STATE OF NEW YORK

4291

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. JENSEN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring certain teachers who provide literacy instruction obtain a literacy endorsement

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 3004 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner is authorized and directed to prescribe regulations establishing a literacy endorsement as a requirement for all certified teachers who provide literacy instruction to students in kindergarten through grade five. Such regulations shall require that teachers receiving certification on and after January first, two thousand twenty-seven who provide literacy instruction to students in kindergarten through grade five obtain a literacy endorsement within three years of receiving certification. For teachers receiving certification before January first, two thousand twenty-seven, the regulations shall require such teachers receive a literacy endorsement on or before January first, two thousand thirty. The literacy endorsement shall require teachers to complete evidence-based science of reading training and other coursework as determined by the commissioner and to pass a literacy instruction assessment demonstrating that the teacher is capable of:

(i) effectively teaching foundational reading skills, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension;

(ii) implementing reading instruction using high-quality instructional materials; and

(iii) providing effective instruction and interventions for students with reading deficiencies, including students with characteristics of dyslexia.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(b) The commissioner shall require that on and after January first, two thousand twenty-six, all approved educator preparation programs in childhood education and early childhood education include courses necessary to obtain a literacy endorsement pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

(c) The commissioner shall establish a means by which a school district, at the request of a teacher, may receive an exemption to the literacy endorsement for that teacher based on classroom observations and student achievement data demonstrating the knowledge of literacy instruction prescribed in paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.