

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 862

Introduced by Prokop, 27.

Read first time January 08, 2026

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act; to
- 2 amend section 79-2607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to
- 3 change provisions relating to intent regarding appropriations; and
- 4 to repeal the original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 79-2607, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 79-2607 (1) For purposes of this section:

4 (a) Evidence-based reading instruction means instruction in reading
5 that is in alignment with scientifically based reading research and does
6 not include the three-cueing system model of reading instruction; and

7 (b) Three-cueing system model of reading instruction is an approach
8 to foundational skills instruction that involves the use of three
9 different types of instructional cues which include semantic, syntactic,
10 and graphophonic.

11 (2)(a) The State Department of Education shall develop and implement
12 a professional learning system to help provide sustained professional
13 learning and training regarding evidence-based reading instruction for
14 teachers who teach children from four years of age through third grade at
15 an approved or accredited school and teachers employed by an early
16 childhood education program approved by the State Board of Education. The
17 professional learning system shall include information and tips for
18 teachers related to helping children and families work with local family
19 literacy centers to strengthen home and family literacy programs and
20 better instruct children in reading.

21 (b) Approved or accredited elementary schools and early childhood
22 education programs approved by the State Board of Education shall ensure
23 that teachers who teach children from four years of age through third
24 grade are aware of the professional learning system and are adequately
25 trained regarding evidence-based reading instruction to effectively
26 instruct students in reading.

27 (3) The State Department of Education shall work with educational
28 service units to provide regional coaches to approved or accredited
29 elementary schools to provide assistance and job-embedded training
30 relating to evidence-based reading instruction to teachers who teach
31 students in kindergarten through third grade.

1 (4) On or before September 30 of each year, the Commissioner of
2 Education shall file a report electronically with the Clerk of the
3 Legislature relating to the status and use of the professional learning
4 system implemented pursuant to this section.

5 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two million
6 dollars from the Education Future Fund for each fiscal year beginning
7 with fiscal year 2024-25 through fiscal year 2029-30 ~~2026-27~~ to the State
8 Department of Education to provide regional coaches and job-embedded
9 training relating to evidence-based reading instruction pursuant to
10 subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

11 (6) The State Department of Education may provide technical
12 assistance as needed to assist school boards in carrying out the Nebraska
13 Reading Improvement Act.

14 (7) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
15 carry out the act.

16 **Sec. 2.** Original section 79-2607, Reissue Revised Statutes of
17 Nebraska, is repealed.