

REFERENCE TITLE: K-3 reading program; curriculum requirements

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2021

Introduced by
Representative Fink

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-211, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE K-3
READING PROGRAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 15-211, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-211. K-3 reading program; dyslexia specialist; dyslexia
5 training; receipt and use of monies; additional
6 funding; annual report

7 A. The department of education shall administer a K-3 reading
8 program to improve the reading proficiency of pupils in kindergarten
9 programs and grades one, two and three in the public schools of this
10 state.

11 B. The department of education shall designate a dyslexia
12 specialist for the department to provide school districts and charter
13 schools with support and resources that are necessary to assist students
14 with dyslexia.

15 C. ~~On or before July 1, 2022,~~ Each school district and charter
16 school shall ensure that at least one kindergarten through third grade
17 teacher, literacy coach or literacy specialist in each school has received
18 training related to dyslexia that complies with the requirements
19 prescribed in section 15-219.

20 D. Each school district and charter school shall submit to the
21 department of education a plan for improving the reading proficiency of
22 the school district's or the charter school's pupils in kindergarten
23 programs and grades one, two and three. The plan ~~shall~~ MUST include
24 baseline data on the reading proficiency of the school district's or the
25 charter school's pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and
26 three and a budget for spending monies from both the K-3 support level
27 weight and the K-3 reading support level weight established in section
28 15-943. Each school district and charter school shall annually submit to
29 the department of education on or before October 1 an updated K-3 reading
30 program plan that includes data on program expenditures and results.

31 E. School districts and charter schools shall use monies generated
32 by the K-3 reading support level weight established in section 15-943 only
33 on instructional purposes based on the plan submitted pursuant to
34 subsection D of this section intended to improve reading proficiency for
35 pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one, two and three with
36 particular emphasis on pupils in kindergarten programs and grades one and
37 two.

38 F. Each school district and charter school that is assigned a
39 letter grade of C, D or F pursuant to section 15-241 or that has more than
40 ten percent of its pupils in grade three who do not demonstrate sufficient
41 reading skills as established by the state board of education according to
42 the reading portion of the statewide assessment shall receive monies
43 generated by the K-3 reading support level weight established in section
44 15-943 only after the K-3 reading program plan of the school district or
45 charter school has been submitted, reviewed and recommended for approval

1 by the department of education and approved by the state board. The state
2 board must give approval to a school district or charter school before any
3 portion of the monies generated by the K-3 reading support level weight
4 may be distributed to the school district or charter school pursuant to
5 this subsection.

6 G. Pupils in a charter school that is in its first year of
7 operation and that is sponsored by the state board of education, the state
8 board for charter schools, a university under the jurisdiction of the
9 Arizona board of regents, a community college district or a group of
10 community college districts are eligible for the K-3 reading support level
11 weight.

12 H. The department of education shall solicit gifts, grants and
13 donations from any lawful public or private source in order to provide
14 additional funding for the K-3 reading program.

15 I. The state board of education may establish rules and policies
16 for the K-3 reading program, including:

17 1. The proper use of monies in accordance with subsection E of this
18 section.

19 2. The distribution of monies by the department of education in
20 accordance with subsection D of this section.

21 3. The compliance of reading proficiency plans submitted pursuant
22 to subsection D of this section with section 15-704.

23 J. Pursuant to subsection I of this section, the department of
24 education shall develop program implementation guidance for school
25 districts and charter schools to assist schools in administering an
26 effective K-3 evidence-based reading program plan. This guidance shall
27 include identifying and recommending appropriate program expenditures,
28 providing technical oversight and assistance for annually updating reading
29 program plans, selecting and adopting evidence-based reading curricula and
30 providing and promoting teacher professional development that is based on
31 evidence-based reading research. The department shall prioritize supports
32 and interventions, including enrollment in reading trainings and
33 professional development, for school districts and charter schools that
34 have the highest percentage of pupils who do not demonstrate sufficient
35 reading skills as established by the state board of education. The
36 department shall deposit any monies received for offering reading
37 trainings or professional development, including coaching, in the
38 department of education professional development revolving fund
39 established by section 15-237.01.

40 K. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY
41 NOT REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL TO CHANGE THE
42 EVIDENCE-BASED READING CURRICULA THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
43 OR CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY HAS ADOPTED FOR THE READING PROFICIENCY
44 PLAN SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION IF AT LEAST
45 SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S PUPILS IN

1 GRADE THREE DEMONSTRATED SUFFICIENT READING SKILLS AS ESTABLISHED BY THE
2 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCORDING TO THE READING PORTION OF THE STATEWIDE
3 ASSESSMENT IN THE PRECEDING SCHOOL YEAR.

4 ~~K.~~ L. On or before December 15, the department of education shall
5 submit an annual report on the K-3 reading program to the governor, the
6 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives
7 and shall provide a copy of this annual report to the secretary of state,
8 the state board of education and the chairpersons of the education
9 committees of the senate and the house of representatives. The report
10 shall contain all of the following:

11 1. Information on the improvement of K-3 reading in this state,
12 including achievement data statewide and achievement data at the school
13 district and charter school level. The information pursuant to this
14 paragraph shall include data and information on continued proficiency on
15 the statewide assessment in subsequent grades.

16 2. A description of the activities of the department to support
17 school districts and charter schools in improving K-3 reading.

18 3. Specific findings on methods by which the department may
19 continue to improve support and assistance for school districts and
20 charter schools in the administration of K-3 reading program plans.

21 4. Information and data on K-3 reading program plans throughout
22 this state and the expenditure of K-3 reading monies by school districts
23 and charter schools.

24 5. Data reported pursuant to section 15-701, subsection A,
25 paragraph 2, subdivision (d).