

REFERENCE TITLE: **schools; reading coaches**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fiftieth Legislature
First Regular Session
2011

HB 2419

Introduced by
Representative Yee

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-704, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-704, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-704. Reading proficiency: definitions

5 A. Each school district or charter school that provides instruction in
6 kindergarten programs and grades one through three shall select and
7 administer screening, ongoing diagnostic and classroom based instructional
8 reading assessments, including a motivational assessment, as defined by the
9 state board of education, to monitor student progress. Each school shall use
10 the diagnostic information to plan appropriate and effective intervention.

11 B. Each school district or charter school that provides instruction
12 for pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one through three shall
13 conduct a curriculum evaluation and adopt a scientifically based reading
14 curriculum that includes the essential components of reading instruction.
15 All school districts and charter schools that offer instruction in
16 kindergarten programs and grades one through three shall provide ongoing
17 teacher training based on scientifically based reading research.

18 C. Each school district or charter school that provides instruction in
19 kindergarten programs and grades one through three shall devote reasonable
20 amounts of time to explicit instruction and independent reading in grades one
21 through three.

22 D. A pupil in grade three who does not meet or exceed the reading
23 standards measured by the Arizona instrument to measure standards test
24 administered pursuant to section 15-741 shall be provided intensive reading
25 instruction as defined by the state board of education until the pupil meets
26 these standards.

27 E. The governing board of each school district and the governing body
28 of each charter school shall determine the percentage of pupils at each
29 school in grade three who do not meet the reading standards prescribed by the
30 state board of education and measured by the Arizona instrument to measure
31 standards test administered pursuant to section 15-741. If more than twenty
32 per cent of students in grade three at either the individual school level or
33 at the school district level do not meet the standards, the governing board
34 or governing body shall conduct a review of its reading program that includes
35 curriculum and professional development in light of current, scientifically
36 based reading research.

37 F. Based on the review required in subsection E of this section, the
38 governing board or governing body and the school principal of each school
39 that does not meet the reading standards, in conjunction with school council
40 members, if applicable, shall develop methods of best practices for teaching
41 reading based on essential components of reading instruction and supported by
42 scientifically based reading research. These methods shall be adopted at a
43 public meeting and shall be implemented the following academic year.

1 G. Subsections E and F of this section shall be coordinated with
2 efforts to develop and implement an improvement plan if required pursuant to
3 section 15-241.

4 H. BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER
5 SCHOOL THAT PROVIDES INSTRUCTION FOR PUPILS IN KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND
6 GRADES ONE THROUGH EIGHT, OR ANY COMBINATION OF THESE PROGRAMS OR GRADES,
7 SHALL PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE HIGHLY QUALIFIED RESEARCH BASED SYSTEMATIC PHONICS
8 INSTRUCTION COACH AT EACH SCHOOL. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP
9 STATEWIDE STANDARDS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED RESEARCH BASED SYSTEMATIC PHONICS
10 INSTRUCTION COACHES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION.

11 ~~H.~~ I. For the purposes of this section:

12 1. "Essential components of reading instruction" means explicit and
13 systematic instruction in the following:

- 14 (a) Phonemic awareness.
- 15 (b) Phonics.
- 16 (c) Vocabulary development.
- 17 (d) Reading fluency.
- 18 (e) Reading comprehension.

19 2. "Reading" means a complex system of deriving meaning from print
20 that requires all of the following:

- 21 (a) The skills and knowledge to understand how phonemes or speech
22 sounds are connected to print.
- 23 (b) The ability to decode unfamiliar words.
- 24 (c) The ability to read fluently.
- 25 (d) Sufficient background information and vocabulary to foster reading
26 comprehension.
- 27 (e) The development of appropriate active strategies to construct
28 meaning from print.
- 29 (f) The development and maintenance of a motivation to read.

30 3. "Scientifically based reading research" means research that meets
31 all of the following:

- 32 (a) Applies rigorous, systematic and objective procedures to obtain
33 valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction and
34 reading difficulties.
- 35 (b) Employs systematic empirical methods that draw on observation or
36 experiment.
- 37 (c) Involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the
38 stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn.
- 39 (d) Relies on measurements or observational methods that provide valid
40 data across evaluators and observers and across multiple measurements and
41 observations.
- 42 (e) Has been accepted by a peer reviewed journal or approved by a
43 panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective and
44 scientific review.

1 (f) Contains all of the elements of the essential components of
2 reading instruction.

3 Sec. 2. Intent

4 It is the intent of the legislature to require school districts and
5 charter schools to be responsible for the costs of providing highly qualified
6 research based systematic phonics instruction coaches pursuant to this act.