

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 494

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to an intensive reading and language intervention pilot
3 program at certain public school campuses.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 29.094, Education Code, is reenacted and
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.094. INTENSIVE READING AND LANGUAGE INTERVENTION
8 PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "pilot program" means the
9 intensive reading and language intervention pilot program.

10 (b) The commissioner by rule shall ~~[may]~~ establish a pilot
11 program in which a participating campus provides intensive reading
12 and language intervention to participating students.

13 (c) A ~~[If the commissioner establishes the pilot program, a]~~
14 campus may apply to the commissioner to participate in the pilot
15 program. The commissioner may select for participation in the
16 pilot program only campuses that have failed to improve student
17 performance in reading according to standards established by the
18 commissioner. The standards established by the commissioner for
19 purposes of this subsection must be based on reading performance
20 standards required for student promotion under Section 28.0211.

21 (d) The ~~[If the commissioner establishes the pilot program,~~
22 ~~the]~~ commissioner shall adopt minimum criteria that a program must
23 meet to be selected by a participating campus for use in providing
24 intensive reading and language intervention. The criteria must

1 include neuroscience-based, scientifically validated methods,
2 interventions, or instructional tools that have been proven to
3 accelerate learning, cognitive ability, and language proficiency.
4 A participating campus shall submit a summary of the campus's
5 proposed intensive intervention program to the commissioner for
6 approval. The commissioner may approve only a program that follows
7 the minimum criteria adopted under this subsection.

8 (e) The principal of a participating campus, in
9 consultation with classroom teachers at the campus, shall select
10 students to participate in the pilot program. A participating
11 campus shall assess each selected student before the student enters
12 and after the student transfers out of the pilot program to measure
13 the student's progress.

14 (f) Not later than December 31, 2008 [~~2006~~], any vendor of
15 an intensive intervention program approved under Subsection (d), in
16 consultation with the agency and each school district with which
17 the vendor contracts under this section, shall provide the
18 legislature with a report describing student progress under the
19 assessments administered to participating students under
20 Subsection (e).

21 (g) Notwithstanding any other law, the commissioner shall
22 [~~may~~] provide funding for the pilot program using not more than \$6
23 million of funding appropriated for purposes of Section 28.0211.

24 (h) The [~~If the commissioner establishes the pilot program,~~
25 ~~the~~] commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this
26 section.

27 (i) The [~~If the commissioner establishes the pilot program,~~

1 ~~the~~] commissioner shall make the pilot program available to
2 participating campuses during the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009
3 [~~2005-2006 and 2006-2007~~] school years.

4 [~~(j) This section expires July 1, 2007.~~]

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.