

SB168 INTRODUCED



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



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7 SYNOPSIS:

8 This bill would prohibit the use of the
9 three-cueing system of educational instruction as a
10 method of teaching reading in the public K-12 education
11 curriculum.

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14 A BILL
15 TO BE ENTITLED
16 AN ACT
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18 Relating to public K-12 education; to prohibit the use
19 of the three-cueing system of educational instruction in the
20 curriculum.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22 Section 1. It is the intent of this Legislature to
23 require public K-12 schools to ensure that certain textbooks
24 and instructional materials are not used in reading
25 instruction; to provide for related matters concerning
26 practices, interventions, and curricula that are based on the
27 science of reading; and to prohibit the use of curricula that
28 employ the three-cueing system model of teaching students to



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read. It shall additionally be the intent of this body to establish criteria for core curricula, interventions, instructional materials, and supplemental materials for each educator preparation program.

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

(1) BOARD. The State Board of Education.

(2) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

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

(4) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. The core curricular programs and materials, intervention programs and materials, instructional programs, supplemental programs and materials, textbooks, texts, lessons, and sequence of planned experiences delivered to all students to achieve grade-level state standards.

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

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

Section 3. (a) All reading instructional materials



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approved for use in Alabama schools, whether through the textbook law or a local textbook review process as provided in Chapter 36 of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975; the Alabama Literacy Act as provided in Chapter 6G of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975; or other vetting or selection process, shall use structured literacy strategies for teaching word reading and phonics instruction for decoding and encoding. Instructional strategies may not employ the three-cueing system model of reading or visual memory as a basis for teaching word reading. The instruction may include visual information and strategies that improve background and experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to support comprehension, but may not be used to teach word reading. This prohibition is specific to the teaching of foundational reading skills and should not be construed to impact the teaching of background knowledge and vocabulary as connected to the language comprehension side of Scarborough's Reading Rope.

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

(c) The board shall adopt rules pursuant to this act to establish criteria for any materials used to prepare teacher candidates to teach reading, including course textbooks, for each educator preparation program. The rules shall require instructional strategies that are scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies that



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improve reading performance for all students, including explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, text comprehension, writing that includes encoding, and multisensory strategies. Instructional strategies shall not include visual memory, in lieu of teaching decoding, for teaching word recognition, nor the three-cueing system model of reading. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, these requirements shall be included in the approval process for educator preparation programs. If the board determines that an educator preparation program has violated this section, the board shall notify the educator preparation program, the Legislature, and the public.

Section 4. (a)(1) A local board of education shall not use instructional materials as defined in this act for students in any grade kindergarten through 12 which use either of the following:

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

b. Visual memory for teaching word recognition.

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

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

(1) Ensure that instructional materials used to teach students to read are high quality and based on literacy



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113 strategies that are scientifically researched with proven
114 results in teaching phonological awareness, letter formation,
115 phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

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

120 Section 5. This act shall become effective June 1,
121 2026.