

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

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYMAN ELLIOT ANDERSON

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.



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Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 5 of this bill requires the board of trustees of each school district or the governing body of a charter school to prepare a plan to improve the literacy of pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 and submit the plan to the 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: (1) retained in grade 3 for deficiency in reading, including whether or not a pupil was previously retained in kindergarten or grade 1 or 2; and (2) not retained in grade 3 because a good cause exemption was approved but who were previously retained in kindergarten or grade 1 or 2 for a total of 2 years. **Sections 3 and 13** also require the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of a charter school to submit the report to the Department and 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



1 State. The information required by this subparagraph must be
2 provided in consultation with the Department to ensure the accuracy
3 of the comparison.

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

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

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

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

22 (2) Referred to an advisory board to review school
23 attendance pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS
24 392.144; and

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

27 2. On or before September 30 of each year:

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

32 (b) The State Public Charter School Authority and each college
33 or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education that
34 sponsors a charter school shall submit to each advisory board to
35 review school attendance created in a county pursuant to NRS
36 392.126 the information regarding the records of the attendance and
37 truancy of pupils enrolled in the charter school located in that
38 county, if any, in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the
39 Department pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 385.347.

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

41 385.3583 The annual report of accountability prepared by the
42 State Board pursuant to NRS 385.3572 must include information on
43 the attendance, truancy and transiency of pupils, including, without
44 limitation:



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 386.583 *1.* The governing body of a charter school shall
30 adopt rules for the academic retention of pupils who are enrolled in
31 the charter school ~~that are consistent with sections 8, 10 and 11~~
32 *of this act.* The rules must ~~prescribe~~ :

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

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

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

41 *(a) Prepare a report concerning the number and percentage of*
42 *pupils at the charter school who were:*

43 *(1) Retained in grade 3 pursuant to section 10 of this act*
44 *for a deficiency in the subject area of reading, including whether*



1 *or not any such pupils were previously retained in kindergarten or*
2 *grade 1 or 2; and*

3 *(2) Not retained in grade 3 because a good cause exemption*
4 *was approved pursuant to section 10 of this act but who were*
5 *previously retained in kindergarten or grade 1 or 2 for a total of 2*
6 *years;*

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

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

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

14 **Sec. 5.** 1. *The board of trustees of each school district and*
15 *the governing body of each charter school shall prepare a plan to*
16 *improve the literacy of pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades*
17 *1, 2 and 3. Such a plan must include, without limitation:*

18 *(a) A program to provide intensive instruction to pupils who*
19 *have been identified as deficient in the subject area of reading to*
20 *ensure that those pupils achieve adequate proficiency in that*
21 *subject area. Such a program must include, without limitation,*
22 *regularly scheduled reading sessions in small groups and specific*
23 *instruction on phonological and phonemic awareness, decoding*
24 *skills and reading fluency;*

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

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

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

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

34 *(d) Procedures for facilitating collaboration between learning*
35 *strategists and classroom teachers.*

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

38 *(a) Submit its plan to the Department for approval on or*
39 *before the date prescribed by the Department on a form prescribed*
40 *by the Department; and*

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

43 **Sec. 6.** 1. *The principal of a public elementary school,*
44 *including, without limitation, a charter school, shall designate a*
45 *licensed teacher employed by the school who has demonstrated*



1 *leadership abilities to serve as a learning strategist to train and*
2 *assist teachers at the school to provide intensive instruction to*
3 *pupils who have been identified as deficient in the subject area of*
4 *reading.*

5 2. *A school district or charter school may provide additional*
6 *compensation to:*

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

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

14 3. *Each teacher employed by a school district or charter*
15 *school to teach kindergarten or grade 1, 2, 3 or 4 shall complete*
16 *professional development provided by a learning strategist*
17 *designated pursuant to subsection 1 in the subject area of reading.*

18 4. *The State Board shall prescribe by regulation:*

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

21 (b) *Any professional development that a teacher employed by a*
22 *school district or charter school to teach kindergarten or grade 1,*
23 *2, 3 or 4 is required to receive from a learning strategist in the*
24 *subject area of reading; and*

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

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

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

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

43 2. *Explain that if the pupil does not achieve adequate*
44 *proficiency in the subject area of reading before the completion of*
45 *grade 3, the pupil will be retained in grade 3 rather than promoted*



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1 to grade 4, unless the pupil receives a good-cause exemption
2 pursuant to section 10 of this act;

3 3. Describe, explain and, if appropriate, demonstrate the
4 strategies which the parent or legal guardian may use at home to
5 help improve the proficiency of the pupil in the subject area of
6 reading;

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

13 5. Describe the policy and specific criteria adopted by the
14 board of trustees of the school district or governing body of a
15 charter school, as applicable, pursuant to section 11 of this act
16 regarding the promotion of a pupil to grade 4 at any time during
17 the school year if the pupil is retained in grade 3 pursuant to
18 section 10 of this act;

19 6. Include information regarding the English literacy
20 development of a pupil who is limited English proficient; and

21 7. Describe, explain and, if appropriate, demonstrate the
22 strategies which the parent or legal guardian may use at home to
23 help improve the English literacy of a pupil who is limited English
24 proficient.

25 **Sec. 9.** 1. A public elementary school that has notified the
26 parent or legal guardian of a pupil that, based upon the results of
27 state or local assessments, it has been determined that the pupil
28 has a deficiency in the subject area of reading pursuant to section
29 8 of this act shall, within 30 days after providing such notice,
30 establish a plan to monitor the progress of the pupil in the subject
31 area of reading.

32 2. A plan to monitor the progress of a pupil in the subject
33 area of reading must be established by the teacher of the pupil and
34 any other relevant school personnel and approved by the principal
35 of the school and the parent or legal guardian of the pupil. The
36 plan must include a description of any intervention services that
37 will be provided to the pupil to correct the deficiency and must
38 include that the pupil will receive intensive instruction in reading
39 to ensure the pupil achieves adequate proficiency in reading. Such
40 instruction must include, without limitation, the programs and
41 services included in the plan to improve the literacy of pupils
42 enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 approved by the
43 Department pursuant to section 5 of this act.

44 3. A school that establishes a plan to monitor the progress of
45 a pupil in the subject area of reading shall assess the proficiency



1 of the pupil in the subject area of reading at the beginning of the
2 next school year after the plan is established pursuant to this
3 section.

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

10 2. The superintendent of schools of a school district or the
11 governing body of a charter school, as applicable, may authorize
12 the promotion of a pupil to grade 4 who would otherwise be
13 retained in grade 3 only if the superintendent or governing body,
14 as applicable, approves a good-cause exemption for the pupil upon
15 a determination by the principal of the school pursuant to
16 subsection 4 that the pupil is eligible for such an exemption.

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

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

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

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

30 (d) Received intensive remediation in the subject area of
31 reading for 2 or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency in
32 reading and was previously retained in kindergarten or grade 1 or
33 2 for a total of 2 years;

34 (e) Is a pupil with a disability and his or her individualized
35 education program indicates that the pupil's participation in the
36 criterion-referenced examinations administered pursuant to NRS
37 389.550 is not appropriate; or

38 (f) Is a pupil with a disability and:

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

41 (2) His or her individualized education program or plan
42 developed in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
43 of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, documents that the pupil has received
44 intensive remediation in reading for more than 2 years, but he or
45 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 schools of the school district or to the governing body of the charter school, as applicable. The superintendent of schools or the governing body of the charter school, as applicable, shall approve or deny the recommendation of the principal and provide written notice of the approval or denial to the principal.

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

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

7. The State Board shall prescribe by regulation:

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

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



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

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

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

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

(c) Require the teacher of the pupil to develop a portfolio of the pupil's work in the subject area of reading, which must be 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*



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1 *the performance standards required for grade 4 while continuing*
2 *to receive remediation in the subject area of reading.*

3 7. As used in this section, "individualized education
4 program" has the meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. §
5 1414(d)(1)(A).

6 **Sec. 12.** *In addition to the intensive instructional services*
7 *provided to a pupil who is retained in grade 3 pursuant to section*
8 *10 of this act, the principal of the school must offer the parent or*
9 *legal guardian of the pupil at least one of the following*
10 *instructional options:*

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

13 2. *Providing the parent or legal guardian with a plan for*
14 *reading with the pupil at home and participating in any workshops*
15 *that may be available in the school district to assist the parent or*
16 *guardian with reading with his or her child at home, as set forth in*
17 *an agreement with the parent or legal guardian; or*

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

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

22 1. *Prepare a report concerning the number and percentage of*
23 *pupils at each public school within the school district who were:*

24 (a) *Retained in grade 3 pursuant to section 10 of this act for a*
25 *deficiency in the subject area of reading, including whether or not*
26 *any such pupils were previously retained in kindergarten or grade*
27 *1 or 2; and*

28 (b) *Not retained in grade 3 because a good cause exemption*
29 *was approved pursuant to section 10 of this act but who were*
30 *previously retained in kindergarten or grade 1 or 2 for a total of 2*
31 *years.*

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

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

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

38 392.125 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4,
39 before any pupil enrolled in a public school may be retained in the
40 same grade rather than promoted to the next higher grade for the
41 succeeding school year, the pupil's teacher and principal must make
42 a reasonable effort to arrange a meeting and to meet with the pupil's
43 parents or guardian to discuss the reasons and circumstances.

44 2. ~~The~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 10 of this*
45 *act, the* teacher and the principal in joint agreement have the final



1 authority to retain a pupil in the same grade for the succeeding
2 school year.

3 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of NRS
4 392.033 for the promotion of a pupil to high school, no pupil may
5 be retained more than one time in the same grade.

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

9 **Sec. 15.** 1. The Department of Education shall distribute the
10 money that is appropriated to the Other State Education Programs
11 Account in the State General Fund to carry out the purposes of
12 sections 1 to 14, inclusive, of this act through a competitive grants
13 program. Grants must be awarded by the Department based on the
14 demonstrated needs of the school districts and charter schools and
15 will be awarded to school districts and to charter schools that have
16 been approved by the State Public Charter School Authority. Grants
17 must be used for literacy programs for pupils enrolled in
18 kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3 established pursuant to section 5
19 of this act and to support other school-based efforts to ensure that all
20 pupils are proficient in the subject area of reading by the end of the
21 third grade. Such school-based efforts may include, without
22 limitation:

23 (a) Hiring or training learning strategists;

24 (b) Entering into contracts with vendors for the purchase of
25 reading assessments, textbooks, computer software or other
26 materials;

27 (c) Providing professional development for school personnel;

28 (d) Providing programs to pupils before and after school and
29 during intercessions or summer school; and

30 (e) Providing other evidence-based literacy initiatives for pupils
31 enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3.

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

35 (a) Set measurable performance objectives based on aggregated
36 pupil achievement data; and

37 (b) Prepare and submit to the Department of Education, on or
38 before July 1, 2016, a report that includes, without limitation:

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

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

43 3. The Department of Education shall, to the extent that money
44 is available for that purpose, hire an independent consultant to
45 evaluate the programs or services paid for by a grant of



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1 money received by a school district or charter school pursuant to
2 subsection 1.

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

5 (a) Identification of the schools that received an allocation of
6 money by the school district or grant of money from the
7 Department, as applicable;

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

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

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

13 (e) The average expenditure per pupil for each program or
14 service;

15 (f) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the program or service,
16 including, without limitation, data regarding the academic and
17 linguistic achievement and proficiency of pupils who participated in
18 such a program or received such services; and

19 (g) Any recommendations for legislation, including, without
20 limitation, legislation to continue or expand programs or services
21 that are identified as effective in improving the reading proficiency
22 of pupils in kindergarten through grade 3.

23 5. On or before August 31, 2016, the Department of Education
24 shall submit a preliminary report prepared pursuant to subsection 4
25 to the State Board of Education and the Legislative Committee on
26 Education. On or before November 15, 2016, the Department shall
27 submit the final report prepared pursuant to subsection 4 and any
28 recommendations made by the State Board or the Legislative
29 Committee on Education to the Governor and to the Director of the
30 Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 79th Session of the
31 Nevada Legislature.

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

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

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

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

43 **Sec. 16.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval
44 for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any



- 1 other preparatory administrative tasks necessary to carry out the
2 provisions of this act and for all other purposes:
3 1. This section, sections 4 to 9, inclusive, and 15 of this act
4 become effective on July 1, 2015.
5 2. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 10 to 14, inclusive, of this act become
6 effective on July 1, 2019.

