

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 4091

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an intensive reading improvement program for public school students of limited English proficiency.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.069 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.069. INTENSIVE READING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. (a) A school district shall provide to students of limited English proficiency, in accordance with this section, a reading improvement program that:

(1) is designed to:

(A) prevent students from having long-term reading difficulties; and

(B) reduce the risk of students dropping out of school;

(2) provides individualized, intensive, and accelerated instruction; and

(3) is aligned with the required curriculum under Section 28.002.

(b) Each district program must include:

(1) a research-based curriculum designed to guide students toward reading proficiency;

(2) assessments that are approved by the agency and designed to measure growth in a student's vocabulary and reading

1 comprehension;

2 (3) computer-based instruction that makes available
3 additional reading practice for students participating in the
4 program;

5 (4) a comprehensive system of support for teachers
6 that includes in-person training, access to online professional
7 development, and ongoing consultation throughout the school year;
8 and

9 (5) teacher training materials and other teacher
10 training resources, including resource guides, to assist teachers
11 in enabling students of limited English proficiency to meet state
12 performance expectations, including performance expectations on
13 assessment instruments administered under Subchapter B, Chapter
14 39.

15 (c) The results of assessments required under Subsection
16 (b)(2) must be accessible through an Internet data management
17 system:

18 (1) to appropriate teachers and administrators; and

19 (2) in English and Spanish, to the parent of a student
20 participating in the program.

21 (d) A school district shall begin providing instruction
22 under the program to a student of limited English proficiency
23 before the student enters the seventh grade.

24 (e) A school district shall begin providing instruction
25 under the program to students not later than September 30 of each
26 school year.

27 (f) Not later than January 31 and June 1 of each school year,

1 a school district shall provide to the agency a written report on
2 the progress in reading of students participating in the district's
3 program.

4 SECTION 2. Section 39.024(e), Education Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (e) The commissioner shall retain a portion of the total
7 amount of funds allotted under Section 42.152(a) that the
8 commissioner considers appropriate to finance activities under
9 Subsection [~~Subsections~~] (c) and may retain a portion for
10 activities under Section 29.069 [~~Subsection (d)~~] and for other
11 intensive programs of instruction for students of limited English
12 proficiency offered by school districts and shall reduce each
13 district's allotment proportionately.

14 SECTION 3. Section 39.024(d), Education Code, is repealed.

15 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010
16 school year.

17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.