

1 H.669

2 Introduced by Representative Webb of Shelburne

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; evidence-based structured literacy instruction;

6 kindergarten–grade 3

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
8 kindergarten–grade 3 students in public schools receive evidence-based
9 structured literacy instruction, that the Vermont Standards Board of
10 Professional Educators evaluate the syllabi and coursework of kindergarten–
11 grade 3 teacher preparation programs to ensure the inclusion of evidence-based
12 structured literacy instruction, that the Agency of Education evaluate the
13 effectiveness of literacy instruction for students in kindergarten–grade 3, and
14 that the State Board of Education establish a common kindergarten readiness
15 standard to ensure alignment with kindergarten–grade 3 instruction.

16 An act relating to evidence-based structured literacy instruction for students
17 in kindergarten–grade 3

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. chapter 1, subchapter 10 is added to read:

3 Subchapter 10. Evidence-Based Structured Literacy Instruction;

4 Kindergarten–Grade 3

5 § 141. EVIDENCE-BASED STRUCTURED LITERACY INSTRUCTION;

6 KINDERGARTEN–GRADE 3

7 (a) Definition. As used in this section, “evidence-based structured literacy
8 instruction” means evidence-based, specialized reading, writing, and spelling
9 instruction that is multisensory in nature, equipping students to simultaneously
10 use multiple senses, including vision, hearing, touch, and movement, to teach
11 word identification and decoding strategies. Evidence-based methods of
12 instruction employ direct instruction of systematic and cumulative objectives,
13 with the sequence beginning with the student’s easiest and most basic elements
14 and progressing methodically to more difficult material, as indicated by
15 systematic progress monitoring. Each step is built on those steps previously
16 learned. Components of evidence-based methods of instruction include
17 instruction targeting phonological awareness, sound-symbol association,
18 syllable structure, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

19 (b) Evidence-based structured literacy instruction. Evidence-based
20 structured literacy instruction shall be included as a component of the literacy
21 instructional method for public school students in kindergarten–grade 3.

1 Sec. 2. EVALUATION OF TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND
2 LITERACY INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS;
3 KINDERGARTEN–GRADE 3

4 (a) The Vermont Standards Board of Professional Educators shall evaluate
5 the syllabi and coursework of kindergarten–grade 3 teacher preparation
6 programs to ensure the inclusion of evidence-based structured literacy
7 instruction. The evaluation shall include any recommendations for changes to
8 kindergarten–grade 3 teacher licensure requirements.

9 (b) The Agency of Education shall evaluate the effectiveness of literacy
10 instruction for students in kindergarten–grade 3.

11 (c) On or before December 1, 2020, the Vermont Standards Board of
12 Professional Educators and the Agency of Education shall jointly report their
13 findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on
14 Education.

15 (d) On or before December 31, 2020, the State Board of Education shall
16 establish a common kindergarten readiness standard to ensure alignment with
17 kindergarten through grade 3 instruction.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

19 Sec. 2 and this section shall take effect on passage. Sec. 1 shall take effect
20 on July 1, 2021.