

2 **SHB 2042 - H AMD 147 ADOPTED 3-13-97**

3 By Representative Johnson

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature acknowledges the definition  
8 of reading as "Reading is the process of constructing meaning from  
9 written text. It is the complex skill requiring the coordination of a  
10 number of interrelated sources of information." Marilyn Adams,  
11 *Becoming a Nation of Readers* 7. The legislature also acknowledges the  
12 role that reading accuracy and fluency plays in the comprehension of  
13 text. The legislature finds that one way to determine if a child's  
14 inability to read is problematic is to compare the child's reading  
15 fluency and accuracy skills with that of other children. To accomplish  
16 this objective, the legislature finds that assessments that test  
17 students' reading fluency and accuracy skills must be scientifically  
18 valid and reliable. The legislature further finds that early  
19 identification of students with potential reading difficulties can  
20 provide valuable information to parents, teachers, and school  
21 administrators. The legislature finds that assessment of second grade  
22 students' reading fluency and accuracy skills can assist teachers in  
23 planning and implementing a reading curriculum that addresses students'  
24 deficiencies in reading.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall identify a  
28 collection of tests that can be used to measure second grade reading  
29 accuracy and fluency skills. The purpose of the second grade reading  
30 test is to provide information to parents, teachers, and school  
31 administrators on the level of acquisition of reading accuracy and  
32 fluency skills of each student at the beginning of second grade. Each  
33 of the tests in the collection must:

34 (a) Provide a reliable and valid measure of student's reading  
35 accuracy and fluency skills;

1 (b) Be able to be individually administered;

2 (c) Have been approved by a panel of nationally recognized  
3 professionals in the area of beginning reading, whose work has been  
4 published in peer-reviewed education research journals, and  
5 professionals in the area of measurement and assessment; and

6 (d) Assess student skills in recognition of letter sounds, phonemic  
7 awareness, word recognition, and reading connected text. Text used for  
8 the test of fluency must be ordered in relation to difficulty.

9 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall select tests for  
10 use by schools and school districts participating in pilot projects  
11 under section 3 of this act during the 1997-98 school year. The final  
12 collection must be selected by June 30, 1998.

13 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a per-  
14 pupil cost for each of the tests in the collection that details the  
15 costs for booklets, scoring services, and training required to reliably  
16 administer the test. To the extent funds are appropriated, the  
17 superintendent of public instruction shall pay for booklets or other  
18 testing material, scoring services, and training required to administer  
19 the test.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall create a pilot  
23 project to identify which second grade reading tests selected under  
24 section 2 of this act will be included in the final collection of tests  
25 that must be available by June 30, 1998.

26 (2) Schools and school districts may voluntarily participate in the  
27 second grade reading test pilot projects in the 1997-98 school year.  
28 Schools and school districts voluntarily participating in the pilot  
29 project test are not required to have the results available by the fall  
30 parent-teacher conference.

31 (3)(a) Starting in the 1998-99 school year, school districts must  
32 select a test from the collection adopted by the superintendent of  
33 public instruction. Selection must be at the entire school district  
34 level and must remain in place at that school district for at least  
35 three years.

36 (b) Students who score substantially below grade level when tested  
37 in the fall shall be tested at least one more time during the second  
38 grade. Test performance deemed to be "substantially below grade level"

1 is to be determined for each test in the collection by the  
2 superintendent of public instruction during the pilot year of 1997-98.

3 (c) Each school must have the test results available by the fall  
4 parent-teacher conference. Schools must notify parents about the  
5 second grade reading test during the conferences, inform the parents of  
6 their students' performance on the test, and provide parents with  
7 strategies to help the parents improve their child's score.

8 (d) The school district must report district level results of the  
9 fall testing and the number of students who scored substantially below  
10 grade level to the superintendent of public instruction.

11 (e) The superintendent of public instruction must report the  
12 district level results and the number of students who scored  
13 substantially below grade level in each district to the legislature by  
14 the following August 31st of each year.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a  
18 primary grade reading grant program. The purpose of the grant program  
19 is to enhance teachers' skills in using teaching methods that have  
20 proven results gathered through quantitative research and to assist  
21 students in beginning reading.

22 (2) Schools and school districts may apply for primary grade  
23 reading grants. To qualify for a grant, the grant proposal shall  
24 provide that the grantee must:

25 (a) Document that the instructional model the grantee intends to  
26 implement, including teaching methods and instructional materials, is  
27 based on results validated by quantitative methods;

28 (b) Agree to work with the independent contractor identified under  
29 subsection (3) of this section to determine the effectiveness of the  
30 instructional model selected and the effectiveness of the staff  
31 development provided to implement the selected model; and

32 (c) Provide evidence of a significant number of students who are  
33 not achieving at grade level.

34 To the extent funds are appropriated, the superintendent of public  
35 instruction shall make initial grants available by September 1, 1997,  
36 for schools and school districts voluntarily participating in pilot  
37 projects under section 3 of this act. Subject to available funding,  
38 additional applications may be submitted to the superintendent of

1 public instruction by September 1, 1998, and by September 1st in  
2 subsequent years. Grants will be awarded for two years.

3 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall contract with an  
4 independent contractor who has experience in program evaluation and  
5 quantitative methods to evaluate the impact of the grant activities on  
6 students' reading skills and the effectiveness of the staff development  
7 provided to teachers to implement the instructional model selected by  
8 the grantee. Five percent of the funds awarded for grants shall be set  
9 aside for the purpose of the grant evaluation conducted by the  
10 independent contractor.

11 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall submit  
12 biennially to the legislature and the governor a report on the primary  
13 grade reading grant program. The first report must be submitted not  
14 later than December 1, 1999, and each succeeding report must be  
15 submitted not later than December 1st of each odd-numbered year.  
16 Reports must include information on how the schools and school  
17 districts used the grant money, the instructional models used, how they  
18 were implemented, and the findings of the independent contractor.

19 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall disseminate  
20 information to the school districts five years after the beginning of  
21 the grant program regarding the results of the effectiveness of the  
22 instructional models and implementation strategies.

23 (6) Funding under this section shall not become part of the state's  
24 basic program of education obligation as set forth under Article IX of  
25 the state Constitution.

26 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.230.190 and 1990 c 101 s 6 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) Every school district is encouraged to test pupils in grade two  
29 by an assessment device designed or selected by the school district.  
30 This test shall be used to help teachers in identifying those pupils in  
31 need of assistance in the skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and  
32 language arts. The test results are not to be compiled by the  
33 superintendent of public instruction, but are only to be used by the  
34 local school district. School districts shall test students for second  
35 grade reading accuracy and fluency skills starting in the 1998-99  
36 school year as provided in section 3 of this act.

37 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and  
38 conduct, with the assistance of school districts, a standardized

1 achievement test to be given annually to all pupils in grade four. The  
2 test shall assess students' skill in reading, mathematics, and language  
3 arts and shall focus upon appropriate input variables. Results of such  
4 tests shall be compiled by the superintendent of public instruction,  
5 who shall make those results available annually to the legislature, to  
6 all local school districts and subsequently to parents of those  
7 children tested. The results shall allow parents to ascertain the  
8 achievement levels and input variables of their children as compared  
9 with the other students within the district, the state and, if  
10 applicable, the nation.

11 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually  
12 to the legislature on the achievement levels of students in grade four.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.630.886 and 1995 c 303 s 2 are each  
14 repealed.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The superintendent of public instruction may use up to one  
18 percent of the appropriated funds for administration of the primary  
19 grade reading grant program established in chapter . . . , Laws of 1997  
20 (this act).

21 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt timelines  
22 and rules as necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to administer the  
23 primary reading grant program in section 2 of this act.

24 (3) Funding under this section shall not become a part of the  
25 state's basic program of education obligation as set forth under  
26 Article IX of the state Constitution.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
29 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
30 immediately.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for section 4 of this  
32 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number and section number,  
33 is not provided by June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act,  
34 sections 4 and 7 of this act are null and void."

1        Correct the title.

--- END ---