

# RSA

2014/2015

# Purpose of the Reading Sufficiency Act

A. The Legislature finds that it is essential for children in the public schools to read early and well in elementary school. The Legislature further finds that clear and visible goals, assessments to determine the reading level at each elementary school, annual measurements of elementary school reading improvement, and accountability in each level of the educational system will result in a significant increase in the number of children reading at or above grade level.

B. The purpose of the Reading Sufficiency Act is to ensure that each child attains the necessary reading skills by completion of the third grade which will enable that student to continue development of reading skills and to succeed throughout school and life.

# 5 Components of Reading

- C. Each public school district in this state shall ensure that a majority of the instructional time each day of the school year in kindergarten through third grade is focused on reading and mathematics. The State Board of Education shall encourage school districts to integrate the teaching of the other curricular areas in the subject matter standards adopted by the Board with the instruction of reading and mathematics. All teachers of reading in the public schools in this state in kindergarten through third grade shall incorporate into instruction the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

# Reading Goal for Oklahoma

- D. The reading goal for Oklahoma public schools is as follows: By July 1, 2008, and each year thereafter, all third-grade students will read at or above grade level by the end of their third-grade year, excluding up to fifteen percent (15%) of those students who have an individualized education program (IEP), pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and excluding those students who are English language learners who have been determined not to be proficient in English as defined by a state-designated English proficiency assessment. To achieve the reading goal, each public elementary school shall:

# Reading Goal for Oklahoma

- 1. Determine its baseline no later than September 1, 2005, which shall be the percentage of students reading at or above third-grade level as determined by the percentage of students scoring proficient or above on the third-grade criterion-referenced test in reading, administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title; and
- 2. Set and achieve annual improvement goals necessary to progress from the baseline established in 2005 to the reading goal by July 1, 2008. The annual improvement goals shall be included in the district's reading sufficiency plan required in Section 1210.508C of this title.

# School Progress

- E. The State Board of Education shall recognize schools and districts that attain or make progress toward achieving the reading goal and shall provide technical assistance to schools and districts that do not make progress toward the reading goal. The district reading sufficiency plan shall be submitted to the State Board if the district has any schools that are not achieving the required annual improvement goals pursuant to this section

# Kindergarten Screening

- A. 1. Each student enrolled in kindergarten in a public school in this state shall be screened for reading skills including, but not limited to, phonological awareness, letter recognition, and oral language skills as identified in the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education. A screening instrument approved by the State Board shall be utilized for the purposes of this section.

# Kindergarten Screening

- 2. For those kindergarten children at risk for reading difficulties, teachers shall emphasize reading skills as identified in the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education, monitor progress throughout the year and measure year-end reading progress.
- 3. Classroom assistants, which may include parents, grandparents, or other volunteers, shall be provided in kindergarten classes to assist with the screening of students if a teacher aide is not already employed to assist in a kindergarten classroom.

# Screening

- B. 1. Each student enrolled in kindergarten, first, second and third grade of the public schools of this state shall be assessed at the beginning of each school year using a screening instrument approved by the State Board of Education for the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonological awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

# Screening

- 2. Any student who is assessed and found not to be reading at the appropriate grade level shall be provided a program of reading instruction designed to enable the student to acquire the appropriate grade level reading skills. Beginning with students entering the first grade in the 2011-2012 school year, the program of reading instruction shall include provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection O of this section.
- 3. Throughout the year progress monitoring shall continue, and diagnostic assessment, if determined appropriate, shall be provided. Year-end reading skills shall be measured to determine reading success.

# Screening Instruments

- C. The State Board of Education shall approve screening instruments for use at the beginning of the school year, for monitoring of progress, and for measurement of reading skills at the end of the school year as required in subsections A and B of this section; provided, at least one of the screening instruments shall meet the following criteria:
  - 1. Assess for phonological awareness, phonics, reading fluency, and comprehension;
  - 2. Document the validity and reliability of each assessment;
  - 3. Can be used for diagnosis and progress monitoring;
  - 4. Can be used to assess special education and limited-English- proficient students;

# Screening Instruments

- 5. Accompanied by a data management system that provides profiles for students, class, grade level and school building. The profiles shall identify each student's instructional point of need and reading achievement level. The State Board shall also determine other comparable reading assessments for diagnostic purposes and for periodic and post assessments to be used for students at risk of reading failure. The State Board shall ensure that any assessments approved are in alignment with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

# Program of Reading Instruction Alignment

- D. The program of reading instruction required in subsection B of this section shall align with the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education, shall include provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection O of this section beginning with students entering the first grade in the 2011-2012 school year and may include, but is not limited to:
  - 1. Sufficient additional in-school instructional time for the acquisition of phonological awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;

# Program of Reading Instruction Alignment

- 2. If necessary, tutorial instruction after regular school hours, on Saturdays and during summer; however, such instruction may not be counted toward the one-hundred-eighty-day or one-thousand- eighty-hour school year required in Section 1-109 of this title; and
- 3. Assessments identified for diagnostic purposes and periodic monitoring to measure the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonological awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as identified in the student's program of reading instruction.

# Reading on grade level

- E. The program of reading instruction shall continue until the student is determined by the results of approved reading assessments to be reading on grade level.

# District Reading Plan

- F. 1. Every school district shall adopt, and implement a district reading sufficiency plan which has had input from school administrators, teachers, and parents and if possible a reading specialist, and which shall be submitted electronically to and approved by the State Board of Education. The plan shall be updated annually. School districts shall not be required to electronically submit the annual updates to the Board if the last plan submitted to the Board was approved and expenditures for the program include only expenses relating to individual and small group tutoring, purchase of and training in the use of screening and assessment measures, summer school programs and Saturday school programs. If any expenditure for the program is deleted or changed or any other type of expenditure for the program is implemented, the school district shall be required to submit the latest annual update to the Board for approval. The district reading sufficiency plan shall include a plan for each site which includes an analysis of the data provided by the Oklahoma School Testing Program and other reading assessments utilized as required in this section, and which outlines how each school site will comply with the provisions of the Reading Sufficiency Act.

# District Reading P Lan

- 2. Each school site shall establish a committee, composed of educators, which if possible shall include a certified reading specialist, to develop the required programs of reading instruction. A parent or guardian of the student shall be included in the development of the program of reading instruction for that student.
- 3. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the implementation and evaluation of the provisions of the Reading Sufficiency Act. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the data required in subsection S of this section

# Academic Progress Plan

- G. For any third-grade student found not to be reading at grade level as determined by reading assessments administered pursuant to this section, a new program of reading instruction, including provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district as provided for in subsection O of this section, shall be developed and implemented as specified in this section. If possible, a fourth-grade teacher shall be involved in the development of the program of reading instruction. In addition to other requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act, the plan may include specialized tutoring.

# Meeting Benchmark

- H. 1. Any student who demonstrates proficiency in reading at the third-grade level through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section shall not be subject to the retention guidelines found in this section. Upon demonstrating the proficiency through the screening, the district shall provide notification to the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student that they have satisfied the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act and will not be subject to retention pursuant to this section.

# Meeting Benchmark

- 2. If a third-grade student is identified at any point of the academic year as having a significant reading deficiency, which shall be defined as scoring below proficient on a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section, the district shall immediately begin a student reading portfolio as provided by subsection K of this section and shall provide notice to the parent of the deficiency pursuant to subsection I of this section.

# Scoring Limited Knowledge

- 3. a. If a student has not yet satisfied the proficiency requirements of this section prior to the completion of third grade, the student may qualify for automatic promotion to the fourth grade upon scoring at the "limited knowledge" level on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade criterion-referenced test.
- b. Prior to promotion, however, the district shall provide notice to the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the child that the child is not yet reading at grade level in reading and provide the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the child the option for retention should they so desire. The notice shall contain, at a minimum, the most recently identifiable grade level on which the student is actually proficient, the opportunities for summer reading programs, school and/or community based reading tutoring, vendors which provide reading tutoring and the rights to the continuing intensive remediation pursuant to this paragraph.

# Scoring Limited Knowledge

- c. A student so promoted shall be entitled to intensive remediation in reading until the student is able to demonstrate proficiency in reading at the grade level in which the student is enrolled. An intensive remediation plan shall be developed by a "Student Reading Proficiency Team" composed of:
  - (1) the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student,
  - (2) the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,
  - (3) a teacher in reading who teaches in the subsequent grade level,
  - (4) the school principal, and
  - (5) a certified reading specialist, if one is available.

# NO Automatic Promotion

- 4. If a student has not yet satisfied the proficiency requirements of this section prior to the completion of third grade and still has a significant reading deficiency, as identified based on assessments administered that meet the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section, has not accumulated evidence of third-grade proficiency through a student portfolio as provided in subsection K, or is not subject to a good cause exemption as provided in subsection K, then the student shall not be eligible for automatic promotion to fourth grade.

# Probationary Promotion

- 5. a. For the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, a student not qualified for automatic promotion under paragraph 4 of this subsection may be evaluated for "probationary promotion" by a "Student Reading Proficiency Team" composed of:
  - (1) the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student,
  - (2) the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,
  - (3) a teacher in reading who teaches in the subsequent grade level,
  - (4) the school principal, and
  - (5) a certified reading specialist.

# Probationary Promotion

- The student shall be promoted to the fourth grade if the team members unanimously recommend "probationary promotion" to the school district superintendent and the superintendent approves the recommendation that promotion is the best option for the student. If a student is allowed a "probationary promotion", the team shall continue to review the reading performance of the student and repeat the requirements of this paragraph each academic year until the student demonstrates grade-level reading proficiency, as identified through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria pursuant to subsection B of this section, for the corresponding grade level in which the student is enrolled or transitions to the requirements set forth by the Achieving Classroom Excellence Act.

# Retention 2015/2016

- 6. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, students who score at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade criterion referenced test and who are not subject to a good cause exemption as provided in subsection K of this section shall be retained in the third grade and provided intensive instructional services and supports as provided for in subsection N of this section.

# Third Grade Promotion and Retention Report

- 7. Each school district shall annually report to the State Department of Education the number of students promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 3 of this subsection. Following the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, each school district shall report the number of students promoted to a subsequent grade pursuant to the provisions in paragraph 5 of this subsection. The State Department of Education shall publicly report the aggregate and district specific number of students promoted on their website and shall provide electronic copies of the report to the Governor, Secretary of Education, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the respective chairs of the committees with responsibility for common education policy in each legislative chamber.

- 8. Nothing shall prevent a school district from applying the principles of paragraphs 4 and 5 of this subsection in grades kindergarten through second grade.

# Parent Notification of Student Reading Deficiency

- I. The parent of any student who is found to have a reading deficiency and is not reading at the appropriate grade level and has been provided a program of reading instruction as provided for in subsection B of this section shall be notified in writing of the following:

# Parent Notification cont.

- 1. That the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading;
- 2. A description of the current services that are provided to the student;
- 3. A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that will be provided to the student that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency;

# Parent Notification cont.

- 4. That the student will not be promoted to the fourth grade if the reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of the third grade, unless the student is otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection H of this section or is exempt for good cause as set forth in subsection K of this section;
- 5. Strategies for parents to use in helping their child succeed in reading proficiency;

# Parent Notification cont.

- 6. That while the results of the statewide criterion-referenced tests administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title are the initial determinant, it is not the sole determiner of promotion and that portfolio reviews and assessments are available; and
- 7. The specific criteria and policies of the school district for midyear promotion implemented as provided for in paragraph 4 of subsection N of this section.

# No Social Promotion

- J. No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.

# Good Cause Exemptions

- K. For those students who do not meet the academic requirements for promotion and who are not otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection H of this section, a school district may promote the student for good cause only. Good-cause exemptions for promotion shall be limited to the following

# Good Cause Exemption 1

- 1. Limited-English-proficient students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English language learner program;

# Good Cause Exemption 2

- 2. Students with disabilities whose individualized education program (IEP), consistent with state law, indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternate achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP);

# Good Cause Exemption 3

- 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board of Education;

# Good Cause Exemption 4

- 4. Students who demonstrate, through a student portfolio, that the student is reading on grade level as evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the state standards beyond the retention level;

# Good Cause Exemption 5

- 5. Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide criterion-referenced tests and who have an individualized education program that reflects that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than two (2) years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in prekindergarten for academic reasons, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade;

# Good Cause Exemption 6

- 6. Students who have received intensive remediation in reading through a program of reading instruction for two (2) or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in prekindergarten for academic reasons, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade for a total of two (2) years; and

# Good Cause Exemption 7

- 7. Students who have been granted an exemption for medical emergencies by the State Department of Education.

# Promoted Students

- L. A student who is otherwise promoted as provided for in subsection H of this section or is promoted for good cause as provided for in subsection K of this section shall be provided intensive reading instruction during an altered instructional day that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific reading strategies for each student. The school district shall assist schools and teachers to implement reading strategies for the promoted students that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.

# Exemption Requests

- M. Requests to exempt students from the retention requirements based on one of the good-cause exemptions as described in subsection K of this section shall be made using the following process:

# Exemption Requests

- 1. Documentation submitted from the teacher of the student to the school principal that indicates the student meets one of the good-cause exemptions and promotion of the student is appropriate. In order to minimize paperwork requirements, the documentation shall consist only of the alternative assessment results or student portfolio work and the individual education plan (IEP), as applicable

# Exemption Requests cont.

- 2. The principal of the school shall review and discuss the documentation with the teacher and, if applicable, the other members of the team as described in subsection H of this section. If the principal determines that the student meets one of the good-cause exemptions and should be promoted based on the documentation provided, the principal shall make a recommendation in writing to the school district superintendent; and

# Exemption Requests cont.

- 3. After review, the school district superintendent shall accept or reject the recommendation of the principal in writing.

# Review of Program of Reading Instruction

- N. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each school district shall:
- 1. Conduct a review of the program of reading instruction for all students who score at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide criterion-referenced test administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title and did not meet the criteria for one of the good-cause exemptions as set forth in subsection K of this section. The review shall address additional supports and services, as described in this subsection, needed to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency. The school district shall require a student portfolio to be completed for each retained student;

# Retained Students

- 2. Provide to students who have been retained as set forth in subsection H of this section with intensive interventions in reading, intensive instructional services and supports to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, including a minimum of ninety (90) minutes of daily, uninterrupted, scientific-research-based reading instruction. Retained students shall be provided other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may include, but are not limited to:

# Retained Students cont.

- a. small group instruction,
- b. reduced teacher-student ratios,
- c. more frequent progress monitoring,
- d. tutoring or mentoring,
- e. transition classes containing third- and fourth-grade students,
- f. extended school day, week, or year, and
- g. summer reading academies as provided for in Section 1210.508E of this title, if available;

# Retained Students cont.

- 3. Provide written notification to the parent or guardian of any student who is to be retained as set forth in subsection H of this section that the student has not met the proficiency level required for promotion and was not otherwise promoted and the reasons the student is not eligible for a good-cause exemption. The notification shall include a description of proposed interventions and intensive instructional supports that will be provided to the student to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency;

# Mid – Year Promotion

- 4. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a retained student who can demonstrate that the student is a successful and independent reader, is reading at or above grade level, and is ready to be promoted to the fourth grade. Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating any retained student may include subsequent assessments, alternative assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. Retained students may only be promoted midyear prior to November 1 and only upon demonstrating a level of proficiency required to score above the unsatisfactory level on the statewide third-grade criterion-referenced test and upon showing progress sufficient to master appropriate fourth-grade-level skills, as determined by the school. A midyear promotion shall be made only upon agreement of the parent or guardian of the student and the school principal;

# Retained Students

- 5. Provide students who are retained with a high-performing teacher who can address the needs of the student, based on student performance data and above-satisfactory performance appraisals; and

# Retained Students

- 6. In addition to required reading enhancement and acceleration strategies, provide students who are retained with at least one of the following instructional options:
  - a. supplemental tutoring in scientific-research-based reading services in addition to the regular reading block, including tutoring before or after school,
  - b. a parent-guided "Read at Home" assistance plan, as developed by the State Department of Education, the purpose of which is to encourage regular parent-guided home reading, or
  - c. a mentor or tutor with specialized reading training.

# READ Initiative

- O. Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each school district shall establish a Reading Enhancement and Acceleration Development (READ) Initiative. The focus of the READ Initiative shall be to prevent the retention of third-grade students by offering intensive accelerated reading instruction to third-grade students who failed to meet standards for promotion to fourth grade and to kindergarten through third-grade students who are exhibiting a reading deficiency. The READ Initiative shall:

# READ Initiative

- 1. Be provided to all kindergarten through third-grade students at risk of retention as identified by the assessments administered pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act. The assessment used shall measure phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;
- 2. Be provided during regular school hours in addition to the regular reading instruction; and

# READ Initiative

- 3. Provide a state-approved reading curriculum that, at a minimum, meets the following specifications:
  - a. assists students assessed as exhibiting a reading deficiency in developing the ability to read at grade level,
  - b. provides skill development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension,
  - c. provides a scientific-research-based and reliable assessment,

# READ Initiative

- d. provides initial and ongoing analysis of the reading progress of each student,
- e. is implemented during regular school hours,
- f. provides a curriculum in core academic subjects to assist the student in maintaining or meeting proficiency levels for the appropriate grade in all academic subjects,

# READ Initiative

- g. establishes at each school, where applicable, an Intensive Acceleration Class for retained third-grade students who subsequently score at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide criterion-referenced tests. The focus of the Intensive Acceleration Class shall be to increase the reading level of a child at least two grade levels in one (1) school year. The Intensive Acceleration Class shall:

# READ Initiative

- (1) be provided to any student in the third grade who scores at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide criterion-referenced tests and who was retained in the third grade the prior year because of scoring at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide criterion-referenced tests,
- (2) have a reduced teacher-student ratio,
- (3) provide uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of student contact time each day and incorporate opportunities to master the fourth-grade state standards in other core subject areas,

# READ Initiative

- (4) use a reading program that is scientific-research-based and has proven results in accelerating student reading achievement within the same school year,
- (5) provide intensive language and vocabulary instruction using a scientific-research-based program, including use of a speech-language therapist,
- (6) include weekly progress monitoring measures to ensure progress is being made, and
- (7) provide reports to the State Department of Education, in the manner described by the Department, outlining the progress of students in the class at the end of the first semester,

# READ Initiative

- h. provide reports to the State Board of Education, upon request, on the specific intensive reading interventions and supports implemented by the school district. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually prescribe the required components of the reports, and

# READ Initiative

- i. provide to a student who has been retained in the third grade and has received intensive instructional services but is still not ready for grade promotion, as determined by the school district, the option of being placed in a transitional instructional setting. A transitional setting shall specifically be designed to produce learning gains sufficient to meet fourth-grade performance standards while continuing to remediate the areas of reading deficiency

# District Reporting to Parents

- P. In addition to the requirements set forth in this section, each school district board of education shall annually report to the parent or guardian of each student in the district the progress of the student toward achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The school district board of education shall report to the parent or guardian of each student the results on statewide criterion-referenced tests. The evaluation of the progress of each student shall be based upon classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, and other relevant information. Progress reporting shall be provided to the parent or guardian in writing

# District Requirements

- Q. 1. Each school district board of education shall annually publish on the school website, and report in writing to the State Board of Education by September 1 of each year, the following information on the prior school year:

# District Requirements cont.

- a. the provisions of this section relating to public school student progression and the policies and procedures of the school district on student retention and promotion,
- b. by grade, the number and percentage of all students in grades three through ten performing at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide criterion-referenced tests,

# District Requirements

- c. by grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in grades three through ten,
- d. information on the total number and percentage of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause as specified above, and
- e. any revisions to the policies of the school district on student retention and promotion from the prior year.

# District Requirements cont.

- 2. The State Department of Education shall establish a uniform format for school districts to report the information required in this subsection. The format shall be developed with input from school districts and shall be provided not later than ninety (90) days prior to the annual due date. The Department shall annually compile the information required along with state-level summary information, and report the information to the public, the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

# Technical Assistance

- R. The State Department of Education shall provide technical assistance as needed to aid school districts in administering the provision of the Reading Sufficiency Act.

# RSA Annual Report

- S. On or before December 1 of each year, the State Department of Education shall issue to the Governor and members of the Senate and House of Representatives Education Committees a Reading Report Card for the state and each school district and elementary site which shall include, but is not limited to, trend data detailing three (3) years of data, disaggregated by student subgroups to include economically disadvantaged, major racial or ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English language learners, as appropriate for the following:

# RSA Annual Report cont.

- 1. The number and percentage of students in kindergarten through third grade determined to be at risk for reading difficulties compared to the total number of students enrolled in each grade;
- 2. The number and percentage of students in kindergarten who continue to be at risk for reading difficulties as determined by the year-end measurement of reading progress;

# **RSA annual Report cont.**

- 3. The number and percentage of students in kindergarten through third grade who have successfully completed their program of reading instruction and are reading on grade level as determined by the results of approved reading assessments;
- 4. The number and percentage of students scoring at each performance level on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade criterion-referenced test;

# **RSA Annual Report cont.**

- 5. The amount of funds for reading remediation received by each district;
- 6. An evaluation and narrative interpretation of the report data analyzing the impact of the Reading Sufficiency Act on students' ability to read at grade level; and

# **RSA Annual Report cont.**

- 7. Any recommendations for improvements or amendments to the Reading Sufficiency Act.
- The State Department of Education may contract with an independent entity for the reporting and analysis requirements of this subsection.

# Results of Assessments

- T. Copies of the results of the assessments administered shall be made a part of the permanent record of each student.

# RSA Allocations

- A. Contingent on the provision of appropriated funds designated for the Reading Sufficiency Act, school districts may be allocated monies for each enrolled kindergarten student or first-, second- and third-grade student of the current school year, including any student who has been retained in the third grade pursuant to Section 1210.508C of this title, who is found to be in need of remediation or intervention in reading. The allocation shall be distributed to each school district upon approval of the reading sufficiency plan for the school district by the State Department of Education and the submittal of a child-count report to the Department that details the number of students identified as needing remediation or intervention in reading. To determine a per-student allocation amount, the total amount of funds available for allocation each year shall be divided by the total number of students in the state identified as in need of remediation or intervention in reading as provided for in Section 1210.508C of this title. Each school district shall be allocated an amount equal to the per-student allocation amount multiplied by the number of identified students enrolled in the school district.

# Rules for RSA Allocations

- B. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules for the administration of reimbursements.

# RSA Funding Checklist

- C. If a teacher attends and completes a professional development institute in elementary reading approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation during the summer or when school is not in session, the teacher may receive a stipend equal to the amount of the cost for a substitute teacher, based on the amount of funds allocated.

# Parent Notification

- A. If a teacher determines that a third-grade student is not reading at grade level by the end of the second quarter of the school year, the parent or guardian of the student shall be notified of:
  - 1. The reading level of the student;
  - 2. The program of reading instruction for the student as required pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act; and
  - 3. The potential need for the student to participate in a summer academy or other program designed to assist the student in attaining grade-level reading skills.

# Summer Reading Academy

- B. A teacher who determines a third-grade student is unable to meet competencies required for reading for completion of third grade and promotion to fourth grade may, after consultation with the parent or guardian of the student, recommend that the promotion of the student to the fourth grade is contingent upon the participation in and successful completion of the required competencies for reading by the student at a summer academy or other program. If the student does not participate in the summer academy or other program or does not successfully complete the competencies in the summer academy or other program, the student shall be retained in the third grade as set forth in Section 1210.508C of

# Summer Reading Academy cont.

- C. Summer academy programs shall be designed to ensure that participating students successfully complete the competencies necessary in reading for promotion to fourth grade and to enhance next-grade readiness. A summer academy reading program shall be a program that incorporates the content of a scientifically research-based professional development program administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or a scientifically research-based reading program administered by the State Board of Education and is taught by teachers who have successfully completed professional development in the reading program or who are certified as reading specialists.

# Summer Reading Academy cont.

- D. School districts may approve an option for students who are unable to attend a summer academy. The optional program may include, but is not limited to, an approved private provider of instruction, approved computer- or Internet-based instruction, or an approved program of reading instruction monitored by the parent or guardian. School districts shall not be required to pay for the optional program, but shall clearly communicate to the parent or guardian the expectations of the program and any costs that may be involved.

# Summer Reading Academy cont.

- E. Subject to the availability of funds, beginning one (1) year after implementation of this section, the requirements of subsection B of this section may be expanded to apply to fourth-grade student promotion to fifth grade. Each year thereafter, the requirements may be expanded by one grade level until the requirements apply to third-grade students through eighth-grade students. Summer academy programs shall be designed for each grade level. Nothing in this section shall prevent the State Board of Education or a school district board of education from utilizing private, local, or federal funds to implement this section.

# Rule Adoption

- F. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section which shall include requirements for instructional time for summer school programs, teacher qualifications, and evaluation of student achievement as a result of summer academy programs or other optional programs.

# Teacher Preparation

- A. The State Board of Education shall ensure that the reading competencies for elementary teachers are included in the competencies for special education teachers.



# Teacher Preparation

- B. The State Board of Education and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall ensure that all teachers of early childhood education, elementary education, and special education are provided quality training in intervention, instruction, and remediation strategies in order to meet the needs of students in kindergarten through third grade who are determined to be at risk of reading difficulties.

# Teacher Preparation

- C. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that offer elementary, early childhood education, or special education programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall incorporate into those programs the requirement that teacher candidates study the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

# Teacher Preparation

- D. Effective July 1, 2010, teacher candidates enrolled in an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education in an elementary, early childhood education, or special education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive assessment to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading instruction. The assessment shall be developed and administered by the institutions that offer elementary, early childhood education, or special education programs that lead to certification. The assessment shall measure the knowledge and understanding of the teacher candidate in the teaching of the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The results of the assessment shall be reported annually by the institution to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation as a part of the required annual report for the institution. The Commission shall include the data in the annual report to the Oklahoma Legislature as required pursuant to Section 6-186 of this title. It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that teachers graduating from institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education have the knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading to all children.

# Study of Reading Instruction

- A. The State Department of Education shall conduct a study of reading instruction and the retention of students in the third grade based on reading assessments administered pursuant to Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The purpose of the study shall be to determine the reasons why some students in the state have not been successful in acquiring the appropriate grade-level reading skills, to identify the best practices available to help students become successful readers and to implement those best practices in schools statewide. The Department may contract with a higher education institution or other entity or consultant to assist in the study, contingent upon the availability of funding.

# Study cont.

- B. The State Department of Education shall:
- 1. Gather data and complete an assessment of the type of reading instruction practices and methods currently being used by school districts in the state;
- 2. Gather data on students who have been assessed pursuant to Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and have been found not to be reading at the appropriate grade level by the third grade including, but not limited to:

# Study cont.

- a. socioeconomic information,
- b. access to reading resources outside of school, and
- c. screening for and identification of learning disabilities; and

# Study cont.

- 3. Address what intensive remediation efforts are being conducted by the district to identify the best practices for students that score limited knowledge and are not retained by school districts.

# Study cont.

- C. After gathering and analyzing the data as provided for in this section, the State Department of Education shall issue a report no later than December 31, 2015, and each year thereafter, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. In addition to other information and recommendations, the report shall include recommendations on legislative changes that need to be made to the third-grade retention requirements in the Reading Sufficiency Act and any other requirements in the act.

# Study cont.

- D. Following the issuance of the report required in subsection C of this section, the compilation of best practices shall be disseminated to all public schools.

# Study cont.

- E. Any student data contained in the report shall be aggregated so that individual students cannot be identified.