

SB168 ENROLLED



1 SB168
2 ZQF2TKR-2
3 By Senator Chesteen
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 15-Jan-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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3 Relating to public K-12 education; to prohibit the use
4 of the three-cueing system of educational instruction in the
5 curriculum.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

7 Section 1. It is the intent of this Legislature to
8 require public K-12 schools to ensure that certain textbooks
9 and instructional materials are not used in reading
10 instruction; to provide for related matters concerning
11 practices, interventions, and curricula that are based on the
12 science of reading; and to prohibit the use of curricula that
13 employ the three-cueing system model of teaching students to
14 read. It shall additionally be the intent of this body to
15 establish criteria for core curricula, interventions,
16 instructional materials, and supplemental materials for each
17 educator preparation program.

18 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following
19 terms have the following meanings:

20 (1) BOARD. The State Board of Education.

21 (2) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

22 (3) EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM. Any state-approved
23 program that prepares an individual for licensure as an
24 elementary teacher, school leader, or other school personnel,
25 including state-approved alternative teacher education
26 preparation organizations.

27 (4) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. The core curricular
28 programs and materials, intervention programs and materials,



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29 instructional programs, supplemental programs and materials,
30 textbooks, texts, lessons, and sequence of planned experiences
31 delivered to all students to achieve grade-level state
32 standards.

33 (5) SCIENCE OF READING. The large body of evidence that
34 informs how proficient reading and writing develop; why some
35 students have difficulty; and how to most effectively assess
36 and teach, therefore improving student outcomes through
37 prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties.

38 (6) THREE-CUEING SYSTEM. Any model of teaching students
39 to read based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual
40 cues, which may also be known as MSV.

41 Section 3. (a) All reading instructional materials
42 approved for use in Alabama schools, whether through the
43 textbook law or a local textbook review process as provided in
44 Chapter 36 of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975; the Alabama
45 Literacy Act as provided in Chapter 6G of Title 16, Code of
46 Alabama 1975; or other vetting or selection process, shall use
47 structured literacy strategies for teaching word reading and
48 phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional
49 strategies may not employ the three-cueing system model of
50 reading or visual memory as a basis for teaching word reading.
51 The instruction may include visual information and strategies
52 that improve background and experiential knowledge, add
53 context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to support
54 comprehension, but may not be used to teach word reading. This
55 prohibition is specific to the teaching of foundational
56 reading skills and should not be construed to impact the



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57 teaching of background knowledge and vocabulary as connected
58 to the language comprehension side of Scarborough's Reading
59 Rope.

60 (b) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, if the
61 board determines that a local board of education has violated
62 subsection (a), the board shall notify the local board of
63 education, the Legislature, and the public of that violation.

64 (c) The board shall adopt rules pursuant to this act to
65 establish criteria for any materials used to prepare teacher
66 candidates to teach reading, including course textbooks, for
67 each educator preparation program. The rules shall require
68 instructional strategies that are scientifically researched
69 and evidence-based reading instructional strategies that
70 improve reading performance for all students, including
71 explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching
72 oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary,
73 fluency, text comprehension, writing that includes encoding,
74 and multisensory strategies. Instructional strategies shall
75 not include visual memory, in lieu of teaching decoding, for
76 teaching word recognition, nor the three-cueing system model
77 of reading. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, these
78 requirements shall be included in the approval process for
79 educator preparation programs. If the board determines that an
80 educator preparation program has violated this section, the
81 board shall notify the educator preparation program, the
82 Legislature, and the public.

83 Section 4. (a) (1) A local board of education shall not
84 use instructional materials as defined in this act for



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85 students in any grade kindergarten through 12 which use either
86 of the following:

87 a. The three-cueing system model of teaching students
88 to read.

89 b. Visual memory for teaching word recognition.

90 (2) The instruction may include visual information and
91 strategies which improve background knowledge and experiential
92 knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and
93 vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to
94 teach word recognition.

95 (b) Each public school shall do all of the following:

96 (1) Ensure that instructional materials used to teach
97 students to read are high quality and based on literacy
98 strategies that are scientifically researched with proven
99 results in teaching phonological awareness, letter formation,
100 phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

101 (2) Ensure that no instructional materials that employ
102 the three-cueing system model of teaching students to read or
103 visual memory for teaching word recognition are used in
104 reading instruction.

105 Section 5. This act shall become effective June 1,
106 2026.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB168
Senate 22-Jan-26
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed
the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 26-Feb-26

By: Senator Chesteen