

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1145

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 18, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1812, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING AN EARLY LITERACY READINESS PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 18, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1812, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1812. EARLY LITERACY READINESS PROGRAM. (1) Each school district and public charter school may establish an early literacy readiness program to ensure that students entering kindergarten are prepared to develop the literacy skills needed for future learning. The program shall support students in achieving the goal of reading at or above grade level by the end of grade 3 and assist students in achieving growth and proficiency on the statewide literacy assessment.

(2) The program shall be available to students four (4) and five (5) years of age who reside within school district boundaries.

(3) The program shall be age-appropriate, evidence-based, and aligned with the science of reading. The focus of the program shall be developing foundational reading skills, including, at a minimum, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension.

(4) The program shall include a parental involvement and engagement component that allows parents to participate in the student's learning at school or at home.

(5) School districts and public charter schools may use existing literacy intervention funds received pursuant to section 33-1002(2)(r), Idaho Code. The reporting requirements under section 33-1807(6), Idaho Code, shall apply to this program.

(6) The state board of education or its designee shall annually evaluate the cost and efficacy of early literacy readiness programs established throughout Idaho pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after July 1, 2025.