



Home	Bill Information	California Law	Publications	Other Resources	My Subscriptions	My Favorites
------	------------------	----------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------

SR-95 (2023-2024)

SHARE THIS:  

ENROLLED AUGUST 07, 2024

PASSED IN SENATE AUGUST 05, 2024

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 20, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 95

Introduced by Senator Newman
(Coauthors: Senators Ochoa Bogh and Rubio)

May 09, 2024

Relative to literacy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 95, Newman.

WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes that literacy is fundamental to individual empowerment, economic opportunity, and societal progress; and

WHEREAS, Literacy skills are essential for personal development, enabling individuals to access higher education, pursue meaningful careers, and actively engage in civic life; and

WHEREAS, Numerous studies have shown a direct correlation between literacy levels and economic well-being, indicating that individuals with higher literacy skills are more likely to secure gainful employment and contribute positively to the economy; and

WHEREAS, It is acknowledged that illiteracy can perpetuate cycles of poverty, limiting opportunities for individuals to break free from socioeconomic challenges and achieve upward mobility; and

WHEREAS, The state acknowledges the existence of the illiteracy-to-prison pipeline, where individuals with limited literacy skills are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, highlighting the correlation between low literacy levels and increased likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing and implementing evidence-based literacy practices that incorporate the science of reading can significantly impact educational outcomes, especially for pupils facing challenges in reading acquisition, ultimately breaking the

cycle of intergenerational poverty; and

WHEREAS, Addressing literacy challenges at an early stage through robust educational initiatives, community programs, and targeted interventions can significantly impact the trajectory of individuals and communities by providing them with the tools necessary to overcome barriers to success; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing families and caregivers as essential to building early literacy skills and investing in programs that support family literacy is critical in early childhood language and literacy development; and

WHEREAS, Investing in literacy programs and initiatives aimed at improving reading proficiency, language skills, and access to educational resources can yield substantial long-term benefits for both individuals and the state as a whole, fostering a more equitable and prosperous society; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate recognizes literacy as a critical pathway out of poverty and acknowledges the profound impact that literacy skills have on the lives of Californians; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate acknowledges the value of the science of reading for literacy instruction and recognizes its potential to serve as a powerful tool in addressing literacy challenges, particularly among underserved communities, and therefore calls on schools and districts to implement curriculum that incorporates the science of reading; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate affirms its commitment to promoting evidence-based literacy practices that incorporate the science of reading throughout educational institutions and instructional programs across the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate encourages collaboration among educational institutions, community organizations, businesses, and government agencies to develop and implement effective strategies to improve literacy rates, expand access to educational resources, and address the root causes of illiteracy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urges the allocation of adequate resources and funding to support comprehensive literacy initiatives and innovative approaches that cater to diverse populations and their unique literacy needs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate calls upon every educational institution in the state to address literacy as a fundamental right and urges them to seek out pupils in their respective systems who are not currently literate and either provide remediation or refer them to an organization that can; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate calls upon all Californians to recognize the significance of literacy in fostering individual success, economic prosperity, and societal advancement and to actively participate in efforts aimed at promoting literacy and lifelong learning; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.