

By Senator Bullard

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public school student
progression; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.;
revising provisions relating to mandatory
retention; providing for mandatory retention at
the end of grade 4 based on reading deficiency
demonstrated on statewide assessment testing
and teacher observation; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1008.25, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.25 Public school student progression; remedial
instruction; reporting requirements.--

(5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.--

(a) It is the ultimate goal of the Legislature that
every student read at or above grade level. Any student who
exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading, based upon
locally determined or statewide assessments conducted in
kindergarten or grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3, or through
teacher observations, must be given intensive reading
instruction immediately following the identification of the
reading deficiency. The student's reading proficiency must be
reassessed by locally determined assessments or through
teacher observations at the beginning of the grade following
the intensive reading instruction. The student must continue
to be provided with intensive reading instruction until the
reading deficiency is remedied.

1 (b) Beginning with the 2004-2005 ~~2002-2003~~ school
2 year, if the student's reading deficiency, as identified in
3 paragraph (a), is not remedied by the end of grade 4 ~~3~~, as
4 demonstrated by statewide assessment testing in reading and by
5 teacher observation of a deficiency in reading ~~scoring at~~
6 ~~Level 2 or higher on the statewide assessment test in reading~~
7 ~~for grade 3~~, the student must be retained.

8 (c) Beginning with the 2004-2005 ~~2002-2003~~ school
9 year, the parent of any student who exhibits a substantial
10 deficiency in reading, as described in paragraph (a), must be
11 notified in writing of the following:

12 1. That his or her child has been identified as having
13 a substantial deficiency in reading.

14 2. A description of the current services that are
15 provided to the child.

16 3. A description of the proposed supplemental
17 instructional services and supports that will be provided to
18 the child that are designed to remediate the identified area
19 of reading deficiency.

20 4. That if the child's reading deficiency is not
21 remediated by the end of grade 4 ~~3~~, the child must be retained
22 unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good
23 cause.

24 5. Strategies for parents to use in helping their
25 child succeed in reading proficiency.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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29 SENATE SUMMARY

30 Provides for the mandatory retention of students at the
31 end of grade 4 based on reading deficiency demonstrated
on statewide assessment testing and teacher observation.