



HB 352 Rep. Brad Barker

Provide targeted interventions to support 3rd grade reading proficiency

Chapter: 608

Effective Date: Sec. 5-7 July 1, 2024, all remaining Sec. July 1, 2023

HB 352 amends sections 20-5-101, 20-7-117, and 20-9-311, MCA. The first purpose of this legislation is to provide parents with a voluntary early literacy interventions program that would increase the number of children who are reading proficient at the end of third grade. HB 352 establishes an Early Literacy Targeted Intervention program beginning July 1, 2024, with an appropriation of \$1.5 million for FY 2025. The funding appropriated must be used for per-student costs of the home-based early literacy program created in the bill. HB 352 directs the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and school district trustees to implement and achieve the purposes of this bill by July 1, 2024. These entities are directed to collect, analyze, and report outcomes on an ongoing basis providing continual refining of interventions to increase efficacy and efficiency of each intervention. HB 352 identifies early literacy targeted intervention to mean any of the following:

- a classroom-based early literacy program
- a home-based literacy program, or
- an early literacy jumpstart program

Early literacy interventions are defined in the bill allowing that a school district may provide eligible children with any of the interventions described in HB 352. Funding for the early literacy targeted interventions is defined in the bill as follows:

- An eligible child participating in a classroom-based program must be counted in the enrollment count used for calculating ANB per 20-9-311, MCA.
- An eligible child participating in a home-based program as defined in the bill may receive not more than \$1,000 per year. If the appropriated funding is not sufficient to fund all children participating in the home-based program in any year, the superintendent is to limit participation on a first-come, first-served basis.
- An eligible child participating in a jumpstart program would be counted as quarter-time enrollment in the calculation of ANB per 20-9-311, MCA, for participation in the jumpstart program. This could mean this child could be counted as up to 1.25 in the enrollment count for ANB purposes if the child was also enrolled in school.

HB 352 directs schools offering an early literacy targeted intervention program to closely monitor and work in collaboration with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and report annually to OPI the efficacy of the program no later than July 15. The superintendent is to report annually to the Interim Budget Committee no later than September 1. A second purpose of this legislation is to clarify both exceptional circumstances and kindergarten and preschool eligibility. Exceptional circumstances are defined in this bill where current law has not had a definition. Section 6, 20-7-117, MCA, currently describes kindergarten and preschool programs. This bill deletes language allowing trustees to include children who have been “enrolled by special permission” and redefines the allowance to include children who have been “admitted through the exceptional circumstances provisions un 20-5-101”, MCA, which is newly defined in this bill. A kindergarten program is defined to mean a half-time or full-time 1-year program immediately preceding a child’s entry into 1st grade with curriculum and instruction selected by the Board of Trustees and aligned to the content standards established by the Board of Public Education. A preschool program is defined to mean a half-time or full-time program to prepare children for entry into kindergarten and governed by standards adopted by the Board of Public Education

