

## Agenda Page 238, Item 6110-126-0890 Federal Reading First Program Conference Compromise

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### The Conference Compromise:

- Includes \$1.3 million to align appropriation with federal grant amount.
- Consistent with Senate and Assembly actions, authorizes \$35 million in carryover funding for special education teachers to receive professional development in reading instruction.
- Builds on Assembly approach by:
  - Making funds available for three-year pilot program.
  - Requiring districts to submit professional development plans to the California Department of Education (CDE) for review and approval.
  - In addition to professional development, allows proposals to designate funds for student assessments, teacher assessments, classroom materials, reading coaches, and other resource specialists.
  - Provides minimum of \$6,500 per teacher per year. Allows districts to receive up to 8,000 per teacher per year, pending CDE and Department of Finance review and approval.
  - Allows up to \$750,000 each year to be used for state/regional administration, support, and technical assistance.
  - Sets aside total of \$500,000 for independent evaluation of the pilot program.



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#### Budget Bill Language

##### Conference Compromise

X. Of the amount in this item, \$34.9 million is available over three years, unless otherwise prohibited under federal law, for a pilot project to encourage professional development in reading for special education teachers. To receive funding, districts must submit to the California Department of Education (CDE) a proposal that describes the professional development to be provided, estimates the number of special education teachers to be served, and offers assurances that it will provide program data to an external evaluator. Proposals may contain components designed to support teacher training and student learning, including the use of student assessments, teacher assessments, classroom materials, reading coaches, and external resource specialists. Districts shall receive a minimum of \$6,500 per teacher per year. To the extent that districts need additional funding to fully implement their proposals, up to \$8,000 per teacher per year may be authorized by submitting a plan that justifies the need for the additional funding, to be approved jointly by CDE and the Department of Finance. The CDE shall score each proposal based on the quality of its professional development plan, with first priority given to special education teachers in eligible Reading First districts that have not yet received Reading First funding and second priority given to special education teachers within already participating Reading First districts that have yet to receive professional development in reading. No district shall receive more than 12.5 percent of available funding. The three-year grants shall be for training special education teachers in the use of standards-aligned instructional strategies and materials designed to help special education students in grades K-12 achieve mastery of state performance expectations in Reading/Language Arts. Up to \$750,000 each year may be used for state and regional administration, support, and technical assistance. Prior to receiving this funding, CDE, in consultation with the California Technical Assistance Center, shall submit an expenditure plan to the Department of Finance for review and approval. A total of \$500,000 is set aside for CDE to contract for an external evaluation of the three-year pilot project.