



#162-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #162-21**

DATE: June 17, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Changes to *Code of Virginia* § 22.1-253.13:1 Kindergarten through Grade 3;
Reading Intervention Services for Certain Students**

The 2021 Virginia General Assembly passed [HB 1865 \(Delaney\)](#) which amends and reenacts [§ 22.1-253.13:1](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, that requires intervention services for certain students in kindergarten through third grade who demonstrate deficiencies on individual performance on the Standards of Learning reading test or any reading diagnostic test that meets criteria established by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). This legislation directs local school boards to ensure:

- *that such reading intervention services shall be evidence-based, including services that are grounded in the science of reading, and include (i) the components of effective reading instruction and (ii) explicit, systematic, sequential, and cumulative instruction, to include phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, fluency, vocabulary development, and text comprehension as appropriate based on the student's demonstrated reading deficiencies.*
- *the parent of each student who receives such reading intervention services shall be notified before the services begin in accordance with the provisions of § [22.1-215.2](#), and the progress of each such student shall be monitored throughout the provision of services.*

- *such reading intervention services may be administered through the use of: reading specialists; trained aides; trained volunteers under the supervision of a certified teacher; computer-based reading tutorial programs; aides to instruct in-class groups while the teacher provides direct instruction to the students who need extra assistance; and extended instructional time in the school day or school year for these students.*

These changes were approved by the Governor and go into effect **July 1, 2021**. Read the full text of changes and amendments to [§ 22.1-253.13:1](#) and [HB 1865](#). You may also want to [review budget information on Early Reading Intervention](#).

For more information

If you have questions regarding Early Reading Intervention, please contact Carmen Kurek, Elementary English Reading Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, by email at Carmen.Kurek@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at 804-225-3203.

JFL/CEK/pk