

1.1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 3698 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.1117, is amended to read:

1.4 **120B.1117 TITLE; THE READ ACT.**

1.5 Sections ~~120B.1117~~ 120B.118 to 120B.124 may be cited as the "Reading to Ensure
1.6 Academic Development Act" or the "Read Act."

1.7 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.1118, is amended by adding
1.8 a subdivision to read:

1.9 Subd. 2a. **Certified trained facilitator.** "Certified trained facilitator" means a person
1.10 employed by a district or regional literacy network, who has completed professional
1.11 development approved by the Department of Education in structured literacy, completed
1.12 additional training in providing professional development in structured literacy, and
1.13 participates in mentoring or coaching provided by CAREI or the Department of Education
1.14 on facilitating literacy training. A literacy lead who meets the requirements under this
1.15 subdivision may be a certified trained facilitator.

1.16 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.1118, subdivision 7, is amended
1.17 to read:

1.18 Subd. 7. **Literacy specialist.** "Literacy specialist" means a person licensed by the
1.19 Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board as a teacher of reading, a special
1.20 education teacher, or a kindergarten through grade 6 teacher, who has completed professional
1.21 development approved by the Department of Education in structured literacy. ~~A literacy~~
1.22 ~~specialist employed by the department under section 120B.123, subdivision 7, or by a district~~
1.23 ~~as a literacy lead, is not required to complete the approved training before August 30, 2025.~~

1.24 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.1118, subdivision 10, is
1.25 amended to read:

1.26 Subd. 10. **Oral language.** "Oral language," also called "spoken language," includes
1.27 speaking and listening, and consists of five components: phonology, morphology, syntax,
1.28 semantics, and pragmatics. Oral language also includes sign language, in which speaking
1.29 and listening skills are defined as expressive and receptive skills, and consists of phonology,
1.30 including sign language phonological awareness, morphology, syntax, semantics, and
1.31 pragmatics.

2.1 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.12, subdivision 1, is amended
2.2 to read:

2.3 Subdivision 1. **Literacy goal.** (a) The legislature seeks to have every child reading at
2.4 or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual
2.5 learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized
2.6 reading goals in order to meet grade level proficiency. By the 2026-2027 school year,
2.7 districts must provide evidence-based reading instruction through a focus on student mastery
2.8 of the foundational reading skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency, as well as
2.9 the development of oral language, vocabulary, and reading comprehension skills. Students
2.10 must receive evidence-based instruction that is proven to effectively teach children to read,
2.11 consistent with sections ~~120B.111-120B.117~~120B.118 to 120B.124.

2.12 (b) To meet this goal, each district must provide teachers and instructional support staff
2.13 with responsibility for teaching reading with training on evidence-based reading instruction
2.14 that is approved by the Department of Education by the deadlines provided in this
2.15 subdivision. The commissioner may grant a district an extension to the deadlines in this
2.16 paragraph. Beginning July 1, 2024, a district must provide access to the training required
2.17 under section 120B.123, subdivision 5, to:

2.18 (1) reading intervention teachers working with students in kindergarten through grade
2.19 12;

2.20 (2) all classroom teachers of students in kindergarten through grade 3 and children in
2.21 prekindergarten programs;

2.22 (3) special education teachers;

2.23 (4) curriculum directors; and

2.24 ~~(5) instructional support staff who provide reading instruction; and~~

2.25 ~~(6)~~ (5) employees who select literacy instructional materials for a district.

2.26 ~~(c) All other teachers and instructional staff required to receive training under the Read
2.27 Act must complete the training no later than July 1, 2027.~~

2.28 (c) By July 1, 2027, a district must provide the following teachers access to the training
2.29 required under section 120B.123, subdivision 5:

2.30 (1) teachers who provide reading instruction to students in grades 4 to 12;

2.31 (2) teachers licensed to teach English to multilingual learners; and

2.32 (3) teachers who provide instruction to students in a state-approved alternative program.

3.1 (d) A teacher who has completed the training required under paragraph (b) or (c) within
3.2 the last five years does not need to be retrained.

3.3 ~~(d)~~ (e) Districts are strongly encouraged to adopt a MTSS framework. The framework
3.4 should include a process for monitoring student progress, evaluating program fidelity, and
3.5 analyzing student outcomes and needs in order to design and implement ongoing
3.6 evidenced-based instruction and interventions.

3.7 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.12, subdivision 2, is amended
3.8 to read:

3.9 Subd. 2. **Identification; report.** (a) ~~Twice per year,~~ Each school district must screen
3.10 every student enrolled in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 using a screening tool
3.11 approved by the Department of Education three times each school year: (1) within the first
3.12 six weeks of the school year; (2) by February 15 each year; and (3) within the last six weeks
3.13 of the school year. Students enrolled in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3, including
3.14 multilingual learners and students receiving special education services, must be universally
3.15 screened for mastery of foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics,
3.16 decoding, fluency, oral language, and for characteristics of dyslexia as measured by a
3.17 screening tool approved by the Department of Education. The screening for characteristics
3.18 of dyslexia may be integrated with universal screening for mastery of foundational skills
3.19 and oral language. A district must submit data on student performance in kindergarten,
3.20 grade 1, grade 2, and grade 3 on foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness,
3.21 phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language to the Department of Education in the annual
3.22 local literacy plan submission due on June 15.

3.23 (b) Students in grades 4 and above, including multilingual learners and students receiving
3.24 special education services, who do not demonstrate mastery of foundational reading skills,
3.25 including phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, fluency, and oral language, must be
3.26 screened using a screening tool approved by the Department of Education for characteristics
3.27 of dyslexia, and must continue to receive evidence-based instruction, interventions, and
3.28 progress monitoring until the students achieve grade-level proficiency. A parent, in
3.29 consultation with a teacher, may opt a student out of the literacy screener if the parent and
3.30 teacher decide that continuing to screen would not be beneficial to the student. In such
3.31 limited cases, the student must continue to receive progress monitoring and literacy
3.32 interventions.

3.33 (c) Reading screeners in English, and in the predominant languages of district students
3.34 where practicable, must identify and evaluate students' areas of academic need related to

4.1 literacy. The district also must monitor the progress and provide reading instruction
4.2 appropriate to the specific needs of multilingual learners. The district must use an approved,
4.3 developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive screener and annually report summary
4.4 screener results to the commissioner by June 15 in the form and manner determined by the
4.5 commissioner.

4.6 (d) The district also must include in its literacy plan under subdivision 4a, a summary
4.7 of the district's efforts to screen, identify, and provide interventions to students who
4.8 demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia as measured by a screening tool approved by the
4.9 Department of Education. Districts are strongly encouraged to use ~~the~~ a MTSS framework.
4.10 With respect to students screened or identified under paragraph (a), the report must include:

4.11 (1) a summary of the district's efforts to screen for dyslexia;

4.12 (2) the number of students universally screened for that reporting year;

4.13 (3) the number of students demonstrating characteristics of dyslexia for that year; and

4.14 (4) an explanation of how students identified under this subdivision are provided with
4.15 alternate instruction and interventions under section 125A.56, subdivision 1.

4.16 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.12, subdivision 2a, is amended
4.17 to read:

4.18 Subd. 2a. **Parent notification and involvement.** A district must administer a an approved
4.19 reading screener to students in kindergarten through grade 3 within the first six weeks of
4.20 the school year, by February 15 each year, and again within the last six weeks of the school
4.21 year. Schools, at least biannually after administering each screener, must give the parent of
4.22 each student who is not reading at or above grade level timely information about:

4.23 (1) the student's reading proficiency as measured by a screener approved by the
4.24 Department of Education;

4.25 (2) reading-related services currently being provided to the student and the student's
4.26 progress; and

4.27 (3) strategies for parents to use at home in helping their student succeed in becoming
4.28 grade-level proficient in reading in English and in their native language.

4.29 A district may not use this section to deny a student's right to a special education
4.30 evaluation.

5.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.12, subdivision 4, is amended
5.2 to read:

5.3 Subd. 4. **Staff development.** (a) A district must provide training on evidence-based
5.4 ~~reading~~ structured literacy instruction to teachers and instructional staff in accordance with
5.5 subdivision 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs (b) and (c). The training must include teaching in the
5.6 areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, reading
5.7 comprehension, and culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy.

5.8 (b) Each district shall use the data under subdivision 2 to identify the staff development
5.9 needs so that:

5.10 (1) elementary teachers are able to implement explicit, systematic, evidence-based
5.11 instruction in the five reading areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,
5.12 and comprehension with emphasis on mastery of foundational reading skills as defined in
5.13 section ~~120B.1118~~ 120B.119 and other literacy-related areas including writing until the
5.14 student achieves grade-level reading and writing proficiency;

5.15 (2) elementary teachers ~~have sufficient~~ receive training to provide students with
5.16 evidence-based reading and oral language instruction that meets students' developmental,
5.17 linguistic, and literacy needs using the intervention methods or programs selected by the
5.18 district for the identified students;

5.19 (3) licensed teachers employed by the district have ~~regular~~ opportunities to improve
5.20 reading and writing instruction through professional development identified in the local
5.21 literacy plan;

5.22 (4) licensed teachers recognize students' diverse needs in cross-cultural settings and are
5.23 able to serve the oral language and linguistic needs of students who are multilingual learners
5.24 by maximizing strengths in their native languages in order to cultivate students' English
5.25 language development, including oral academic language development, and build academic
5.26 literacy; and

5.27 (5) licensed teachers are ~~well~~ trained in culturally responsive pedagogy that enables
5.28 students to master content, develop skills to access content, and build relationships.

5.29 (c) A district that offers early childhood programs, including voluntary prekindergarten
5.30 for eligible four-year-old children, early childhood special education, and school readiness
5.31 programs, must provide staff classroom teachers in early childhood programs sufficient
5.32 training approved by the Department of Education to provide children in early childhood
5.33 programs with explicit, systematic instruction in phonological and phonemic awareness;

6.1 oral language, including listening comprehension; vocabulary; and letter-sound
6.2 correspondence.

6.3 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.12, subdivision 4a, is amended
6.4 to read:

6.5 Subd. 4a. **Local literacy plan.** (a) Consistent with this section, a school district must
6.6 adopt a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade level every year
6.7 beginning in kindergarten and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special
6.8 education services in achieving their individualized reading goals. A district must update
6.9 and submit the plan to the commissioner by June 15 each year. The plan must be consistent
6.10 with the Read Act, and include the following:

6.11 (1) a process to assess students' foundational reading skills, oral language, and level of
6.12 reading proficiency and the screeners used, by school site and grade level, under section
6.13 120B.123;

6.14 (2) a process to notify and involve parents;

6.15 (3) a description of how schools in the district will determine the targeted reading
6.16 instruction that is evidence-based and includes an intervention strategy for a student and
6.17 the process for intensifying or modifying the reading strategy in order to obtain measurable
6.18 reading progress;

6.19 (4) evidence-based intervention methods for students who are not reading at or above
6.20 grade level and progress monitoring to provide information on the effectiveness of the
6.21 intervention;

6.22 (5) identification of staff development needs, including a plan to meet those needs;

6.23 (6) the curricula used by school site and grade level;

6.24 (7) a statement of whether the district has adopted a MTSS framework;

6.25 (8) student data using the measures of foundational literacy skills and mastery identified
6.26 by the Department of Education for the following students:

6.27 (i) students in kindergarten through grade 3;

6.28 (ii) students who demonstrate characteristics of dyslexia; and

6.29 (iii) students in grades 4 to 12 who are identified as not reading at grade level; and

6.30 (9) the number of teachers and other staff that have completed training approved by the
6.31 department.

7.1 (b) The district must post its literacy plan on the official school district website and
7.2 submit it to the commissioner of education using the template developed by the commissioner
7.3 of education beginning June 15, 2024.

7.4 (c) By March 1, 2024, the commissioner of education must develop a streamlined template
7.5 for local literacy plans that meets the requirements of this subdivision and requires all
7.6 reading instruction and teacher training in reading instruction to be evidence-based. The
7.7 template must require a district to report information using the student categories required
7.8 in the commissioner's report under paragraph (d). The template must focus district resources
7.9 on improving students' foundational reading skills while reducing paperwork requirements
7.10 for teachers.

7.11 (d) By December 1, 2025, the commissioner of education must submit a report to the
7.12 legislative committees with jurisdiction over prekindergarten through grade 12 education
7.13 summarizing the local literacy plans submitted to the commissioner. The summary must
7.14 include the following information:

7.15 (1) the number of teachers and other staff that have completed training approved by the
7.16 Department of Education;

7.17 (2) the number of teachers and other staff required to complete the training under section
7.18 120B.12, subdivision 1, that have not completed the training;

7.19 ~~(2)~~ (3) by school site and grade, the screeners ~~used at the beginning and end of the school~~
7.20 ~~year~~ and the reading curriculum used; and

7.21 ~~(3)~~ (4) by school site and grade, using the measurements of foundational literacy skills
7.22 and mastery identified by the department, both aggregated data and disaggregated data on
7.23 student performance on the approved screeners using the student categories under section
7.24 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2).

7.25 (e) By December 1, 2026, and December 1, 2027, the commissioner of education must
7.26 submit updated reports containing the information required under paragraph (d) to the
7.27 legislative committees with jurisdiction over prekindergarten through grade 12 education.

7.28 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.123, subdivision 1, is amended
7.29 to read:

7.30 Subdivision 1. **Approved screeners.** A district must administer an approved
7.31 evidence-based reading screener to students in kindergarten through grade 3 within the first
7.32 six weeks of the school year, by February 15 each year, and again within the last six weeks
7.33 of the school year. The screener must be one of the screening tools approved by the

8.1 Department of Education. A district must identify any screener it uses in the district's annual
8.2 literacy plan, and submit screening data with the annual literacy plan by June 15.

8.3 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.123, subdivision 2, is amended
8.4 to read:

8.5 Subd. 2. **Progress monitoring.** A district must implement progress monitoring using
8.6 the approved assessments, as defined in section ~~120B.1118~~ 120B.119, for a student not
8.7 reading at grade level.

8.8 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.123, subdivision 5, is amended
8.9 to read:

8.10 Subd. 5. **Professional development.** (a) A district must provide training from a menu
8.11 of approved evidence-based training programs to all reading intervention teachers, literacy
8.12 specialists, and other teachers and staff identified in section 120B.12, subdivision 1, paragraph
8.13 (b), by July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026; and by July 1, 2027, to other teachers in the district who provide
8.14 reading instruction or reading interventions, prioritizing teachers who work with students
8.15 with disabilities, English learners, and students who qualify for the graduation incentives
8.16 program under section 124D.68.

8.17 (b) The commissioner of education may grant a district an extension to the deadlines in
8.18 this subdivision.

8.19 (c) Training provided by a certified trained facilitator may satisfy the professional
8.20 development requirements under this subdivision and section 120B.12, subdivision 1.

8.21 (d) For the 2024-2025 school year only, the hours of instruction requirement under
8.22 section 120A.41 for students in grades 1 through 5 is reduced to 929-1/2 hours for a district
8.23 that enters into an agreement with the exclusive representative of the teachers that requires
8.24 teachers to receive at least 5-1/2 hours of approved evidence-based training required under
8.25 section 120B.12, subdivision 1, on a day when other students in the district receive
8.26 instruction. If a charter school's teachers are not represented by an exclusive representative,
8.27 the charter school may reduce the number of instructional hours for students in grades 1
8.28 through 5 by 5-1/2 hours after consulting with its teachers in order to provide teachers with
8.29 at least 5-1/2 hours of evidence-based training required under section 120B.12, subdivision
8.30 1 on a day when other students receive instruction.

8.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

9.1 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.123, subdivision 7, is amended
9.2 to read:

9.3 Subd. 7. **Department of Education.** (a) By July 1, 2023, the department must make
9.4 available to districts a list of approved evidence-based screeners in accordance with section
9.5 120B.12. A district must use an approved screener to assess students' mastery of foundational
9.6 reading skills in accordance with section 120B.12.

9.7 (b) The Department of Education must partner with CAREI as required under section
9.8 120B.124 to approve professional development programs, subject to final determination by
9.9 the department. After the implementation partnership under section 120B.124 ends, the
9.10 department must continue to regularly provide districts with information about professional
9.11 development opportunities available throughout the state on reading instruction that is
9.12 evidence-based.

9.13 (c) The department must identify training required for a literacy lead and literacy specialist
9.14 employed by a district or Minnesota service cooperatives.

9.15 (d) The department must employ a literacy specialist to provide support to districts
9.16 implementing the Read Act and coordinate duties assigned to the department under the
9.17 Read Act. The literacy specialist must work on state efforts to improve literacy tracking
9.18 and implementation.

9.19 (e) The department must develop a template for a local literacy plan in accordance with
9.20 section 120B.12, subdivision 4a.

9.21 (f) The department must partner with CAREI as required under section 120B.124 to
9.22 approve literacy intervention models, subject to final determination by the department. The
9.23 department must make a list of the approved intervention models available to districts, and
9.24 make available to districts a list of at least 15 approved evidence-based literacy intervention
9.25 models by November 1, 2025. The department may make the list of approved intervention
9.26 models available as each program is approved.

9.27 (g) The department must provide ongoing coaching and support to certified trained
9.28 facilitators.

9.29 (h) The department must collaborate with the publishers of curriculum and intervention
9.30 models approved by the department and CAREI to encourage the publishers to update the
9.31 curriculum and materials to reflect the cultural diversity of students and students with
9.32 disabilities.

10.1 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.123, is amended by adding
10.2 a subdivision to read:

10.3 Subd. 8. **Read Act program account.** (a) An account is established in the special revenue
10.4 fund known as the "Read Act program account."

10.5 (b) Funds appropriated for the Read Act under sections 120B.123 to 120B.124 must be
10.6 transferred to the Read Act program account in the special revenue fund.

10.7 (c) Money in the account is annually appropriated to the commissioner for the Read Act
10.8 under sections 120B.123 to 120B.124. Any returned funds are available to be reappropriated.

10.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

10.10 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.124, subdivision 1, is amended
10.11 to read:

10.12 Subdivision 1. **Resources.** (a) The Department of Education must partner with CAREI
10.13 for ~~two~~ four years beginning July 1, 2023, until August 30, ~~2025~~ 2027, to support
10.14 implementation of the Read Act. The department and CAREI must jointly:

10.15 (1) identify at least ~~five~~ three literacy curricula and supporting materials that are
10.16 evidence-based or focused on structured literacy by January 1, 2024, and post a list of the
10.17 curricula on the department website. The list must only include curricula that use culturally
10.18 and linguistically responsive materials that reflect diverse populations and, ~~to the extent~~
10.19 ~~practicable~~, curricula that reflect the experiences of students from diverse backgrounds,
10.20 including multilingual learners, biliterate students, and students who are Black, Indigenous,
10.21 and People of Color. A district is not required to use an approved curriculum, unless the
10.22 curriculum was purchased with state funds that require a curriculum to be selected from a
10.23 list of approved curricula;

10.24 (2) identify at least three professional development programs that focus on the five pillars
10.25 of literacy and the components of structured literacy by August 15, 2023, subject to final
10.26 approval by the department. The department must post a list of the programs on the
10.27 department website. The programs may include a program offered by CAREI. The
10.28 requirements of section 16C.08 do not apply to the selection of a provider under this section;

10.29 (3) identify evidence-based literacy intervention materials for students in kindergarten
10.30 through grade 12;

11.1 (4) develop an evidence-based literacy lead training program that trains literacy specialists
 11.2 throughout Minnesota to support schools' efforts in screening, measuring growth, monitoring
 11.3 progress, and implementing interventions in accordance with subdivision 1;

11.4 (5) identify measures of foundational literacy skills and mastery that a district must
 11.5 report on a local literacy plan;

11.6 (6) provide guidance to districts about best practices in literacy instruction, and practices
 11.7 that are not evidence-based;

11.8 (7) develop MTSS model plans that districts may adopt to support efforts to screen,
 11.9 identify, intervene, and monitor the progress of students not reading at grade level; and

11.10 (8) ensure that teacher professional development options and MTSS framework trainings
 11.11 are geographically equitable by supporting trainings through the regional service
 11.12 cooperatives;

11.13 (9) develop a coaching and mentorship program for certified trained facilitators; and

11.14 (10) identify at least 15 evidence-based literacy intervention models by November 1,
 11.15 2025, and post a list of the interventions on the department website. A district is not required
 11.16 to use an approved intervention model, unless the intervention model was purchased with
 11.17 state funds that require an intervention model to be selected from a list of approved models.

11.18 (b) The department and CAREI may partner to identify culturally and linguistically
 11.19 responsive literacy curriculum and supporting materials, and revise the list of culturally and
 11.20 linguistically responsive curriculum and supporting materials that are evidence-based or
 11.21 that are focused on structured literacy, starting in 2033.

11.22 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 120B.124, subdivision 2, is amended
 11.23 to read:

11.24 Subd. 2. **Reconsideration.** (a) The department and CAREI must provide districts an
 11.25 opportunity to request that the department and CAREI add to the list of curricula or
 11.26 professional development programs a specific curriculum or professional development
 11.27 program. The department must publish the request for reconsideration procedure on the
 11.28 department website. A request for reconsideration must demonstrate that the curriculum or
 11.29 professional development program meets the requirements of the Read Act, is
 11.30 evidence-based, and has structured literacy components; ~~or that the screener accurately~~
 11.31 ~~measures literacy growth, monitors progress, and accurately assesses effective reading,~~
 11.32 ~~including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.~~ The

12.1 department and CAREI must review the request for reconsideration and approve or deny
12.2 the request within 60 days.

12.3 (b) The department and CAREI must conduct a final curriculum review by March 3,
12.4 2025, to review curriculum that is available to districts at no cost.

12.5 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 124D.42, subdivision 8, is amended
12.6 to read:

12.7 Subd. 8. **Minnesota reading corps program.** (a) A Minnesota reading corps program
12.8 is established to provide ServeMinnesota AmeriCorps members with a data-based
12.9 problem-solving model of literacy instruction to use in helping to train local Head Start
12.10 program providers, other prekindergarten program providers, and staff in schools with
12.11 students in kindergarten through grade 3 to evaluate and teach early literacy skills, including
12.12 evidence-based literacy instruction under sections 120B.1117 to 120B.124, to children age
12.13 3 to grade 3 and interventions for children in kindergarten to grade ~~4~~ 3.

12.14 (b) Literacy programs under this subdivision must comply with the provisions governing
12.15 literacy program goals and data use under section 119A.50, subdivision 3, paragraph (b).

12.16 (c) Literacy programs under this subdivision must use evidence-based reading instruction
12.17 and interventions focused on structured literacy.

12.18 ~~(e)~~ (d) The commission must submit a biennial report to the committees of the legislature
12.19 with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education that records and evaluates
12.20 program data to determine the efficacy of the programs under this subdivision.

12.21 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 124D.98, subdivision 5, is amended
12.22 to read:

12.23 Subd. 5. **Literacy incentive aid uses.** A school district must use its literacy incentive
12.24 aid to support implementation of evidence-based reading instruction. The following are
12.25 eligible uses of literacy incentive aid:

12.26 (1) training for kindergarten through grade 3 teachers, early childhood educators, special
12.27 education teachers, reading intervention teachers working with students in kindergarten
12.28 through grade 12, curriculum directors, and instructional support staff that provide reading
12.29 instruction, on using evidence-based screening and progress monitoring tools;

12.30 (2) evidence-based training using a training program approved by the Department of
12.31 Education under the Read Act;

13.1 (3) employing or contracting with a literacy lead, as defined in section ~~120B.1118~~
13.2 120B.119;

13.3 (4) employing an intervention specialist;

13.4 ~~(4)~~ (5) screeners, materials, training, and ongoing coaching to ensure reading interventions
13.5 under section 125A.56, subdivision 1, are evidence-based; and

13.6 ~~(5)~~ (6) costs of substitute teachers to allow teachers to complete required training during
13.7 the teachers' contract day; and

13.8 (7) stipends for teachers completing training required under section 120B.12.

13.9 Sec. 19. Laws 2023, chapter 55, article 3, section 11, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

13.10 Subd. 2. **CAREI.** (a) To contract with the Center for Applied Research and Educational
13.11 Improvement at the University of Minnesota for the Read Act implementation partnership
13.12 under section 120B.124:

13.13 \$ 4,200,000 2024

13.14 \$ 0 4,200,000 2025

13.15 (b) This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

13.16 (c) The base for fiscal year 2026 and later is \$0.

13.17 Sec. 20. Laws 2023, chapter 55, article 3, section 11, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

13.18 Subd. 3. **Read Act curriculum and intervention materials reimbursement.** (a) To
13.19 reimburse school districts, charter schools, and cooperative units for evidence-based literacy
13.20 supports for children in prekindergarten through grade 12 based on structured literacy:

13.21 \$ 35,000,000 2024

13.22 \$ 8,000,000 2025

13.23 (b) The commissioner must use this appropriation to reimburse school districts, charter
13.24 schools, and cooperatives for approved evidence-based structured literacy curriculum and
13.25 supporting materials, and intervention materials purchased after July 1, 2021. An applicant
13.26 must apply for the reimbursement in the form and manner determined by the commissioner.
13.27 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, by April 1, 2025, the commissioner must begin
13.28 to issue payments to districts, charter schools, and cooperative units that have been approved
13.29 to receive reimbursement under this paragraph.

13.30 (c) The commissioner must report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
13.31 kindergarten through grade 12 education the districts, charter schools, and cooperative units

14.1 that receive literacy grants and the amounts of each grant, by January 15, 2025, according
14.2 to Minnesota Statutes, section 3.195.

14.3 (d) A school district, charter school, or cooperative unit must purchase curriculum and
14.4 instructional materials that reflect diverse populations.

14.5 (e) Of this amount, up to \$250,000 in fiscal year 2024 only is available for grant
14.6 administration.

14.7 (f) ~~This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2028~~ The base for
14.8 fiscal year 2026 and later is \$0.

14.9 (g) This appropriation is subject to the requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section
14.10 120B.123, subdivision 8. Any unspent funds under paragraph (a) are transferred to the Read
14.11 Act program account in the special revenue fund on July 1, 2024. This is a onetime transfer.

14.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

14.13 Sec. 21. Laws 2023, chapter 55, article 3, section 11, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

14.14 Subd. 4. **Read Act professional development.** (a) For evidence-based training on
14.15 structured literacy for teachers working in school districts, charter schools, and cooperatives:

14.16 \$ 34,950,000 2024

14.17 \$ 0 5,000,000 2025

14.18 (b) Of the amount in paragraph (a), \$18,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is for the Department
14.19 of Education and the regional literacy networks and \$16,700,000 in fiscal year 2024 and
14.20 \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 is for statewide training. The department must use the funding
14.21 to develop a data collection system to collect and analyze the submission of the local literacy
14.22 plans and student-level universal screening data, to establish the regional literacy networks
14.23 as a partnership between the department and the Minnesota service cooperatives, and to
14.24 administer statewide training based in structured literacy to be offered free to school districts
14.25 and charter schools and facilitated by the regional literacy networks and the department.
14.26 The regional literacy networks must focus on implementing comprehensive literacy reform
14.27 efforts based on structured literacy. Each regional literacy network must add a literacy lead
14.28 position and establish a team of trained literacy coaches to facilitate evidence-based structured
14.29 literacy training opportunities and ongoing supports to school districts and charter schools
14.30 in each of their regions. Funds appropriated under this subdivision may also be used to
14.31 provide training in structured literacy to fourth and fifth grade classroom teachers.

14.32 (c) Of the amount in paragraph (a), \$250,000 in fiscal year 2024 only is for administration.

15.1 (d) If funds remain unspent on July 1, 2026, the commissioner must expand eligibility
15.2 for approved training to include principals and other district, charter school, or cooperative
15.3 administrators.

15.4 (e) The commissioner must report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
15.5 kindergarten through grade 12 education the number of teachers from each district who
15.6 received approved structured literacy training using funds under this subdivision, and the
15.7 amounts awarded to districts, charter schools, or cooperatives.

15.8 (f) The regional literacy networks and staff at the Department of Education must provide
15.9 ongoing support to school districts, charter schools, and cooperatives implementing
15.10 evidence-based literacy instruction.

15.11 (g) This appropriation is subject to the requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section
15.12 120B.123, subdivision 8. Any unspent funds under paragraph (a) are transferred to the Read
15.13 Act program account in the special revenue fund on July 1, 2024. This is a onetime transfer.

15.14 ~~(g) This appropriation is available until June 30, 2028.~~ (h) The base for fiscal year 2026
15.15 and later is \$7,750,000, of which \$6,500,000 is for the regional literacy networks and
15.16 \$1,250,000 is for statewide training.

15.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

15.18 Sec. 22. **PELSB READING AUDIT REPORT.**

15.19 (a) The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must conduct an audit
15.20 that evaluates whether and how approved teacher training programs for candidates for the
15.21 following licensure areas meet subject matter standards for reading:

15.22 (1) early childhood education in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 8710.3000;

15.23 (2) elementary education in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 8710.3200; and

15.24 (3) special education in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 8710.5000.

15.25 (b) The board must submit an initial report with its findings to the legislative committees
15.26 with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 and higher education by January 15,
15.27 2025, and a final report by August 1, 2026. Each report must:

15.28 (1) identify the reading standards for each licensure area, identify how they are aligned
15.29 to the requirements of the Read Act, including requirements on evidence-based instruction,
15.30 phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading
15.31 comprehension, and to the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.092, subdivision
15.32 5;

- 16.1 (2) describe how the board conducted the audit;
16.2 (3) identify the results of the audit; and
16.3 (4) summarize the program effectiveness reports for continuing approval related to
16.4 reading standards reviewed by the board, including the board determinations under Minnesota
16.5 Rule, part 8705.2200.

16.6 **Sec. 23. READ ACT DEAF, DEAFBLIND, AND HARD OF HEARING WORKING**
16.7 **GROUP.**

16.8 Subdivision 1. **Working group purpose.** The Department of Education must establish
16.9 a working group to make recommendations on literacy training, screeners, and curriculum
16.10 for students who cannot fully access sound-based approaches such as phonics.

16.11 Subd. 2. **Members.** The Department of Education must appoint representatives from
16.12 the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement at the University of
16.13 Minnesota; the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing; the
16.14 Minnesota State Academies; Metro Deaf School; intermediate school districts; regional
16.15 low-incidence facilitators; a Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher licensure preparation program
16.16 in Minnesota approved by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board; and
16.17 teachers of students who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing.

16.18 Subd. 3. **Report.** The working group must review curriculum, screeners, and training
16.19 approved under the Read Act and make recommendations for adapting curriculum, screeners,
16.20 and training available to districts, charter schools, teachers, and administrators to meet the
16.21 needs of students and educators who cannot fully access sound-based approaches. The report
16.22 must address how approved curriculum, screeners, and training may be modified and identify
16.23 resources for alternatives to sound-based approaches. The working group must post its
16.24 report on the Department of Education website, and submit it to the legislative committees
16.25 with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education no later than January 15,
16.26 2025.

16.27 Subd. 4. **Administrative provisions.** (a) The commissioner, or the commissioner's
16.28 designee, must convene the initial meeting of the working group. At the first meeting, the
16.29 department must provide members of the working group information on structured literacy
16.30 and the curriculum, screeners, and training approved under the Read Act.

16.31 (b) Members of the working group are eligible for per diem compensation as provided
16.32 under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3. The working group expires January

17.1 16, 2025, or upon submission of the report to the legislature under subdivision 3, whichever
 17.2 is earlier.

17.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

17.4 Sec. 24. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

17.5 Subdivision 1. **Department of Education.** The sums indicated in this section are
 17.6 appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education in the fiscal years
 17.7 designated.

17.8 Subd. 2. **Read Act implementation.** (a) For payments to school districts, charter schools,
 17.9 and cooperative units for substitute teachers and teacher stipends related to Read Act
 17.10 implementation:

17.11 § 23,000,000 2025

17.12 (b) A school district, charter school, or cooperative unit may apply in the form and
 17.13 manner determined by the commissioner for reimbursement for: (1) substitute teachers to
 17.14 enable teachers to complete required training during the school day, unless the teachers are
 17.15 compensated for time outside the school day to complete the training, and (2) stipends to
 17.16 teachers who complete an evidence-based professional development program approved
 17.17 under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.124. To be eligible for the stipend, a teacher must
 17.18 have a license to teach in Minnesota; work for a school district, charter school, or cooperative;
 17.19 and complete an approved professional development program between July 1, 2024, and
 17.20 July 1, 2027. If the appropriation is insufficient, the commissioner must prorate the amounts
 17.21 to applicants seeking payment.

17.22 (c) This is a onetime appropriation.

17.23 (d) This appropriation is subject to the requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section
 17.24 120B.123, subdivision 8.

17.25 Subd. 3. **Evidence-based reading instruction training reimbursement.** (a) To
 17.26 reimburse teachers, school districts, and charter schools for evidence-based reading
 17.27 instruction training:

17.28 § 2025

17.29 (b) A teacher who is currently teaching in a Minnesota school must apply in the form
 17.30 and manner determined by the commissioner to receive reimbursement for the actual cost
 17.31 the applicant paid for an evidence-based reading instruction training, including tuition,
 17.32 books, and other instructional materials. The commissioner must establish procedures to

18.1 ensure that the costs reimbursed under this section have not been reimbursed by the
 18.2 applicant's employer or another source. If the appropriation is insufficient, the commissioner
 18.3 must prorate the amount paid to applicants seeking reimbursement.

18.4 (c) If funds remain, the commissioner must reimburse a school district or charter school
 18.5 that offered evidence-based reading instruction training between June 20, 2021, and June
 18.6 30, 2023. A school district or charter school must apply in the form and manner determined
 18.7 by the commissioner to receive reimbursement for the tuition costs of providing the training.
 18.8 The commissioner must establish procedures to ensure that the costs reimbursed under this
 18.9 section have not been reimbursed by another source. If the appropriation is insufficient, the
 18.10 commissioner must prorate the amount paid to applicants seeking reimbursement.

18.11 (d) An eligible evidence-based reading instruction training is an approved professional
 18.12 development program identified under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.124, subdivision
 18.13 1, clause (2), that was completed by the applicant between June 30, 2021, and June 30,
 18.14 2023.

18.15 (e) This is a onetime appropriation.

18.16 (f) This appropriation is subject to the requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section
 18.17 120B.123, subdivision 8.

18.18 **Subd. 4. Read Act deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing working group.** (a) For
 18.19 administration and per diem compensation for members of the Read Act deaf, deafblind,
 18.20 and hard of hearing working group:

18.21 § 2025

18.22 (b) This is a onetime appropriation.

18.23 **Subd. 5. Supplemental culturally responsive materials.** (a) For a contract to develop
 18.24 supplemental culturally responsive materials for evidence-based structured literacy
 18.25 curriculum:

18.26 § 2025

18.27 (b) The commissioner must issue a request for proposals for a contract to develop
 18.28 supplemental culturally responsive materials for the approved evidence-based structured
 18.29 literacy curriculum under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.124, subdivision 1, clause (1).
 18.30 Upon completion, the commissioner must make the supplemental culturally responsive
 18.31 materials available at no cost to districts.

18.32 (c) This is a onetime appropriation. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

19.1 Sec. 25. REVISOR INSTRUCTION.

19.2 The revisor of statutes shall renumber each section of Minnesota Statutes listed in column
19.3 A with the number listed in column B. The revisor shall also make necessary cross-reference
19.4 changes consistent with the renumbering. The revisor shall also make any technical and
19.5 other changes necessitated by the renumbering and cross-reference changes in this act.

19.6	<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
19.7	<u>120B.1117</u>	<u>120B.118</u>
19.8	<u>120B.1118</u>	<u>120B.119"</u>

19.9 Amend the title accordingly