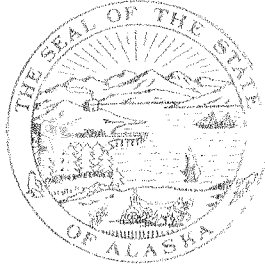


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***SPONSOR STATEMENT***

**SENATE BILL 107**

Version: 28-LS0916/A  
January 28, 2014

*"An Act relating to school and school district accountability; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; and establishing a reading program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three."*

Senate Bill 107 seeks to improve our efforts at the state, district and school level of fostering every K-3 student's reading skills. SB 107 makes school districts accountable for identifying and responding to children in grades K-3 having deficient reading skills. It requires the state department of education and early development to implement reading assessments, instructional practices and staff development programs to help give K-3 teachers more tools with which to improve K-3 student reading skills. It requires school districts to establish targeted reading programs for students identified as having reading deficiencies, including for example, improved parental involvement, supplemental instruction, development of a customized student reading plan to be applied until the student demonstrates grade-level reading proficiency. The bill also provides for potential intervention and grade retention if parents fail to collaborate with their school in improving their child's reading competency.

There is a growing trend among states recognizing the need for early identification, intervention, and retention strategies for young students struggling with reading proficiency by the third grade. In the context of college and career readiness, resources are being used for remediation in reading, writing, and math. Meanwhile, there is evidence indicating we have a systemic problem in our education system that begins early in a child's educational career.

SB 107 is an effort to focus attention on K-3 students' reading skills, helping to ensure they have reading competency by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.