1	AMENDMENT 2D - FOR 4/24/13 SENATE K-12
2	proposes the following Amendment No. 2D to
4 5	S.516
6	Reference is to the bill as introduced.
8	Amend the bill, as and if amended, by deleting all after
9	the enacting words and inserting:
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12	(GEOTION 1 T': 1 50 Ctl 1077 Ctl 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
13 14	/SECTION 1. Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:
15	"CHAPTER 155
16	CHA IER 133
17	South Carolina Read to Succeed Act
18	
19	Section 59-155-110. South Carolina will implement a
20	comprehensive, systemic approach to reading which will ensure
21	that:
22 23	(1) classroom teachers, using text-based assessment measures that inform curriculum and instruction, provide students access to
24	diverse text and ample time to read those texts, develop curriculum
25	and provide instruction which will ensure that all students can
26	comprehend grade-appropriate texts;
27	(2) classroom teachers periodically reassess their curriculum,
28	instruction, and engagement of students with text to determine if
29	they are helping each student progress as a proficient reader and a
30	proficient writer and make modifications as appropriate;
31	(3) each student who cannot yet comprehend grade-appropriate
32 33	texts is identified as early as possible and at all stages of his or her educational process;
34	(4) each student receives targeted, effective skills and
35	comprehension support from the classroom teacher and, if needed,
36	supplemental support from a reading interventionist so that
37	ultimately all students can comprehend grade-appropriate texts;
38	(5) each student reading significantly below grade level and his
39	parent or guardian are continuously informed in writing of:
40	(a) the student's reading proficiency needs, progress, and
41	ability to comprehend and write grade-appropriate text;

- (b) specific actions the classroom teacher and other reading professionals have taken and will take to help the student comprehend and write grade-appropriate text; and
- (c) specific actions that the parent or guardian can take to 5 help the student comprehend and write grade-appropriate text by providing access to books, assuring time for the student to read independently, reading to the student, and talking with the student about books and the student's writing:
  - (6) all classroom teachers receive preservice and in-service coursework which prepares them to help all students comprehend and write grade-appropriate text;
  - (7) classroom teachers are encouraged to obtain Literacy Teacher add-on endorsement that will assist teachers in enabling all students to become proficient in reading across content areas and grades;
  - (8) all students develop reading and writing proficiency preparing them to graduate and to succeed in post-secondary education and careers; and
  - (9) each school district and each school develops and publishes annually a comprehensive research-based reading plan that includes intervention options available to students and funding for these services.

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Section 59-155-120. As used in this chapter:

- (1) 'Department' means the State Department of Education.
- (2) 'Board' means the State Board of Education.
- 'Readiness assessment' means assessments used to analyze (3) students' literacy. mathematical, physical, social, competencies in prekindergarten emotional-behavioral and kindergarten.
- (4) 'Research-based formative assessment' means assessments used throughout the school year to analyze the strengths and weaknesses in reading skills and comprehension of each student in order to adapt instruction to meet individual student needs, make decisions about appropriate intervention services, and inform placement and instructional planning for the next grade level.
- (5) 'Summative assessment' means state-approved assessments administered in grades three through eight and any statewide assessment used in grades nine through twelve to determine student mastery of grade-level content standards.
- (6) 'Content area reading' means reading text across various disciplines and content areas including, but not limited to, English

language arts, science, mathematics, social studies, and career and technology education.

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- (7) 'Reading interventions' means individual or group assistance in the classroom and supplemental support based on curricular and instructional decisions made by classroom teachers and reading interventionists who have at least an add-on Literacy Teacher endorsement. Teachers make these research-based decisions when planning and carrying out whole group, small group, and one-on-one instruction.
- (8) 'Reading proficiency' means the ability of students to meet state reading standards in kindergarten through grade twelve, demonstrated by readiness, formative or summative assessments.
- 13 (9) 'Reading proficiency skills' means the ability to understand 14 how written language works at the word, sentence, paragraph, and 15 text levels and mastery of the skills, strategies, and oral and written 16 language needed to comprehend grade-appropriate texts.
  - (10) 'Third-grade reading proficiency' means the ability to read grade-appropriate texts by the end of a student's third grade year as demonstrated by the results of state-approved assessments administered to third grade students, or through other assessments as noted in this chapter and adopted by the Board.
  - (11) 'Substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency' means reading at levels that are equal to or comparable to the level of Not Met 1 on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS).
  - (12) 'Summer reading camp' means an educational program offered in the summer by each local school district for students who are substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency at the end of third grade and in other grades at the discretion of the district.
  - (13) 'Reading portfolio' means a compilation of independently produced student work and assessments selected by the student's teacher and verified by the teacher and principal, as providing an accurate picture of the student's ability to comprehend grade-appropriate texts. The portfolio must constitute an organized collection of evidence of the student's mastery of the state reading standards.

39 Section 59-155-130. (A) The Department must guide and 40 support school districts and collaborate with university teacher 41 training programs to increase reading proficiency through the

42 following functions including, but not limited to:

(1) organizing and providing professional development to 2 teachers, school principals, and other administrative staff on reading instruction and reading assessment that informs instruction, including professional development series;

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- (2) organizing and providing professional development to teachers, school principals, and other administrative staff on reading in content areas;
- (3) working collaboratively with institutions of higher education offering courses in reading and writing and those institutions of higher education offering accredited master's degrees in reading-literacy to design coursework leading to a Literacy Coach and Literacy Teacher add-on endorsement by the
- (4) providing professional development in reading and coaching for already certified Literacy Coaches;
- (5) developing information and resources that school districts can use to provide workshops for parents about how they can support their children as readers;
- (6) assisting school districts in the development and implementation of their district reading proficiency plans for research-based reading instruction programs and to assist each of their schools to develop its own implementation plan aligned with the district and state plans; and
- (7) designing content and questions annually for district reading proficiency plans and reviewing and approving the reading proficiency plan submitted by each district.

Section 59-155-140. (A)(1) The Department, with approval by the State Board of Education, will develop, implement, evaluate, and continuously refine a comprehensive state plan to improve reading achievement in public schools. The State Reading Proficiency Plan must be approved by the Board by January 1, 2014 and must include, but not be limited to, sections addressing the following components:

(a) reading proficiency progress and the urgency 35 to improve reading proficiency; 36

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- (b) reading process;
- (c) reading instruction;
- (d) reading assessment;
- (e) volume of reading;
  - (f) content area reading;
  - (g) support for struggling readers;
- (h) early childhood literacy development;

(i) writing;

- (j) family support of literacy development
- (k) professional development to increase teacher reading expertise;
  - (1) family support of literacy development;
  - (m) district guidance and support for reading proficiency;
  - (n) state guidance and support for reading proficiency;
- (o) funding requirements and specific funding proposed to implement the reading plan; and
- (p) accountability of all students, parents and educators to improve reading proficiency.
- (2) The plan must be based on reading research and proven-effective practices, applied to the current conditions prevailing in reading and writing education in this State, with special emphasis on addressing instructional and institutional weaknesses that can be remedied through faithful implementation of research-based practices designed to engage students fully and effectively in reading and writing text. The plan must provide standards, format, and guidance for districts to use to develop and annually update their plans as well as to present and explain the research-based rationale for state-level actions to be taken. The plan must be updated annually and must incorporate a state reading proficiency progress report.
- (B)(1) Beginning in Fiscal Year 2014-2015, each district must prepare a comprehensive annual reading proficiency plan for prekindergarten through twelfth grade consistent with the state plan by responding to questions and presenting specific information and data in a format specified by the Department. Each district's PK-12 reading proficiency plan must present the rationale and details of its blueprint for action and support at the district, school, and classroom levels. Each district should develop a comprehensive plan for supporting the progress of students as readers and writers, monitoring the impact of its plan, and using data to make improvements and to inform its plan for the subsequent years.
  - (2) Each district PK-12 reading proficiency plan shall:
- (a) document the reading and writing assessment and instruction planned for all PK-12 students and the interventions in prekindergarten through twelfth grade to be provided to all struggling readers who are not able to comprehend grade-appropriate texts. Supplemental instruction should be provided by teachers who have at least a Literacy Teacher add-on endorsement and offered during the school day and, as appropriate,

before or after school in book clubs, through a summer reading camp, or both;

- (b) include a system for helping parents understand how they can support the student as a reader at home;
- (c) provide for the monitoring of reading achievement and growth at the classroom, school, and district levels with decisions about intervention based on all available data;
- (d) document the amount of time students spend reading and writing.
- (e) ensure that students are provided with wide selections of texts over a wide range of genres and written on a wide range of reading levels to match the reading levels of students;
- (f) provide for teacher training in reading and writing instruction critical for implementing the district plans and thereby for the success of students in achieving reading proficiency;
- (g) include strategically planned and developed partnerships with county libraries, volunteers, social organizations and school media specialists to promote reading;
- (h) provide for alignment of school plans and instructional efforts that fully implement the purposes and strategies of the district plan; and
- (i) provide strategies and materials that are relevant and meaningful to engage all children in reading
- (3)(a) The Department shall develop the format and questions to be addressed in the district plans and the deadline for districts to submit for approval. All approved plans will be available online by the Department on its agency website.
- (b) The Department will monitor the district and school plans and use their findings to inform the training and support the Department provides to districts and schools.
- (c) The Department may direct a district that is persistently unable to prepare an acceptable PK-12 reading proficiency plan or to help all students comprehend grade-appropriate texts to enter into a multidistrict or contractual arrangement to develop an effective intervention plan.

Section 59-155-150. (A) The State Board of Education shall ensure that every student entering the public schools in prekindergarten and kindergarten will be administered a readiness screening by the forty-fifth day of the school year. The screening must include, but not be limited to, assessments of each child's early language and literacy development, mathematical thinking, physical well-being, and social-emotional development. The

screening may include multiple assessments, all of which must be approved by the Board. The approved assessments of academic readiness must be aligned with first and second grade standards for English language arts and mathematics. The purpose of the screenings is to provide teachers, administrators, and parents or guardians with information to address the readiness needs of each student, especially by identifying language, cognitive, social, 7 emotional, and health needs, and providing appropriate instruction and support for each child. The results of the screenings and the developmental intervention strategies recommended to address the 10 11 child's identified needs must be provided, in writing, to the parent 12 or guardian. Reading instructional strategies and developmental activities for children whose oral language and emergent literacy 14 skills are assessed to be below the state-prescribed norms for the same grade-students must be aligned with the district's reading 15 proficiency plan for addressing the readiness needs of each 17 student. The results of each screening also must be reported to the Department through an electronic information system.

19 (B)It is the goal of the General Assembly that every student read 20 at or above grade level.

21 (1) Any student who is substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency, based upon locally determined or statewide researchbased formative or summative assessments conducted in prekindergarten, kindergarten or grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3, or 25 through teacher observations, must be given intensive reading 26 instruction immediately following the identification. The student's 27 reading proficiency must be reassessed by locally determined assessments or through teacher observations at the beginning of the grade following the intensive reading instruction. The intensive 30 interventions must be provided as individualized and small group assistance based on the analysis of assessment data. All sustained 31 32 interventions must be aligned with the district's reading 33 proficiency plan. These interventions must be in addition to the ninety minutes of daily uninterrupted reading and reading 35 instruction provided to all students in kindergarten through grade three. The district must continue to provide intensive in-class 37 intervention and supplemental intervention until the student can comprehend and write grade-appropriate text independently. In addition, the parent or guardian of the student must be notified in writing that the child is substantially not yet able to read grade-40 appropriate text and of the planned interventions. The results of the initial assessments and progress monitoring also must be provided to the Department through an electronic student reading progress

monitoring data system for individually identified child reading data which can be linked and compared over time to evaluate progress. The student must continue to be provided with intensive reading instruction until the student is reading grade-appropriate text. A district may offer summer reading camps for students who are not exhibiting reading proficiency in prekindergarten through grade 2. The district may charge fees based on a sliding scale pursuant to Section 59-19-90.

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(2) The district shall conduct a review of student progress monitoring plans for all students who are substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency at all grade levels. The review shall address additional supports and services needed to assist the students. Students must be provided intensive instructional services and supports including a minimum of ninety minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading and reading instruction, and other strategies prescribed by the school district reading plan. These strategies may include, but are not limited to, instruction directly focused on improving the student's individual reading proficiency skills through small group instruction, reduced student-teacher ratios, more frequent student progress monitoring, tutoring or mentoring, transition classes containing students in multiple grade spans, and extended school day, week, or year reading support. The school must report through the student reading progress monitoring data system to the Department on the progress of students at the end of the school year and at other times as required by the Department based on the reading progress monitoring requirements of these students.

(3) If the student is substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency in kindergarten through grade 2, his parent or guardian must be notified timely in writing of the student's struggles and a clear description of the interventions being provided. Parents must also receive a plan for promoting reading at home.

If the student is substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency at any point in the third grade year, his parent or guardian must be notified timely in writing, that the student will be retained unless exempted from mandatory retention for good cause. The parent or guardian may designate another person as an education advocate also to act on their behalf to receive notification and to assume the responsibility of promoting the reading success of the child. The written notification must include a clear description of the proposed reading interventions that will be provided to help the student comprehend grade-appropriate 43 texts. The parent, guardian, or other education advocate must

1 receive written reports at least monthly on the student's progress towards being able to read grade-appropriate texts based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, assessment, and other information. The parent, guardian, or other education advocate also must be provided with a plan for promoting reading at home, including participation in shared or guided reading workshops for the parent, guardian, or other family members. The parent or guardian of the student must be offered supplemental tutoring for the student in evidenced-based services outside the instructional day.

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Section 59-155-160. (A) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student is substantially not demonstrating reading proficiency at the end of the third grade. A student may be exempt for good cause from the mandatory retention but shall continue to receive instructional support and services and reading intervention appropriate for their age and reading level. Good cause exemptions include students:

- (1) with limited English proficiency and less than two years of instruction in an English as a Second Language program;
- (2) with disabilities whose individualized education program does not require their participation in the state-approved, assessment program as defined in state and federal laws;
- (3) who demonstrate third-grade reading proficiency on an alternative assessment approved by the Board and which teachers may administer following the administration of the state assessment of reading or after a student's participation in a summer reading camp;
- (4) who have received reading intervention and were previously retained; and
- (5) who through a reading portfolio demonstrate third-grade reading proficiency. Teachers may submit the student reading portfolio at the end of the school year or after a student's participation in a summer reading camp. Guidelines and standards for the reading portfolio and review process will be established by
- (B) The superintendent of the local school district must determine whether a student in the district may be exempt from the mandatory retention by taking all of the following steps:
- (1) The teacher of a student eligible for exemption must submit to the principal documentation on the proposed exemption and evidence that promotion of the student is appropriate based on the student's academic record. This evidence must be limited to the

student's individual reading proficiency plan, individual education program, alternative assessments, or student reading portfolio. The Department must provide districts a standardized form to use in this process.

- (2) The principal must review the form and documentation and determine whether the student should be promoted. If the principal determines the student should be promoted, the principal must submit a written recommendation for promotion to the district superintendent for final determination.
- (3) The district superintendent's acceptance or rejection of the recommendation must be in writing and a copy must be provided to the parent or guardian of the child.
- (4) The district shall annually submit to the Department the total number of students retained and promoted and the number of students exempted from the retention policies of this section.
- (C) Students retained must be provided intensive interventions as identified by valid and reliable diagnostic assessments. This intensive intervention must include effective instructional strategies, participation in the school district's summer reading camp, and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist students in becoming successful readers, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade.
- (D) The Board must establish a midyear promotion policy for any retained student in or below third grade who, by October first of the following school year, demonstrates the ability to read grade-appropriate texts through an alternative assessment of reading comprehension or a reading portfolio.

Section 59-155-170. (A) Students develop and apply their reading and writing skills across the school day in all the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, career and technology education, and physical and health education. Teachers at all grade levels but especially in middle and high school content area courses must focus on helping students comprehend content area texts. It is the intent of the Read to Succeed Act that a comprehensive system of instruction promoting high achievement in the content areas through extensive proficient reading and writing be institutionalized in public schools. In order to for students to comprehend grade-appropriate content area texts, they need to be proficient readers able to understand the discipline-specific features of the content-area texts. To be proficient content are readers, students must focus on

reading as meaning-making rather than reading at the word level

and must stop when something does not make sense and problem-solve at the word, paragraph, chapter and text levels. They also need to know how to make sense of information which is new to them. To understand the discipline-specific features of content area texts, students must understand how such texts are organized and how they should be read. To learn from content area texts, students must possess or access appropriate background 7 knowledge about the content. Teachers must use research-based practices which support students in all these areas.

(B) The Department will define the specific strategies, skills, and knowledge which students must master in order to become proficient in comprehending content area texts. The Department will review the strategies, skills, and knowledge promoted in 14 research and through high quality professional development 15 training for content area teachers across all disciplines. Based on 16 this review, the Department must prescribe the strategies and skills expected in the content area reading training courses required for teachers and administrators as specified in Section 59-155-180. The student strategies, skills, and knowledge to be considered by the Department in consultation with higher education professors and with content area teachers should include, but not be limited to: vocabulary; connotation of words; connotations of words in context with adjoining or prior text; concepts from prior text; personal background knowledge; ability to interpret meaning through sentence structure features; questioning; visualization; discussion of text with peers; and rereading sentences, passages and chapters.

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Section 59-155-180. (A) To equip teachers with a strong understanding of the theory, research, and practices that support and guide the teaching of reading, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, all preservice teacher education programs must ensure that teachers can develop the specified reading instruction competencies in the following three three-credit-hour courses:

- (1) foundations of reading instruction focused on the six components of the reading process including comprehension, oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary;
- (2) application of research-based reading instructional practices so that teachers can apply the principles of research-based reading instruction and integrate the six components of reading into instruction; and

(3) foundations of reading assessment that will allow teachers to understand how to select, administer, and interpret appropriate assessments and analyze data to inform reading instruction to meet the needs of all students.

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The content of the courses must be prescribed by the Department in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education. As 7 required by the Department, each institution will submit specific information verifying the alignment of the content elements of each course with the prescribed standards. The courses must reflect 11 national standards, including but not limited to, Literacy: Reading-English Language Standards Second Edition established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards: the standards set forth by the International Reading Association for Preservice Reading Teacher Preparation Programs; 16 CEC Professional Development Standards for early childhood 17 special education and learning disabilities; and standards for teachers of reading set forth by the International Dyslexia Association. The Department will revise the *Praxis* to measure 20 teacher preparation in alignment with these competencies.

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22 (B) Beginning in 2014-2015 all prekindergarten through grade 8 teachers certified before September 1,2014 and those subsequently certified, administrators, including principals, assistant principals and curriculum specialists, and grade 9-12 administrators and district office administrators with significant responsibility for reading must take at least one course to improve reading instruction every five years at an in-state institution of higher education that offers a master's in education program in reading-literacy and are accredited by the International Reading Association/National Council for Accreditation of Teacher 32 Education (IRA/NCATE) or at an in-state institution that offers a master's degree in early childhood special education or learning disabilities accredited by the International Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) through NCATE, to maintain certification. The Department, in consultation the Commission on Higher

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37 Education and institutions of higher education, will review student reading achievement and the findings of the student progress monitoring system in order to determine the reading needs of students and their learning outcomes to design and effectuate the reading course priorities for teachers. Each teacher or administrator

must receive approval from the school district for the selection of the following courses which include, but are not limited to the

following, based on the student reading achievement needs in the district as specified in the district plan:

- (1) foundations and applications of differentiated instruction;
- (2) early literacy instruction;
- (3) teaching reading to students with disabilities;
- (4) content area reading literacy; and
- (5) other courses recommended by the Department and approved by the Board.

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10 For all non-practicum courses, teachers and administrators will have the option, subject to availability, of taking web-based courses or taking them at an institution of higher education. In addition, some districts may choose to collaborate with an 14 institution of higher education to offer the courses on-site in their districts. Practicum courses could be offered at school sites for 16 experience working with children enrolled in after-school programs or summer reading camps. The Department will work with institutions of higher education individually or with consortia 19 to arrange for, when possible, the courses to be provided at a 20 professional development rate rather than at the certified teacher 21 rate.

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Section 59-155-190. Local school districts are encouraged to create family-school-community partnerships that focus on increasing the volume of reading, in school and at home, during the year and at home and in the community over the summer. Schools and districts should partner with county libraries, community organizations, faith-based institutions, pediatric and family practice medical personnel, businesses, and other groups to provide volunteers, mentors, or tutors to assist with the provision of instructional supports, services, and books that enhance reading development and proficiency. A district shall include in its reading proficiency plan the specific actions to be taken to accomplish the requirements of this section.

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Section 59-155-200. Each school district must plan for and act decisively to engage the families of students as full participating partners in promoting the reading and writing habits and skills development of their children. With support from the Department, districts and individual schools shall provide families with information about how children progress as readers and writers and how they can support this progress. This family support must include providing time for their child to read as well as reading to

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1 the child. To ensure that all families have access to a considerable number and diverse range of books, schools should develop plans 3 for enhancing home libraries and for accessing books from county libraries and school libraries and to inform families about their child's ability to comprehend grade-appropriate texts and how to interpret information about reading that is sent home. The districts and schools shall help families learn about reading and writing through home visits, open houses, South Carolina ETV, video and audio tapes, websites, and school-family events and collaborations that help link the home and school of the student. The information should enable family members to understand the reading and writing skills required for graduation and essential for success in a 13 career.

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Section 59-155-210. The Board and Department shall translate 16 the statutory requirements for reading and writing specified in this act into standards, practices, and procedures for school districts, local school boards, and their employees and for other organizations as appropriate.

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21 SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the 22 Governor./

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- 25 Renumber sections to conform.
- Amend title to conform.

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