EARLY READING SUCCESS POLICY **6142.2**

Reading and language skills are integral parts of all phases of the learning process. Each individual, therefore must learn to speak, read, write, and listen to words in order to function effectively in school and society. Since it is primarily with words that ideas and thoughts are communicated, it is imperative that the individuals develop competency in the reading and language arts areas for self-fulfillment, effective communication, creative expression, and to assume a productive role in society. Each individual must be provided with an appropriate educational program. Such a program will emphasize the differentiation of instruction, flexible grouping, and a multi-modality approach.

Recognizing the importance of establishing the appropriate foundation during the primary grades and its statutory requirements, the Board of Education, by September 1, 2000 will develop and implement a three year plan to improve the reading skills of students in grades K through 3 inclusive. The goal of such plan is to have all students attain the state's reading competency standard.

The Superintendent is directed to include in the plan:

1. The specific instructional method, strategies and activities that will be used to teach reading;

2. Ways to assess and help students in danger of not learning to read by the end of first grade;

3. Periodic evaluations of students' reading levels

4. More time for instructing students who do not progress or who read below grade level;

5. In-service training for elementary school teachers in how to teach reading and language arts;

6. Ways to involve parents in addressing their children's reading problems;

7. Ongoing data collection and monitoring of program effectiveness; and

8. A school and public library partnership to improve pre-reading and reading skills.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-220a In-service training. Professional development. Institutes for educators. Cooperating and beginning teacher programs, regulations.
10-221h Plan to improve reading skills.
P.A. 99-288 An Act Concerning Education Accountability

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