

CHAPTER 94**(SJR 92)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Department of Education to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the resources needed to improve reading instruction in the state.

WHEREAS, the 1990 session of the General Assembly passed the Kentucky Education Reform Act in response to the opinion of the Kentucky Supreme Court in *Rose v. Council for Better Education, Inc.*, 790 SW 2d 186 (Ky. 1989), which said in part that all Kentucky children deserved equal educational opportunities to acquire an adequate education; and

WHEREAS, the court defined "adequate education" as one which develops seven capacities that include "...communication skills necessary to function in a complex, changing civilization..."; and

WHEREAS, since 1990 the General Assembly has established high standards, and provided a variety of programs and funding sources to enable local schools and districts to improve instruction across all the core content areas with special attention to improving reading and literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, even though Kentucky's readers have shown progress on national and statewide reading assessments, Kentucky still faces greater challenges with many historically underachieving populations; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for a more intentional and systemic focus on implementation of programs developed in light of scientifically based reading research; and

WHEREAS, while new emphases from the federal government's "Reading First" program and the state's "Early Reading Incentive Grants" have provided professional development and financial resources to many local schools, there is not a comprehensive assessment of what is needed to meet the Commonwealth's stated goal to help every child reach a proficient reading level by the year 2014; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds there is an urgency to focus its attention on improving reading and literacy skills but cannot move ahead without a comprehensive needs assessment that outlines the required resources and establishes an implementation framework and a projected timeline for achieving the goal;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Department of Education shall conduct a comprehensive analysis of the professional development, training, and resources needed in each school to help each child achieve reading and literacy proficiency by 2014 and develop a strategic plan designed to reach the goal of reading and literacy proficiency.

Section 2. The Department of Education shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Interim Joint Committee on Education no later than November 1, 2005.

Approved March 16, 2005.