

# HB 1238-EARLY LITERACY ACT

SOLUTIONS TO HELP ALL COLORADO CHILDREN SUCCEED

VOTE YES FOR HB 1238

## LITERACY MATTERS

Research shows that a child who cannot read by the end of third grade is four to six times more likely to drop out of high school. Nearly 17,000 Colorado third graders annually face severe struggles with reading. This means we could fill the Pepsi Center each year with students who are on track to drop out of school.

The Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA), which passed in 1997, was an important first step in identifying struggling readers. Now, we have the chance to give teachers and school districts the tools they need to intervene early when there are problems and put struggling students on the path to success.

## WHAT THE BILL WILL DO:

- Provides teachers with access to a statewide resource bank of assessments and intervention plans to better identify and support students in grades K-3 who are struggling with reading.
- Notifies parents whose children have severe reading problems and engages them in collaboration with teachers to develop personalized Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) plans using research-proven methods and interventions.
- Requires parents, teachers, and principals to determine whether or not students will advance to the next grade if they are still significantly struggling at the end of the school year. If this decision happens at the end of third grade, the year students stop learning to read and start reading to learn, the decision is subject to approval by the district superintendent or a designee.
- Provides more rigorous reading interventions and supports for students who are not advanced to the next grade to get them on track.
- Requires school districts to track the progress of all students on READ plans and makes student growth and achievement in K-3 reading part of district and school accreditation.

## WHY VOTE YES

- Reading at grade level by the end of third grade is the strongest indicator of a student's likelihood to graduate high school. Nearly 90% of high school dropouts nationwide could not read on grade level at the end of third grade.
- High school dropouts from the class of 2009 alone will cost Colorado \$4.5 billion in lost wages over the courses of their lifetimes.
- Students learn to read from kindergarten through third grade. In fourth grade, they start reading to learn. The primary grades are critical in building the foundational reading skills students need to continue their education.
- Colorado has the highest achievement gap in the country. In 2010, 79% of white students were proficient in reading compared to about 50% of all black, Hispanic, and American Indian students. By 2021, children of color will represent the majority of Colorado students.
- Intervening early to improve literacy is more cost effective than waiting to remediate students in middle and high school and beyond.

Supported by  
(contact info on  
reverse)



# HB 1238-EARLY LITERACY ACT

SOLUTIONS TO HELP ALL COLORADO CHILDREN SUCCEED

## SUPPORTERS OF THE EARLY LITERACY ACT:

Action 22

BizCARES

Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado Competitive Council (C3)

Colorado Concern

Colorado Succeeds

Community Partnership for Child Development/Head Start

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado

Every Child Matters Education Fund

Executives Partnering to Invest in Children

Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance

Pikes Peak United Way

Progressive 15

Qualistar Colorado

Stand for Children Colorado

Tennyson Center for Children

Urban League of Metropolitan Denver

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EARLY LITERACY ACT:

Moira Cullen, Colorado Succeeds - (303) 868-8452

Jeani Frickey-Saito, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce - (303) 981-8176

Kayla McGannon, Stand for Children Colorado - (303) 648-1165

Mark Neuman-Lee, Colorado Children's Campaign - (303) 704-3845

Erin Silver, Colorado Concern - (303) 921-2402

