



1999 SENATE BILL 390

February 16, 2000 - Introduced by Senators SHIBILSKI, GROBSCHMIDT, ERPENBACH, PLACHE and SCHULTZ, cosponsored by Representatives OLSEN, OTT, HEBL, HASENOHRL, RICHARDS, KREUSER, YOUNG, RYBA, MILLER, BERCEAU and LASSA. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.255 (2) (dp), 20.255 (2) (dr), 115.455 and 118.015 (2m) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** creating a classroom book collections grant program and
3 reading specialists grant program, granting rule-making authority and
4 making appropriations.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a grant program for classroom book collections administered by the department of public instruction (DPI). Under the bill, a school board may apply for a grant on behalf of a school in the school district if no more than 50% of the school's pupils scored at the proficient level or above on the third grade reading examination in the previous school year. Each grant applicant must specify on the grant application how it proposes to use the grant to change reading instruction and how these changes are designed to improve pupils' reading ability. DPI must award each eligible school board a grant equal to \$500 multiplied by the number of kindergarten to grade three classrooms in the school.

Current law requires each school board to hire a DPI-certified reading specialist to develop and coordinate a comprehensive reading curriculum for grades kindergarten to 12. This bill creates a reading specialists grant program under which a school district may receive a grant equal to 50% of the cost in the prior school year of the average starting salary of a reading specialist if at least 10% of the pupils enrolled in a school in the school district failed in the previous school year to score at the basic level or above on the third grade reading examination and the school board either hires an additional reading specialist, or, if the school board already

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1 on behalf of a school in the school district if no more than 50% of the pupils enrolled
2 in the school who took the examination under s. 121.02 (1) (r) in the previous school
3 year received a score of proficient or higher. Each grant applicant shall describe in
4 its application how it proposes to use grant moneys under this section to change
5 reading instruction and how these changes are designed to improve pupils' reading
6 ability.

7 (2) From the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (dp), the department shall
8 award grants to eligible school districts in an amount equal to \$500 multiplied by the
9 number of kindergarten to grade 3 classrooms in the school under sub. (1). If the
10 amount appropriated under s. 20.255 (2) (dp) is insufficient, the department shall
11 prorate the amount appropriated among the eligible school districts.

12 (3) The department shall promulgate rules to implement and administer this
13 section.

14 **SECTION 5.** 118.015 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

15 118.015 (2m) GRANT PROGRAM. (a) A school board may apply to the department
16 for an annual grant equal to 50% of the cost in the prior school year of the average
17 statewide starting salary, including benefits, of a reading specialist, as determined
18 by the department, if at least 10% of the pupils enrolled in a school in the school
19 district who took the examination under s. 121.02 (1) (r) in the previous school year
20 failed to receive a score of basic or higher and if the school district enters into an
21 employment contract of at least one year with an additional reading specialist.

22 (b) A school board that receives a grant under this subsection shall ensure that
23 at least one reading specialist serves only pupils enrolled in grades kindergarten to
24 3.

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1 (c) The department shall reimburse school districts under this subsection from
2 the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (dr). If the amount appropriated under s.
3 20.255 (2) (dr) is insufficient, the department shall prorate the amount appropriated
4 among the eligible school districts.

5 (d) The department shall promulgate rules to implement and administer this
6 subsection.

SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.

7
8 (1) Notwithstanding section 118.015 (2m) (a) of the statutes, as created by this
9 act, a school district is eligible for a grant under section 118.015 (2m) of the statutes,
10 as created by this act, in the 2000–01 school year if the school district employed more
11 than one reading specialist before the effective date of this subsection, and if the term
12 of the employment contract of each reading specialist under this subsection extends
13 until at least June 30, 2001. A school district is not eligible for a grant under this
14 subsection if it receives a grant in the 2000–01 school year under section 118.015 (2m)
15 of the statutes, as created by this act.

SECTION 7. Effective date.

16
17 (1) This act takes effect on July 1, 2000.

18 (END)