

TO: Senator Bongartz, Chair, and Senator Weeks, Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee  
FROM: Cynthia Gardner-Morse  
CC: Senator Hashim, Senator Heffernan, Senator Hinsdale, Senator Gulick  
Mr. Slattery, Committee Assistant

**RE: S.15 and Restoring Language to Support Supplementary Reading Instruction in Grades K-12**

31 March 2025

Dear Senator Bongartz, Chair, Senator Weeks, Vice Chair, and Senate Education Committee Members,

Thank you for considering a minor correction to 16 V.S.A. § 2903 PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL FAILURE; READING INSTRUCTION.

A correction is currently being considered by the Senate Education Committee. Please note that the Advisory Council on Literacy's [December, 2021 Report to the House and Senate Committees on Education](#) supports this correction to 16 V.S.A. § 2903 in (b).2.(c)

The recommendation on p. 3 states:

**“Expand supplemental reading instruction to learners who need it in any grade, not just after grade 4.”**

Additional comments about this recommended change are on p. 9 of this report.

Literacy leaders Gwendolyn Carmolli, Dorinne Dorfman, Cynthia Gardner-Morse, and Jay Nichols collaborated in March, 2025 and recommend **this corrective language**:

“In addition, public schools and approved independent schools that are eligible to receive public tuition for students in grades K-12 shall provide supplemental reading instruction to any enrolled student whose reading proficiency falls significantly below proficiency standards for the student’s grade level or whose reading proficiency prevents progress in school. Schools shall provide support and information to the parents and legal guardians. “

Please clarify that supplemental reading instruction is to include learners who need supplemental reading support in any grade in 16 V.S.A. § 2903 PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL FAILURE; READING INSTRUCTION

Thank you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Gardner-Morse, M.Ed.  
Calais, Vermont  
[teach.vt2read@gmail.com](mailto:teach.vt2read@gmail.com)