

(Reprinted with amendments adopted on May 13, 2015)

SECOND REPRINT

S.B. 391

SENATE BILL NO. 391—SENATORS HARRIS, KIECKHEFER, FARLEY, ROBERSON, WOODHOUSE; ATKINSON, DENIS, FORD, GOICOECHEA, GUSTAVSON, KIHUEN, LIPPARELLI, MANENDO, PARKS, SETTELMAYER AND SPEARMAN

MARCH 17, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing educational instruction in the subject of reading. (BDR 34-644)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation included in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school to prepare a plan to improve the literacy of pupils enrolled in certain grades; requiring the principal of each public elementary school to designate a learning strategist to train and assist teachers in providing intensive instruction to pupils who have been identified as deficient in the subject area of reading; requiring certain teachers at public schools to complete professional development concerning the subject area of reading; requiring certain interventions for pupils enrolled in kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3 who do not achieve adequate proficiency in reading; prohibiting a public school from promoting a pupil to grade 4 if the pupil does not achieve proficiency in reading; providing for a competitive grants program to assist schools in paying for certain literacy programs; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 **Section 5** of this bill requires the board of trustees of each school district or the
- 2 governing body of a charter school to prepare a plan to improve the literacy of
- 3 pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 and submit the plan to the
- 4 Department of Education for its approval.



Section 6 of this bill requires the principal of a public elementary school, including, without limitation, a charter school, to designate a licensed teacher employed by the school who has demonstrated leadership abilities to serve as a learning strategist to train and assist teachers in providing intensive instruction to pupils who have been identified as deficient in the subject area of reading. **Section 6** also: (1) authorizes a school district or charter school to provide additional compensation to learning strategists and teachers whose overall performance is determined to be "highly effective" under the statewide performance evaluation system; and (2) requires each teacher employed by a school district or charter school to teach kindergarten or grade 1, 2, 3 or 4 to complete professional development prescribed by the State Board of Education concerning the subject area of reading.

Section 8 of this bill requires the principal of a school to provide notice that a pupil exhibits a deficiency in the subject area of reading to the parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3. **Section 9** of this bill requires a public elementary school to: (1) establish a plan to monitor the progress of a pupil enrolled in kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3 who has a deficiency in the subject area of reading; and (2) assess the proficiency in reading of a pupil for whom such a plan is established at the beginning of the next school year.

Existing law authorizes a pupil enrolled in a public school, other than a charter school, to be retained in the same grade upon joint agreement by the pupil's teacher and principal. (NRS 392.125) Existing law also requires the governing body of a charter school to adopt rules for the academic retention of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school. (NRS 386.583) **Section 10** of this bill provides that, unless a pupil receives an exemption by the superintendent of schools of the school district or the governing body of the charter school, as recommended by the principal, a pupil enrolled in grade 3 must be retained in grade 3 rather than promoted to grade 4 if the pupil does not obtain the score prescribed by the State Board on the criterion-referenced examination in reading. **Section 10** also: (1) provides certain good-cause exemptions for certain pupils to allow them to be promoted to grade 4 even if they did not obtain that score; and (2) requires the State Board to prescribe an alternate examination for pupils who do not obtain that score. **Section 14** of this bill makes conforming changes. **Section 3** of this bill similarly provides that a pupil enrolled in grade 3 at a charter school must be retained in grade 3 rather than promoted to grade 4 if the pupil does not obtain the score presented by the State Board on the criterion-referenced examination unless the pupil receives a good-cause exemption.

Section 11 of this bill requires the principal of a school to: (1) provide notice to the parent or legal guardian of a pupil who will be retained in grade 3; (2) develop a plan to monitor the progress of the pupil in achieving proficiency in reading; and (3) ensure that the pupil receives intensive instructional services in the subject area of reading. **Section 11** requires the board of trustees of each school district or the governing body of a charter school to prescribe the intensive instructional services that the principal of a school is required to implement for a pupil who is retained in grade 3. **Section 11** requires such instructional services to be provided by a teacher who is: (1) different than the teacher who provided instructional services to the pupil during the immediately preceding school year; and (2) highly effective, as demonstrated by pupil performance data and performance evaluations. **Section 11** also authorizes such instructional services to be provided by a teacher who is the same teacher who provided instructional services to the pupil during the immediately preceding school year in certain circumstances.

Section 12 of this bill requires the principal of a school to offer the parent or legal guardian of a pupil who is retained in grade 3 certain additional instructional options. **Sections 3 and 13** of this bill require the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of a charter school to prepare a report concerning



the number and percentage of pupils who are retained in grade 3 for deficiency in reading and: (1) submit the report to the Department; and (2) post the report on the Internet website maintained by the school district or charter school, as applicable.

Section 15 of this bill provides for the Department of Education to distribute money that is appropriated to the Other State Education Programs Account through a competitive grants program. **Section 15** requires schools that receive a grant of money to use the money for the literacy programs in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 to support school-based efforts to ensure all pupils are proficient in reading by the end of the third grade. **Section 15** requires the board of trustees of a school district and the governing body of a charter school that receives a grant of money to prepare and submit to the Department a report that includes: (1) a description of the programs or services for which the money was used; and (2) the number of pupils who participated in a program or received services. **Section 15** also requires the Department of Education to prepare a report concerning the programs for which the money is used and submit the report and certain recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature and to the Governor.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 385.3481 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.3481 1. The annual report of accountability prepared pursuant to NRS 385.347 must include information on the attendance, truancy and transiency of pupils, including, without limitation:

(a) Records of the attendance and truancy of pupils in all grades, including, without limitation:

(1) The average daily attendance of pupils, for each school in the district and the district as a whole, including, without limitation, each charter school sponsored by the district.

(2) For each elementary school, middle school and junior high school in the district, including, without limitation, each charter school sponsored by the district that provides instruction to pupils enrolled in a grade level other than high school, information that compares the attendance of the pupils enrolled in the school with the attendance of pupils throughout the district and throughout this State. The information required by this subparagraph must be provided in consultation with the Department to ensure the accuracy of the comparison.

(b) The number of pupils in each grade who are retained in the same grade pursuant to NRS 392.033, ~~for~~ 392.125 ~~or~~ *or section 10 of this act*, for each school in the district and the district as a whole, including, without limitation, each charter school sponsored by the district.



(c) The transiency rate of pupils for each school in the district and the district as a whole, including, without limitation, each charter school sponsored by the district. For the purposes of this paragraph, a pupil is not transient if the pupil is transferred to a different school within the school district as a result of a change in the zone of attendance by the board of trustees of the school district pursuant to NRS 388.040.

(d) The number of habitual truants reported for each school in the district and for the district as a whole, including, without limitation, the number who are:

(1) Reported to an attendance officer, a school police officer or a local law enforcement agency pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of NRS 392.144;

(2) Referred to an advisory board to review school attendance pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 392.144; and

(3) Referred for the imposition of administrative sanctions pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 2 of NRS 392.144.

2. On or before September 30 of each year:

(a) The board of trustees of each school district shall submit to each advisory board to review school attendance created in the county pursuant to NRS 392.126 the information required by paragraph (a) of subsection 1.

(b) The State Public Charter School Authority and each college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education that sponsors a charter school shall submit to each advisory board to review school attendance created in a county pursuant to NRS 392.126 the information regarding the records of the attendance and truancy of pupils enrolled in the charter school located in that county, if any, in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Department pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 385.347.

Sec. 2. NRS 385.3583 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.3583 The annual report of accountability prepared by the State Board pursuant to NRS 385.3572 must include information on the attendance, truancy and transiency of pupils, including, without limitation:

1. For all elementary schools, junior high schools and middle schools, the rate of attendance, reported for each school district, including, without limitation, each charter school in the district, and for this State as a whole.

2. The number of pupils in each grade who are retained in the same grade pursuant to NRS 392.033, ~~for~~ 392.125 ~~or~~ *or section 10 of this act*, reported for each school district, including, without limitation, each charter school in the district, and for this State as a whole.



3. The transiency rate of pupils, reported for each school district, including, without limitation, each charter school in the district, and for this State as a whole. For the purposes of this subsection, a pupil is not a transient if the pupil is transferred to a different school within the school district as a result of a change in the zone of attendance by the board of trustees of the school district pursuant to NRS 388.040.

4. The number of habitual truants reported for each school district, including, without limitation, each charter school in the district, and for this State as a whole, including, without limitation, the number who are:

(a) Reported to an attendance officer, a school police officer or a local law enforcement agency pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of NRS 392.144;

(b) Referred to an advisory board to review school attendance pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 392.144; and

(c) Referred for the imposition of administrative sanctions pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 2 of NRS 392.144.

Sec. 3. NRS 386.583 is hereby amended to read as follows:

386.583 **1.** The governing body of a charter school shall adopt rules for the academic retention of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school ~~[] that are consistent with sections 8, 10 and 11 of this act.~~ The rules must ~~[prescribe]~~ :

(a) *Prescribe* the conditions under which a pupil may be retained in the same grade rather than promoted to the next higher grade for the immediately succeeding school year.

(b) *Require a pupil enrolled in grade 3 to be retained in the same grade rather than promoted to grade 4 when required pursuant to section 10 of this act.*

2. *On or before September 1 of each year, the governing body of each charter school shall:*

(a) *Prepare a report concerning the number and percentage of pupils at the charter school who were retained in grade 3 pursuant to section 10 of this act for a deficiency in the subject area of reading;*

(b) *Submit a copy of the report to the Department; and*

(c) *Post the report on the Internet website maintained by the charter school and otherwise make the report available to the parents and legal guardians of pupils enrolled in the charter school and the general public.*

Sec. 4. Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 5 and 6 of this act.

Sec. 5. **1.** *The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall prepare a plan to*



1 *improve the literacy of pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades*
2 *1, 2 and 3. Such a plan must include, without limitation:*

3 *(a) A program to provide intensive instruction to pupils who*
4 *have been identified as deficient in the subject area of reading to*
5 *ensure that those pupils achieve adequate proficiency in that*
6 *subject area. Such a program must include, without limitation,*
7 *regularly scheduled reading sessions in small groups and specific*
8 *instruction on phonological and phonemic awareness, decoding*
9 *skills and reading fluency;*

10 *(b) Procedures for assessing a pupil's proficiency in the*
11 *subject area of reading using valid and reliable assessments that*
12 *have been approved by the State Board by regulation:*

13 *(1) Within the first 30 days of school after the pupil enters*
14 *kindergarten or upon enrollment in kindergarten if the pupil*
15 *enrolls after that period; and*

16 *(2) During grades 1, 2 and 3;*

17 *(c) A program to improve the proficiency in reading of pupils*
18 *who are limited English proficient; and*

19 *(d) Procedures for facilitating collaboration between learning*
20 *strategists and classroom teachers.*

21 *2. The board of trustees of each school district or the*
22 *governing body of a charter school, as applicable, shall:*

23 *(a) Submit its plan to the Department for approval on or*
24 *before the date prescribed by the Department on a form prescribed*
25 *by the Department; and*

26 *(b) Make such revisions to the plan as the Department*
27 *determines are necessary.*

28 **Sec. 6.** *1. The principal of a public elementary school,*
29 *including, without limitation, a charter school, shall designate a*
30 *licensed teacher employed by the school who has demonstrated*
31 *leadership abilities to serve as a learning strategist to train and*
32 *assist teachers at the school to provide intensive instruction to*
33 *pupils who have been identified as deficient in the subject area of*
34 *reading.*

35 *2. A school district or charter school may provide additional*
36 *compensation to:*

37 *(a) A licensed teacher designated as a learning strategist*
38 *pursuant to this section; or*

39 *(b) A teacher who is employed by a school district or charter*
40 *school to teach kindergarten or grade 1, 2, 3 or 4 whose overall*
41 *performance is determined to be highly effective under the*
42 *statewide performance evaluation system established by the State*
43 *Board pursuant to NRS 391.465.*

44 *3. Each teacher employed by a school district or charter*
45 *school to teach kindergarten or grade 1, 2, 3 or 4 shall complete*



professional development provided by a learning strategist designated pursuant to subsection 1 in the subject area of reading.

4. The State Board shall prescribe by regulation:

(a) Any training or professional development that a learning strategist is required to successfully complete;

(b) Any professional development that a teacher employed by a school district or charter school to teach kindergarten or grade 1, 2, 3 or 4 is required to receive from a learning strategist in the subject area of reading; and

(c) The duties and responsibilities of a learning strategist.

Sec. 7. Chapter 392 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 8 to 13, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 8. If a pupil enrolled at a public elementary school in kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3 exhibits a deficiency in the subject area of reading based upon state or local assessments or upon the observations of the pupil's teacher, the principal of the school must provide written notice of the deficiency to the parent or legal guardian of the pupil within 30 days after the date on which the deficiency is discovered. The written notice must, without limitation:

1. Identify the educational programs and services that the pupil will receive to improve the pupil's proficiency in the subject area of reading, including, without limitation, the programs and services included in the plan to improve the literacy of pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 that has been approved by the Department pursuant to section 5 of this act;

2. Explain that if the pupil does not achieve adequate proficiency in the subject area of reading before the completion of grade 3, the pupil will be retained in grade 3 rather than promoted to grade 4, unless the pupil receives a good-cause exemption pursuant to section 10 of this act;

3. Describe the strategies which the parent or legal guardian may use at home to help improve the proficiency of the pupil in the subject area of reading;

4. Explain that the criterion-referenced examination in the subject area of reading administered pursuant to NRS 389.550 is not the only factor used to determine whether the pupil will be retained in grade 3 and that other options are available for the pupil to demonstrate proficiency if the pupil is eligible for a good-cause exemption pursuant to section 10 of this act;

5. Describe the policy and specific criteria adopted by the board of trustees of the school district or governing body of a charter school, as applicable, pursuant to section 11 of this act regarding the promotion of a pupil to grade 4 at any time during



1 *the school year if the pupil is retained in grade 3 pursuant to*
2 *section 10 of this act;*

3 *6. Include information regarding the English literacy*
4 *development of a pupil who is limited English proficient; and*

5 *7. Describe the strategies which the parent or legal guardian*
6 *may use at home to help improve the English literacy of a pupil*
7 *who is limited English proficient.*

8 **Sec. 9. 1.** *A public elementary school that has notified the*
9 *parent or legal guardian of a pupil that, based upon the results of*
10 *state or local assessments, it has been determined that the pupil*
11 *has a deficiency in the subject area of reading pursuant to section*
12 *8 of this act shall, within 30 days after providing such notice,*
13 *establish a plan to monitor the progress of the pupil in the subject*
14 *area of reading.*

15 *2. A plan to monitor the progress of a pupil in the subject*
16 *area of reading must be established by the teacher of the pupil and*
17 *any other relevant school personnel and approved by the principal*
18 *of the school and the parent or legal guardian of the pupil. The*
19 *plan must include a description of any intervention services that*
20 *will be provided to the pupil to correct the deficiency and must*
21 *include that the pupil will receive intensive instruction in reading*
22 *to ensure the pupil achieves adequate proficiency in reading. Such*
23 *instruction must include, without limitation, the programs and*
24 *services included in the plan to improve the literacy of pupils*
25 *enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 approved by the*
26 *Department pursuant to section 5 of this act.*

27 *3. A school that establishes a plan to monitor the progress of*
28 *a pupil in the subject area of reading shall assess the proficiency*
29 *of the pupil in the subject area of reading at the beginning of the*
30 *next school year after the plan is established pursuant to this*
31 *section.*

32 **Sec. 10. 1.** *Except as otherwise provided in this section, a*
33 *pupil enrolled in grade 3 must be retained in grade 3 rather than*
34 *promoted to grade 4 if the pupil does not obtain a score in the*
35 *subject area of reading on the criterion-referenced examination*
36 *administered pursuant to NRS 389.550 that meets the passing*
37 *score prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7.*

38 *2. The superintendent of schools of a school district or the*
39 *governing body of a charter school, as applicable, may authorize*
40 *the promotion of a pupil to grade 4 who would otherwise be*
41 *retained in grade 3 only if the superintendent or governing body,*
42 *as applicable, approves a good-cause exemption for the pupil upon*
43 *a determination by the principal of the school pursuant to*
44 *subsection 4 that the pupil is eligible for such an exemption.*



3. A good-cause exemption must be approved for a pupil who previously was retained in grade 3. Any other pupil is eligible for a good-cause exemption if the pupil:

(a) Demonstrates an acceptable level of proficiency in reading on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board;

(b) Demonstrates, through a portfolio of the pupil's work, proficiency in reading at grade level, as evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the academic standards in reading beyond the retention level;

(c) Is limited English proficient and has received less than 2 years of instruction in a program of instruction that teaches English as a second language;

(d) Received intensive remediation in the subject area of reading for 2 or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in kindergarten or grade 1 or 2 for a total of 2 years;

(e) Is a pupil with a disability and his or her individualized education program indicates that the pupil's participation in the criterion-referenced examinations administered pursuant to NRS 389.550 is not appropriate; or

(f) Is a pupil with a disability and:

(1) He or she participates in the criterion-referenced examinations administered pursuant to NRS 389.550;

(2) His or her individualized education program or plan developed in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, documents that the pupil has received intensive remediation in reading for more than 2 years, but he or she still demonstrates a deficiency in reading; and

(3) He or she was previously retained in kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3.

4. The principal of a school in which a pupil who may be retained in grade 3 pursuant to subsection 1 is enrolled shall consider the factors set forth in subsection 3 and determine whether the pupil is eligible for a good-cause exemption. In making the determination, the principal must consider documentation provided by the pupil's teacher indicating whether the promotion of the pupil is appropriate based upon the record of the pupil. Such documentation must only consist of the existing plan for monitoring the progress of the pupil, the pupil's individualized education program, if applicable, and the pupil's plan in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, if applicable. If the principal determines that promotion of the pupil to grade 4 is appropriate, the principal must submit a written recommendation to the superintendent of



1 schools of the school district or to the governing body of the
2 charter school, as applicable. The superintendent of schools or the
3 governing body of the charter school, as applicable, shall approve
4 or deny the recommendation of the principal and provide written
5 notice of the approval or denial to the principal.

6 5. A principal who determines that a pupil is eligible for a
7 good-cause exemption shall notify the parent or legal guardian of
8 the pupil whether the superintendent of schools of the school
9 district or the governing body of the charter school, as applicable,
10 approves the good-cause exemption.

11 6. The principal of a school in which a pupil for whom a
12 good-cause exemption is approved and who is promoted to grade 4
13 must ensure that the pupil continues to receive intensive
14 instruction in the subject area of reading. Such instruction must
15 include, without limitation, strategies based upon scientifically
16 based research that will improve proficiency in the subject area of
17 reading.

18 7. The State Board shall prescribe by regulation:

19 (a) The score which a pupil enrolled in grade 3 must obtain in
20 the subject area of reading on the criterion-referenced
21 examination administered pursuant to NRS 389.550 to be
22 promoted to grade 4 without a good-cause exemption; and

23 (b) An alternate examination for administration to pupils
24 enrolled in grade 3 who do not obtain the passing score in the
25 subject area of reading on the criterion-referenced examination
26 administered pursuant to NRS 389.550 and the passing score such
27 a pupil must obtain on the alternate examination to be promoted
28 to grade 4 without a good-cause exemption.

29 8. As used in this section, “individualized education
30 program” has the meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. §
31 1414(d)(1)(A).

32 **Sec. 11. 1. If a pupil will be retained in grade 3 pursuant to**
33 **section 10 of this act, the principal of the school must:**

34 (a) Provide written notice to the parent or legal guardian of
35 the pupil that the pupil will be retained in grade 3. The written
36 notice must include, without limitation, a description of the
37 intensive instructional services in the subject area of reading that
38 the pupil will receive to improve the proficiency of the pupil in that
39 subject area.

40 (b) Develop a plan to monitor the progress of the pupil in the
41 subject area of reading.

42 (c) Require the teacher of the pupil to develop a portfolio of
43 the pupil’s work in the subject area of reading, which must be
44 updated as necessary to reflect progress made by the pupil.



(d) Ensure that the pupil receives intensive instructional services in the subject area of reading that are designed to improve the pupil's proficiency in the subject area of reading, including, without limitation:

(1) Programs and services included in the plan to improve the literacy of pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 approved by the Department pursuant to section 5 of this act;

(2) Instruction for at least 90 minutes each school day based upon scientifically based reading instruction research; and

(3) Intensive instructional services prescribed by the board of trustees of the school district pursuant to subsection 2, as determined appropriate for the pupil.

2. The board of trustees of each school district or the governing body of a charter school, as applicable, shall:

(a) Review and evaluate the plans for monitoring the progress of pupils developed pursuant to subsection 1.

(b) Prescribe the intensive instructional services in the subject area of reading which the principal of a school must implement as determined appropriate for a pupil who is retained in grade 3 pursuant to section 10 of this act, which may include, without limitation:

(1) Instruction that is provided in small groups;

(2) Instruction provided in classes with reduced pupil-teacher ratios;

(3) A timeline for frequently monitoring the progress of the pupil;

(4) Tutoring and mentoring;

(5) Classes which are designed to increase the ability of pupils to transition from grade 3 to grade 4;

(6) Instruction provided through an extended school day, school week or school year;

(7) Programs to improve a pupil's proficiency in reading which are offered during the summer; or

(8) Any combination of the services set forth in subparagraphs (1) to (7), inclusive.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the intensive instructional services in the subject area of reading required by this section must be provided to the pupil by a teacher:

(a) Who is different than the teacher who provided instructional services to the pupil during the immediately preceding school year; and

(b) Who has been determined to be highly effective, as demonstrated by pupil performance data and performance evaluations.



4. *The intensive instructional services in the subject area of reading required by this section may be provided to the pupil by the same teacher who provided instructional services to the pupil during the immediately preceding school year if a different teacher who meets the requirements of paragraph (b) of subsection 3 is not reasonably available and the pupil:*

(a) *Has an individualized education program; or*

(b) *Is enrolled in a school district in a county whose population is less than 100,000.*

5. *The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of a charter school, as applicable, shall develop a policy by which the principal of a school may promote a pupil who is retained in grade 3 pursuant to section 10 of this act to grade 4 at any time during the school year if the pupil demonstrates adequate proficiency in the subject area of reading. The policy must include the specific criteria a pupil must satisfy to be eligible for promotion, including, without limitation, a reasonable expectation that the pupil's progress will allow him or her to sufficiently master the requirements for a fourth-grade reading level. If a pupil is promoted after November 1 of a school year, he or she must demonstrate proficiency in reading at a level prescribed by the State Board.*

6. *If a principal of a school determines that a pupil is not academically ready for promotion to grade 4 after being retained in grade 3 and the pupil received intensive instructional services pursuant to this section, the school district in which the pupil is enrolled must allow the parent or legal guardian of the pupil to decide, in consultation with the principal of the school, whether to place the pupil in a transitional instructional setting which is designed to produce learning gains sufficient for the pupil to meet the performance standards required for grade 4 while continuing to receive remediation in the subject area of reading.*

7. *As used in this section, "individualized education program" has the meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. § 1414(d)(1)(A).*

Sec. 12. *In addition to the intensive instructional services provided to a pupil who is retained in grade 3 pursuant to section 10 of this act, the principal of the school must offer the parent or legal guardian of the pupil at least one of the following instructional options:*

1. *Supplemental tutoring which is based upon scientifically based research concerning reading instruction;*

2. *Providing the parent or legal guardian with a plan for reading with the pupil at home and participating in any workshops that may be available in the school district to assist the parent or*



guardian with reading with his or her child at home, as set forth in an agreement with the parent or legal guardian; or

3. Providing the pupil with a mentor or tutor who has received specialized training in teaching pupils how to read.

Sec. 13. On or before September 1 of each year, the board of trustees of each school district shall:

1. Prepare a report concerning the number and percentage of pupils at each public school within the school district who were retained in grade 3 pursuant to section 10 of this act for a deficiency in the subject area of reading.

2. Submit a copy of the report to the Department.

3. Post the report on the Internet website maintained by the school district and otherwise make the report available to the parents and legal guardians of pupils enrolled in the school district and the general public.

Sec. 14. NRS 392.125 is hereby amended to read as follows:

392.125 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, before any pupil enrolled in a public school may be retained in the same grade rather than promoted to the next higher grade for the succeeding school year, the pupil's teacher and principal must make a reasonable effort to arrange a meeting and to meet with the pupil's parents or guardian to discuss the reasons and circumstances.

2. ~~[The]~~ Except as otherwise provided in section 10 of this act, the teacher and the principal in joint agreement have the final authority to retain a pupil in the same grade for the succeeding school year.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of NRS 392.033 for the promotion of a pupil to high school, no pupil may be retained more than one time in the same grade.

4. ~~[This]~~ Except as otherwise provided in NRS 386.583, this section does not apply to the academic retention of pupils who are enrolled in a charter school.

Sec. 15. 1. The Department of Education shall distribute the money that is appropriated to the Other State Education Programs Account in the State General Fund to carry out the purposes of sections 1 to 14, inclusive, of this act through a competitive grants program. Grants must be awarded by the Department based on the demonstrated needs of the school districts and charter schools and will be awarded to school districts and to charter schools that have been approved by the State Public Charter School Authority. Grants must be used for literacy programs for pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 established pursuant to section 5 of this act and to support other school-based efforts to ensure that all pupils are proficient in the subject area of reading by the end of the



1 third grade. Such school-based efforts may include, without
2 limitation:

- 3 (a) Hiring or training learning strategists;
- 4 (b) Entering into contracts with vendors for the purchase of
5 reading assessments, textbooks, computer software or other
6 materials;
- 7 (c) Providing professional development for school personnel;
- 8 (d) Providing programs to pupils before and after school and
9 during intercessions or summer school; and
- 10 (e) Providing other evidence-based literacy initiatives for pupils
11 enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3.

12 2. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing
13 body of a charter school that receives a grant of money pursuant to
14 subsection 1 shall:

- 15 (a) Set measurable performance objectives based on aggregated
16 pupil achievement data; and
- 17 (b) Prepare and submit to the Department of Education, on or
18 before July 1, 2016, a report that includes, without limitation:

19 (1) A description of the programs or services for which the
20 money was used by each school; and

21 (2) The number of pupils who participated in a program or
22 received services.

23 3. The Department of Education shall, to the extent that money
24 is available for that purpose, hire an independent consultant to
25 evaluate the programs or services paid for by a grant of
26 money received by a school district or charter school pursuant to
27 subsection 1.

28 4. The Department of Education shall prepare a report that
29 includes, without limitation:

30 (a) Identification of the schools that received an allocation of
31 money by the school district or grant of money from the
32 Department, as applicable;

33 (b) The amount of money received by each school;

34 (c) A description of the programs or services for which the
35 money was used by each school;

36 (d) The number of pupils who participated in a program or
37 received services;

38 (e) The average expenditure per pupil for each program or
39 service;

40 (f) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the program or service,
41 including, without limitation, data regarding the academic and
42 linguistic achievement and proficiency of pupils who participated in
43 such a program or received such services; and

44 (g) Any recommendations for legislation, including, without
45 limitation, legislation to continue or expand programs or services



1 that are identified as effective in improving the reading proficiency
2 of pupils in kindergarten through grade 3.

3 5. On or before August 31, 2016, the Department of Education
4 shall submit a preliminary report prepared pursuant to subsection 4
5 to the State Board of Education and the Legislative Committee on
6 Education. On or before November 15, 2016, the Department shall
7 submit the final report prepared pursuant to subsection 4 and any
8 recommendations made by the State Board or the Legislative
9 Committee on Education to the Governor and to the Director of the
10 Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 79th Session of the
11 Nevada Legislature.

12 6. Any money awarded to a school district or charter school
13 from the money appropriated to the Other State Education Programs
14 Account in the State General Fund pursuant to subsection 1:

15 (a) Must be accounted for separately from any other money
16 received by the school districts or charter school, as applicable, and
17 used only for the purposes specified in this section.

18 (b) May not be used to settle or arbitrate disputes between a
19 recognized organization representing employees of a school district
20 and the school district, or to settle any negotiations.

21 (c) May not be used to adjust the district-wide schedules of
22 salaries and benefits of the employees of a school district.

23 **Sec. 16.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval
24 for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any
25 other preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out the
26 provisions of this act and for all other purposes:

27 1. This section, sections 4 to 9, inclusive, and 15 of this act
28 become effective on July 1, 2015.

29 2. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 10 to 14, inclusive, of this act become
30 effective on July 1, 2019.

