
 26 and activities for elementary-aged children in the areas of reading.

27 → Section 2. KRS 158.305 is amended to read as follows:

- 1 (1) As used in this section:
- 2 (a) "Aphasia" means a condition characterized by either partial or total loss of the
- 3 ability to communicate verbally or through written words. A person with
- 4 aphasia may have difficulty speaking, reading, writing, recognizing the names
- 5 of objects, or understanding what other people have said. The condition may
- 6 be temporary or permanent and does not include speech problems caused by
- 7 loss of muscle control;
- 8 (b) "Dyscalculia" means the inability to understand the meaning of numbers, the
- 9 basic operations of addition and subtraction, the complex operations of
- 10 multiplication and division, or to apply math principles to solve practical or
- 11 abstract problems;
- 12 (c) "Dysgraphia" means difficulty in automatically remembering and mastering
- 13 the sequence of muscle motor movements needed to accurately write letters or
- 14 numbers;
- 15 (d) "Dyslexia" has the same meaning as in KRS 158.307;
- 16 **(e) "Enrichment program" means accelerated intervention within the school**
- 17 **day or outside of the school day or school calendar led by individuals most**
- 18 **qualified to provide the intervention that includes evidence-based reading**
- 19 **instructional programming related to reading instruction in the areas of**
- 20 **phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension,**
- 21 **and other instructional strategies aligned to reading and writing standards**
- 22 **required by KRS 158.6453 and outlined in administrative regulation**
- 23 **promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education;**
- 24 **(f) "Evidence-based" has the same meaning as in 20 U.S.C. sec. 7801(21);**
- 25 **(g){(e)}** "Phonemic awareness" has the same meaning as in KRS 158.307;~~and~~
- 26 **(h) "Reading diagnostic assessment" has the same meaning as in Section 5 of**
- 27 **this Act;**

1 (i) "Reading improvement plan" means an accelerated intervention plan for a
 2 student in kindergarten through grade four (4) that is developed to increase
 3 a student's rate of progress toward proficient performance in reading that is
 4 identified as necessary based on the student's results on an approved
 5 reading diagnostic assessment. This plan should be developed in
 6 collaboration and accordance with any existing program services plan,
 7 individualized education program, or Section 504 Plan unless the program
 8 services plan, individualized education program, or Section 504 Plan
 9 already addresses improving reading;

10 (j) "Reading improvement team" means a team that develops and oversees the
 11 progress of a reading improvement plan and includes:

12 1. The parent or guardian of the student that is the subject of the reading
 13 improvement plan;

14 2. No less than one (1) regular education teacher of the student to
 15 provide information about the general curriculum for same-aged
 16 peers;

17 3. A representative of the local education agency who is knowledgeable
 18 about the reading curriculum and the availability of the evidence-
 19 based literacy resources of the local education agency; and

20 4. Any specialized certified school employees for students receiving
 21 language instruction educational programming or special education
 22 services; and

23 (k) "Universal screener" means a process of providing a brief assessment to all
 24 students within a grade level to assess the students' performance on the
 25 essential components of reading†

26 ~~(f) "Evidence-based" has the same meaning as in 20 U.S.C. sec. 7801(21)}.~~

27 (2) Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, the

1 Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations **to further**
 2 **define a multi-tiered system of supports** for district-wide use of a ~~response-to-~~
 3 ~~intervention~~ system for students in kindergarten through grade three (3), that
 4 includes a tiered continuum of interventions with varying levels of intensity and
 5 duration and which connects general, compensatory, and special education
 6 programs to provide interventions implemented with fidelity to evidence-based
 7 research and matched to individual student strengths and needs. At a minimum,
 8 evidence of implementation shall be submitted by the district to the department **by**
 9 **October 1 of each year and shall include but not be limited to the activities**
 10 **required under KRS 158.649** ~~for:~~

11 (a) ~~Reading and writing by August 1, 2013;~~

12 (b) ~~Mathematics by August 1, 2014; and~~

13 (c) ~~Behavior by August 1, 2015~~].

14 (3) The Department of Education shall provide technical assistance and training, if
 15 requested by a local district, to assist in the implementation of the district-wide,
 16 **multi-tiered system of supports** ~~response-to-intervention-system~~ as a means to
 17 identify and assist any student experiencing difficulty in reading, writing,
 18 mathematics, or behavior and to determine appropriate instructional modifications
 19 needed by advanced learners to make continuous progress.

20 (4) The technical assistance and training shall be designed to improve:

21 (a) The use of specific screening processes and programs to identify student
 22 strengths and needs;

23 (b) The use of screening data for designing instructional interventions;

24 (c) The use of multisensory instructional strategies and other interventions
 25 validated for effectiveness by evidence-based research;

26 (d) Progress monitoring of student performance; and

27 (e) Accelerated, intensive, direct instruction that addresses students' individual

1 differences, including advanced learners, and enables students that are
 2 experiencing difficulty to catch up with typically performing peers.

3 **(5) (a) By January 1, 2023, each superintendent or public charter school board of**
 4 **directors shall select:**

5 **1. At least one (1) universal screener for reading that is determined by**
 6 **the department to be reliable and valid to be administered to all**
 7 **students in kindergarten through grade three (3); and**

8 **2. At least one (1) reading diagnostic assessment for reading that is**
 9 **determined by the department to be reliable and valid to be**
 10 **administered as part of a multi-tiered system of supports for students**
 11 **in kindergarten through grade three (3).**

12 **(b) Notwithstanding KRS 158.6453(19) and 160.345, each superintendent or**
 13 **public charter school board may adopt a common comprehensive reading**
 14 **program that is determined by the department to be reliable, valid, and**
 15 **aligned to reading and writing standards required by KRS 158.6453 and**
 16 **outlined in administrative regulation promulgated by the Kentucky Board of**
 17 **Education for kindergarten through grade three (3) for all schools or a**
 18 **subset of schools, with consultation of all affected elementary school**
 19 **councils.**

20 **(c) All teachers of students in kindergarten through grade three (3), including**
 21 **public charter school teachers, shall be trained on any reading diagnostic**
 22 **assessment and universal screener selected by the superintendent or public**
 23 **charter school board prior to administration of the assessment. The training**
 24 **shall address:**

25 **1. How to properly administer the reading diagnostic assessment;**

26 **2. How to interpret the results of the reading diagnostic assessment to**
 27 **identify students needing interventions;**

- 1 3. How to use the assessment results to design instruction and
- 2 interventions;
- 3 4. The use of the assessment to monitor the progress of student
- 4 performance; and
- 5 5. The use of accelerated, intensive, and direct instruction that addresses
- 6 students' individual differences and enables students to achieve
- 7 proficiency in reading, including but not limited to daily, one-on-one
- 8 instruction.
- 9 (6) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, a universal screener determined by
- 10 the Department of Education to be reliable and valid shall be:
- 11 (a) Given in the first forty-five (45) days of the school year for all kindergarten
- 12 students at a public school or public charter school; and
- 13 (b) Given in the first thirty (30) days of the school year for grades one (1)
- 14 through three (3) at a public school or public charter school.
- 15 (7) A reading improvement plan shall be developed and implemented by a reading
- 16 improvement team for any student in kindergarten through grade three (3)
- 17 identified as needing accelerated interventions to progress toward proficient
- 18 performance in reading. The reading improvement plan shall require:
- 19 (a) Intensive intervention that includes effective instructional strategies and
- 20 appropriate instructional materials necessary to help the student make
- 21 accelerated progress toward proficient performance in reading and become
- 22 ready for the next grade, including but not limited to daily, one-on-one
- 23 instruction with students the most in need provided by certified teachers
- 24 specifically trained to provide one-on-one instruction;
- 25 (b) A school to provide a written quarterly progress report containing the
- 26 information required by paragraph (a) of this subsection to a parent or
- 27 guardian of any student subject to a reading improvement plan. The written

1 quarterly progress report for the reading improvement plan may be included
2 in the school's existing quarterly progress report; and

3 (c) Individual placement decisions for children who are eligible for special
4 education and related services to be determined by the appropriate
5 admissions and release committee in accordance with administrative
6 regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education.

7 (8) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, if a student's rate of progress toward
8 proficient performance in reading needs accelerated interventions as
9 demonstrated by the results of an approved reading diagnostic assessment, the
10 local school district shall provide:

11 (a) Enrichment programs through grade three (3) using evidence-based
12 reading instruction and other strategies;

13 (b) Intensive instructional services, progress monitoring measures, and
14 supports to students through grade three (3); and

15 (c) Parents and legal guardians of students identified for accelerated
16 interventions in reading in kindergarten through grade three (3) with a
17 "Read at Home" plan, including information on how to participate in
18 regular parent-guided home reading.

19 (9) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, if a student does not score in the
20 proficient performance level or higher in reading, as defined in subsection (2) of
21 Section 1 of this Act, on the state annually required grade three (3) assessment,
22 the local school district shall provide:

23 (a) 1. Enrichment programs in grade four (4) using evidence-based reading
24 instruction and other strategies; or

25 2. Intensive instructional services, progress monitoring measures, and
26 supports to students in grade four (4); and

27 (b) Written notification of the interventions and supports described in

1 *paragraph (a) of this subsection to the parent or legal guardian of the*
 2 *student, including a description of proposed interventions and supports to*
 3 *be provided.*

4 *(10) By September 1, 2023, if funds are appropriated, the department shall establish*
 5 *required teacher academies or coaching models for teachers of students in pre-*
 6 *kindergarten through grade three (3). The teacher academies or coaching models*
 7 *shall be related to evidence-based practices in instruction, instructional materials,*
 8 *and assessment in reading.*

9 ~~(11)~~⁽⁵⁾ The department shall develop and maintain a Web-based resource providing
 10 teachers access to:

- 11 (a) Information on the use of specific screening processes and programs to
 12 identify student strengths and needs, including those for advanced learners;
- 13 (b) Current, evidence-based research and age-appropriate instructional tools that
 14 may be used for substantial, steady improvement in:
- 15 1. Reading when a student is experiencing difficulty with phonemic
 16 awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, general reading
 17 comprehension, or reading in specific content areas, or is exhibiting
 18 characteristics of dyslexia, aphasia, or other reading difficulties;
 - 19 2. Writing when a student is experiencing difficulty with consistently
 20 producing letters or numbers with accuracy or is exhibiting
 21 characteristics of dysgraphia;
 - 22 3. Mathematics when a student is experiencing difficulty with basic math
 23 facts, calculations, or application through problem solving, or is
 24 exhibiting characteristics of dyscalculia or other mathematical
 25 difficulties; or
 - 26 4. Behavior when a student is exhibiting behaviors that interfere with his or
 27 her learning or the learning of other students; and

1 (c) Current, evidence-based research and age-appropriate instructional tools that
2 may be used for continuous progress of advanced learners.

3 ~~(12)~~~~(6)~~ The department shall encourage districts to utilize both state and federal funds
4 as appropriate to implement a district-wide ***multi-tiered system of supports***~~[system~~
5 ~~of interventions]~~.

6 ~~(13)~~~~(7)~~ The department is encouraged to coordinate technical assistance and training
7 on current best practice interventions with state postsecondary education
8 institutions.

9 ~~(14)~~~~(8)~~ The department shall collaborate with the Kentucky Collaborative Center for
10 Literacy Development, the Kentucky Center for Mathematics, the Kentucky Center
11 for Instructional Discipline, the Education Professional Standards Board, the
12 Council on Postsecondary Education, postsecondary teacher education programs,
13 and other agencies and organizations as deemed appropriate to ensure that teachers
14 are prepared to utilize evidence-based interventions in reading, writing,
15 mathematics, and behavior.

16 ~~(15)~~~~(9)~~ In compliance with 20 U.S.C. sec. 1414(a)(1)(E), screening of a student to
17 determine appropriate instructional strategies for curriculum implementation shall
18 not be considered to be an evaluation for eligibility for special education and related
19 services and nothing in this section shall limit a school district from completing an
20 initial evaluation of a student suspected of having a disability.

21 ~~{(10) By November 30, 2013, and annually thereafter, the department shall provide a~~
22 ~~report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education that includes survey data on the~~
23 ~~types of evidence-based research interventions being implemented by districts in~~
24 ~~reading, writing, mathematics, and behavior in kindergarten through grade three~~
25 ~~(3).}~~

26 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO
27 READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 (1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, postsecondary institutions offering
 2 teacher preparation programs for interdisciplinary early childhood education or
 3 elementary regular education shall include evidence-based reading instructional
 4 programming related to reading instruction in the areas of phonemic awareness,
 5 phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and on:
- 6 (a) The administration of specific assessment processes and programs used to
 7 identify student strengths and needs and that are determined by the
 8 Department of Education to be reliable and valid;
- 9 (b) The use of assessment data for designing instruction and interventions;
- 10 (c) Progress monitoring of student performance; and
- 11 (d) Instructional strategies that address students' individual differences.
- 12 (2) By January 1, 2024, the Education Professional Standards Board shall develop
 13 and maintain a list of approved teacher preparation tests that are determined by
 14 the board to be an effective evaluation of reading instruction knowledge and
 15 skills.
- 16 (3) Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, all new teachers seeking certification in
 17 interdisciplinary early childhood education or elementary education shall
 18 successfully pass an approved teacher preparation test that includes an
 19 evaluation of reading instruction knowledge and skills.
- 20 (4) The Education Professional Standards Board shall report program data to an
 21 external evaluator for analysis of postsecondary teacher preparation programs
 22 for interdisciplinary early childhood education or elementary regular education
 23 for the goal of increasing the success of new teacher candidates in demonstrating
 24 reading instruction knowledge and skills.

25 ➔ Section 4. KRS 158.840 is amended to read as follows:

- 26 (1) The General Assembly hereby finds that reading and mathematics proficiency are
 27 gateway skills necessary for all Kentucky students to achieve the academic goals

1 established in KRS 158.6451. It is the General Assembly's intent that:

- 2 (a) All students in kindergarten through grade three (3)~~[the primary program]~~
 3 having difficulty in reading and mathematics receive early diagnosis and
 4 intervention services from highly trained teachers;
- 5 (b) All students demonstrate proficiency in reading and mathematics as they
 6 progress through the relevant curricula and complete each assessment level
 7 required by the Kentucky Board of Education for the state assessment program
 8 established under KRS 158.6453 and in compliance with the requirements of
 9 the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or its
 10 successor; and
- 11 (c) Students who are struggling in reading and mathematics or are not at the
 12 proficient level on statewide assessments be provided evidence~~[research]~~-
 13 based and developmentally appropriate diagnostic and intervention services,
 14 and instructional modifications necessary to learn.

15 The General Assembly, the Kentucky Board of Education, the Kentucky
 16 Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, colleges and
 17 universities, local boards of education, school administrators, school councils,
 18 teachers, parents, and other educational entities, such as the Education Professional
 19 Standards Board, P-16 councils, the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development,
 20 and the Center for Middle School Achievement must collaborate if the intentions
 21 specified in this subsection are to be met. Intensive focus on student achievement in
 22 reading and mathematics does not negate the responsibility of any entity to help
 23 students obtain proficiency in other core curriculum content areas.

- 24 (2) The General Assembly's role is to set policies that address the achievement levels of
 25 all students and provide resources for the professional growth of teachers and
 26 administrators, assessing students' academic achievement, including diagnostic
 27 assessment and instructional interventions, technology innovations, targeted reading

1 and mathematics statewide initiatives, research and the distribution of research
2 findings, services for students beyond the regular school day, and other services
3 needed to help struggling learners.

4 (3) The Kentucky Board of Education shall regularly review and modify, when
5 appropriate, its statewide assessment policies and practices to enable local school
6 districts and schools to carry out the provisions of the statewide assessment and
7 accountability system, required under KRS 158.6453 to improve student
8 achievement in mathematics and reading.

9 (4) The Kentucky Department of Education shall:

10 (a) Provide assistance to schools and teachers, including publicizing professional
11 development opportunities, methods of measuring effective professional
12 development, the availability of high quality instructional materials, and
13 developmentally appropriate screening and diagnostic assessments of student
14 competency in mathematics and reading. The department shall provide access
15 to samples of units of study, annotated student work, diagnostic instruments,
16 and research findings, and give guidance on parental engagement;

17 (b) Work with state and national educators and subject-matter experts to identify
18 student reading skills in each subject area that align with the state content
19 standards adopted under KRS 158.6453 and identify teaching strategies in
20 each subject area that can be used explicitly to develop the identified reading
21 skills under this paragraph;

22 (c) Encourage the development of comprehensive middle and high school
23 adolescent reading plans to be incorporated into the curricula of each subject
24 area to improve the reading comprehension of all students;

25 (d) Conduct an annual review of the state grant programs it manages and make
26 recommendations, when needed, to the Interim Joint Committee on Education
27 for changes to statutory requirements that are necessary to gain a greater return

1 on investment;

2 (e) Provide administrative support and oversight to programs to train classroom
3 coaches and mentors to help teachers with reading and mathematics
4 instruction; and

5 (f) Require no reporting of instructional plans, formative assessment results, staff
6 effectiveness processes, or interventions implemented in the classroom,
7 except for:

8 1. Interventions implemented under KRS 158.305(2);

9 2. Funds provided under KRS 158.792 or 158.844; or

10 3. Schools that are identified for comprehensive support and improvement
11 and fail to exit comprehensive support and improvement status after
12 three (3) consecutive years of implementing the turnaround intervention
13 process as described in KRS 160.346.

14 (5) The Council on Postsecondary Education, in cooperation with the Education
15 Professional Standards Board, shall exercise its duties and functions under KRS
16 164.020 to ensure that teacher education programs are fulfilling the needs of
17 Kentucky for highly skilled teachers. The council shall:

18 (a) Coordinate the federal and state grant programs it administers with other
19 statewide initiatives relating to improving student achievement in reading and
20 mathematics to avoid duplication of effort and to make efficient use of
21 resources; ~~and~~

22 (b) *Submit a report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education no later than*
23 *November 1 of each year summarizing the compliance of each teacher*
24 *preparation program for interdisciplinary early childhood education or*
25 *elementary regular education to the instructional requirements set forth in*
26 *subsection (1) of Section 3 of this Act; and*

27 (c) *Regularly report program data to an external evaluator for an analysis of*

1 *the progress of teacher preparation programs for interdisciplinary early*
2 *childhood education and elementary regular education to increase the*
3 *success of new teacher candidates in demonstrating reading instruction*
4 *knowledge and skills.*

- 5 (6) The Education Professional Standards Board shall exercise its duties and
6 responsibilities under KRS 161.030 and 161.048 to ensure highly qualified teachers.
- 7 (7) Colleges and universities shall:
- 8 (a) Utilize institution-wide resources to work with elementary and secondary
9 educators and other entities to align curriculum content to ensure that students
10 who achieve proficiency on standards established at the prekindergarten
11 through secondary levels will require no remediation to successfully enter a
12 postsecondary education program;
- 13 (b) Provide quality undergraduate teacher preparation programs to ensure that
14 those preparing to teach reading or mathematics at all grade levels have the
15 necessary content knowledge, assessment and diagnostic skills, and teaching
16 methodologies and that teachers in all subject areas have the requisite skills
17 for helping students at all grade levels develop critical strategies and skills for
18 reading and comprehending subject matter;
- 19 (c) Deliver appropriate continuing education for teachers in reading and
20 mathematics through institutes, graduate level courses, and other professional
21 development activities that support a statewide agenda for improving student
22 achievement in reading and mathematics;
- 23 (d) Conduct or assist with research on best practices in assessment, intervention
24 strategies, teaching methodologies, costs and effectiveness of instructional
25 models, and other factors as appropriate to reading and mathematics;
- 26 (e) Provide staff to consult and provide technical assistance to teachers, staff, and
27 administrators at elementary, middle, and secondary school sites;

- 1 (f) Assume active roles in the statewide initiatives referenced in KRS 156.553
 2 and 158.842; and
- 3 (g) Develop written procedures for measuring the effectiveness of activities
 4 outlined in paragraphs (a) to (e) of this subsection.
- 5 (8) School councils at all school levels are encouraged to identify and allocate resources
 6 to qualified teachers to become coaches or mentors in mathematics or coaches or
 7 mentors in reading with a focus on improving student achievement in their
 8 respective schools.
- 9 (9) Local school boards and superintendents shall provide local resources, whenever
 10 possible, to supplement or match state and federal resources to support teachers,
 11 school administrators, and school councils in helping students achieve proficiency
 12 in reading and mathematics.
- 13 (10) Local school superintendents shall provide leadership and resources to the
 14 principals of all schools to facilitate curriculum alignment, communications, and
 15 technical support among schools to ensure that students are academically prepared
 16 to move to the next level of schooling.

17 → Section 5. KRS 158.792 is amended to read as follows:

- 18 (1) As used in this section and KRS 164.0207, unless the context requires otherwise:
- 19 (a) "Comprehensive reading program" means **any print, nonprint, or electronic**
 20 **medium of reading instruction designed to assist students. For students in**
 21 **kindergarten through grade three (3),^[a] program instructional resources**
 22 **shall include instruction in five (5) key areas**~~[that emphasizes the essential~~
 23 ~~components of reading]: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,~~
 24 **and** ~~comprehension;[, and connections between writing and reading~~
 25 ~~acquisition and motivation to read.]~~
- 26 (b) "Reading diagnostic assessment" **means an assessment that measures a**
 27 **student's skills against established performance levels in essential**

1 *components of reading and identifies students that require intervention in*
 2 *at least one (1) of those components to accelerate the student's progress*
 3 *toward proficient performance in reading;*~~[means an assessment that~~
 4 ~~identifies a struggling reader and measures the reader's skills against~~
 5 ~~established performance levels in the essential components of reading. The~~
 6 ~~purpose is to screen for areas that require intervention in order for the student~~
 7 ~~to learn to read proficiently.]~~

8 (c) "Reading intervention program" means short-term intensive instruction in the
 9 essential skills necessary to read proficiently that is provided to a student by a
 10 highly trained teacher. This instruction may be conducted one-on-one or in
 11 small groups; shall be *evidence*~~[research]~~-based, reliable, and replicable; and
 12 shall be based on the ongoing assessment of individual student needs; *and*~~[.]~~

13 (d) "Reliable, replicable *evidence*~~[research]~~" means objective, valid, scientific
 14 studies that:

- 15 1. Include rigorously defined samples of subjects that are sufficiently large
 16 and representative to support the general conclusions drawn;
- 17 2. Rely on measurements that meet established standards of reliability and
 18 validity;
- 19 3. Test competing theories, where multiple theories exist;
- 20 4. Are subjected to peer review before their results are published; and
- 21 5. Discover effective strategies for improving reading skills.

22 (2) The reading diagnostic and intervention fund is created to help teachers and library
 23 media specialists improve the reading skills of struggling readers in *kindergarten*
 24 *through grade three (3) and to assist schools in employing reading*
 25 *interventionists who specialize in providing those services*~~[the primary program].~~

26 The Department of Education, upon the recommendation of the Reading Diagnostic
 27 and Intervention Grant Steering Committee, shall provide renewable, two (2) year

1 grants to schools to support teachers and reading interventionists in the
 2 implementation of reliable, replicable evidence~~[research]~~-based reading intervention
 3 programs that use a balance of diagnostic tools and instructional strategies that
 4 emphasize phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and
 5 connections between writing and reading acquisition and motivation to read to
 6 address the diverse learning needs of those students reading at low levels. Any
 7 moneys in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried
 8 forward to be used for the purposes specified in this section.

9 (3) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative
 10 regulations, based on recommendations from the Department of Education
 11 that shall include but not be limited to a school selection process with a
 12 focus on those with the most need, professional learning supports in
 13 literacy, and early reading instruction~~[secretary of the Education and~~
 14 ~~Workforce Development Cabinet, the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention~~
 15 ~~Grant Steering Committee established in KRS 158.794, and the Collaborative~~
 16 ~~Center for Literacy Development established in KRS 164.0207] to:~~

- 17 1. Identify eligible grant applicants, taking into consideration how the grant
 18 program described in this section will relate to other grant programs;
- 19 2. Specify the criteria for acceptable reading and literacy diagnostic
 20 assessments and intervention programs;
- 21 3. Specify the criteria for acceptable ongoing assessment of each child to
 22 determine his or her reading progress;
- 23 4. Establish the minimum evaluation process for an annual review of each
 24 grant recipient's program and progress;
- 25 5. Identify the annual data that must be provided from grant recipients;
- 26 6. Define the application review and approval process;
- 27 7. Establish matching requirements deemed necessary;

- 1 8. Define the professional development and continuing education
2 requirements for teachers, library media specialists, administrators, and
3 staff of grant recipients;
- 4 9. Establish the conditions for renewal of a two (2) year grant; and
- 5 10. Specify other conditions necessary to implement the purposes of this
6 section.

7 (b) The board shall require that a grant applicant provide assurances that the
8 following principles will be met if the applicant's request for funding is
9 approved:

- 10 1. An evidence~~[A research]~~-based comprehensive schoolwide reading
11 program will be available;
- 12 2. Intervention services will supplement, not replace, regular classroom
13 instruction;
- 14 3. Intervention services will be provided to struggling kindergarten
15 through grade three (3)~~[primary program]~~ readers within the school
16 based upon ongoing assessment of their needs; and
- 17 4. A system for informing parents of struggling readers of the available
18 family literacy services within the district will be established.

19 (c) The board shall not restrict how a grant applicant utilizes grant funds as it
20 relates to the applicant's use of funds for professional development,
21 resources, tools, employment of reading interventionists, and other expenses
22 authorized by this section. The grant applicant shall have discretion in
23 allocating grant funds for purposes authorized by this section; however, the
24 board may consider the effectiveness of those uses in reviewing the
25 application.

- 26 (4) In order to qualify for funding, the school council, or if none exists, the principal or
27 the superintendent of schools, shall allocate matching funds required by grant

1 recipients under subsection (3) of this section. Funding for professional
 2 development allocated to the school council under KRS 160.345 and for continuing
 3 education under KRS 158.070 may be used as part of the school's match.

4 (5) The Department of Education shall make available to schools:

5 (a) Information concerning successful, evidence~~[research]~~-based comprehensive
 6 reading programs, diagnostic tools for pre- and post-assessment, and
 7 intervention programs, from the Collaborative Center for Literacy
 8 Development created under KRS 164.0207;

9 (b) Strategies for successfully implementing early reading programs, including
 10 professional development support and the identification of funding sources;
 11 and

12 (c) A list of professional development providers offering teacher training related
 13 to reading that emphasizes the essential components for successful reading:
 14 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and
 15 connections between writing and reading acquisition and motivation to read.

16 (6) The Department of Education shall submit a report to the Interim Joint Committee
 17 on Education no later than November~~[September]~~ 1 of each year outlining the use
 18 of grant funds.~~[The report shall also include comparisons of the overall costs and~~
 19 ~~effectiveness of intervention programs.]~~ The annual report for an odd-numbered
 20 year shall include an estimate of the cost to expand the reading diagnostic and
 21 intervention fund~~[grant program]~~.

22 **(7) The Department of Education shall report program data to an external evaluator**
 23 **for analysis of the program's success in meeting the goal of increasing early**
 24 **literacy student outcomes.**

25 ➔ Section 6. KRS 158.794 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) The Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Steering Committee is hereby
 27 created for the purpose of advising the Kentucky Board of Education and the

1 Department of Education concerning the implementation and administration of
 2 **universal screeners, reading diagnostic assessments, and a statewide professional**
 3 **development program for early literacy**~~[the reading diagnostic and intervention~~
 4 ~~fund created in KRS 158.792].~~ The committee shall be composed of **fourteen**
 5 **(14)**~~[sixteen (16)]~~ members, including the commissioner of education or the
 6 commissioner's designee~~[, the executive director of the Collaborative Center for~~
 7 ~~Literacy Development, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education or~~
 8 ~~the president's designee,]~~ and the following members, to be appointed by the
 9 Governor:

- 10 (a) Four (4) **elementary school**~~[primary program]~~ teachers with a specialty or
 11 background in reading and literacy **or reading intervention**;
- 12 (b) **One (1) elementary school parent**~~[Four (4) university or college professors~~
 13 ~~with a specialty or background in reading and literacy representing~~
 14 ~~universities];~~
- 15 (c) One (1) elementary school principal;
- 16 (d) One (1) **elementary special education teacher**~~[certified library media~~
 17 ~~specialist]; [and]~~
- 18 (e) **One (1) postsecondary educator who trains and prepares elementary**
 19 **reading teachers**~~]; [Three (3) individuals from the state at large with an interest~~
 20 ~~in reading and literacy.]~~
- 21 **(f) One (1) speech-language pathologist;**
- 22 **(g) One (1) elementary librarian or certified media specialist;**
- 23 **(h) One (1) elementary reading intervention teacher;**
- 24 **(i) One (1) teacher with experience assisting children who are deaf or hearing-**
 25 **impaired; and**
- 26 **(j) One (1) private sector member with reading intervention experience.**
- 27 (2) Each member of the committee, other than **the commissioner of education or the**

1 commissioner's designee~~[members who serve by virtue of their position]~~, shall
 2 serve for a term of three (3) years or until a successor is appointed, except that upon
 3 initial appointment, five (5) members shall serve a one (1) year term, four (4)
 4 members shall serve a two (2) year term, and four (4) members shall serve a three
 5 (3) year term.

6 (3) A majority of the full authorized membership shall constitute a quorum.

7 (4) The committee shall elect, by majority vote, a chair, who shall be the presiding
 8 officer of the committee, preside at all meetings, and coordinate the functions and
 9 activities of the committee. The chair shall be elected or reelected each calendar
 10 year.

11 (5) The committee shall be attached to the Department of Education for administrative
 12 purposes.

13 (6) The committee shall:

14 (a) Identify needs, trends, and issues in schools throughout the state regarding
 15 reading and literacy programs;

16 (b) Make recommendations regarding the content of administrative regulations to
 17 be promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education under KRS 158.792;

18 (c) ~~[Recommend approval of grant applications based upon the provisions of~~
 19 ~~KRS 158.792 and administrative regulations promulgated by the Kentucky~~
 20 ~~Board of Education as required under KRS 158.792; and~~

21 ~~(d)]~~ Advise the Kentucky Board of Education and the Department of Education
 22 regarding costs and effectiveness of various reading intervention programs;

23 and~~[.]~~

24 (d) Advise the Department of Education on:

25 1. Suggested universal screeners for reading to be administered to
 26 students in kindergarten through grade three (3) as required by

27 Section 1 of this Act;

1 2. Suggested criteria for reading diagnostic assessments to be
 2 administered to students in kindergarten through grade three (3) as
 3 required by Section 1 of this Act; and

4 3. The development, implementation, and outcomes of a statewide
 5 professional development program to include early literacy skills
 6 instruction and student engagement.

7 ➔ Section 7. KRS 164.0207 is amended to read as follows:

8 (1) The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development: Early Childhood through
 9 Adulthood is created to make available professional development for educators in
 10 reliable, replicable evidence~~[research]~~-based reading programs, and to promote
 11 literacy development, including cooperating with other entities that provide family
 12 literacy services. The center shall be responsible for:

13 (a) Developing and implementing a clearinghouse for information about
 14 programs addressing reading and literacy from early childhood and the
 15 elementary grades (P-5) through adult education;

16 (b) Providing advice to the Kentucky Board of Education regarding evidence-
 17 based comprehensive reading instruction~~[the Reading Diagnostic and~~
 18 ~~Intervention Grant Program established in KRS 158.792]~~ and in other matters
 19 relating to reading;

20 (c) Collaborating with public and private institutions of postsecondary education
 21 and adult education providers to provide for teachers and administrators
 22 quality preservice and professional development relating to reading diagnostic
 23 assessments and intervention and to the essential components of successful
 24 reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension,
 25 and the connections between writing and reading acquisition and motivation
 26 to read;

27 (d) Collaborating with the Kentucky Department of Education to assist districts

- 1 with students functioning at low levels of reading skills to assess and address
 2 identified literacy needs;
- 3 (e) Providing professional development and coaching for early childhood
 4 educators and classroom teachers, including adult education teachers,
 5 implementing selected reliable, replicable evidence~~[research]~~-based reading
 6 programs. The professional development shall utilize technology when
 7 appropriate;
- 8 (f) Developing and implementing a comprehensive research agenda evaluating~~[~~
 9 ~~the]~~ comprehensive reading programs and reading intervention
 10 programs~~[early reading models]~~ implemented in accordance with~~[~~Kentucky
 11 ~~under]~~ KRS 158.792;
- 12 (g) Maintaining a demonstration and training site for early literacy located at each
 13 of the public universities;
- 14 (h) Assisting middle and high schools in the development of comprehensive
 15 adolescent reading plans and maintaining a repository of instructional
 16 materials or summary materials that identify comprehension best practices in
 17 the teaching of each subject area and a list of classroom-based diagnostic
 18 reading comprehension assessments that measure student progress in
 19 developing students' reading comprehension skills; and
- 20 (i) Evaluating the reading and literacy components of the model adult education
 21 programs funded under the adult education and literacy initiative fund created
 22 under KRS 151B.409.
- 23 (2) The center shall review national research and disseminate appropriate research
 24 abstracts, when appropriate, as well as conduct ongoing research of reading
 25 programs throughout the state. Research activities undertaken by the center shall
 26 consist of descriptive as well as empirical studies.
- 27 (a) The center may contract for research studies to be conducted on its behalf.

1 (b) The research agenda should, at a minimum, consider the impact of various
2 reading and intervention programs:

- 3 1. In eliminating academic achievement gaps among ~~for~~ students with
4 differing characteristics, including subpopulations of students with
5 disabilities, students with low socioeconomic status, students from racial
6 minority groups, students with limited English proficiency, and students
7 of different gender;
- 8 2. In schools with differing characteristics, such as urban versus rural
9 schools, poverty versus nonpoverty schools, schools with strong library
10 media center programs versus schools with weak library media center
11 programs, and schools in different geographic regions of the state;
- 12 3. In terms of their costs and effectiveness; and
- 13 4. In maintaining positive student progress over a sustained period of time.

14 (3) The center shall submit an annual report of its activities to the Kentucky
15 Department of Education, the Governor, and the Legislative Research Commission
16 no later than September 1 of each year.

17 (4) With advice from the Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary
18 Education shall develop a process to solicit, review, and approve a proposal for
19 locating the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development at a public institution of
20 postsecondary education. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall approve
21 the location. The center, in conjunction with the council, shall establish goals and
22 performance objectives related to the functions described in this section.

23 ➔SECTION 8. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
24 READ AS FOLLOWS:

25 *(1) The read to succeed fund is hereby created to train and support teachers and*
26 *library media specialists to improve the reading skills of students in kindergarten*
27 *through grade three (3) as set forth in subsection (2) of this section and in*

1 subsection (5) of Section 2 of this Act. The fund shall consist of all moneys
 2 received from state appropriations, gifts, grants, and federal funds for this
 3 purpose. The Department of Education shall administer the fund.

4 (2) The Department of Education shall implement teacher professional learning
 5 academies related to evidence-based practices in instruction, instructional
 6 materials, and assessment in reading using moneys appropriated or otherwise
 7 received by the read to succeed fund.

8 (3) The department shall create a literacy coaching program using moneys
 9 appropriated or otherwise received by the read to succeed fund. The program
 10 shall:

11 1. Use data coaches to improve reading and literacy;

12 2. Determine the effectiveness of intensive data-focused professional
 13 development; and

14 3. Provide expert support in literacy and early reading instruction and
 15 intervention.

16 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 45.229, unexpended funds in the read to
 17 succeed fund in the 2022-2023 fiscal year or in any subsequent fiscal year shall
 18 not lapse but shall carry forward to the next fiscal year and shall be used for the
 19 purposes established in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

20 (5) Any interest earned on moneys in the read to succeed fund shall become part of
 21 the fund and shall not lapse.

22 ➔Section 9. Notwithstanding any regulation or rule adopted by the Kentucky
 23 Department of Education, any grant application submitted previously to the department in
 24 accordance with during the 2021-2022 school year under KRS 158.792 shall be subject to
 25 Section 5 of this Act.

26 ➔Section 10. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the Read to Succeed
 27 Act.

1 ➔Section 11. Whereas early literacy is a priority of the General Assembly and
2 reading diagnostic and intervention grants are critical to helping Kentucky students
3 achieve literacy and the grant approval process has already begun for the next two years,
4 an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval
5 by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.