



## Senate Bill 966 (SB966) & House Bill 2470 (HB2470)

### SB966 & HB2470: “The Reading Success Bill”

SB966 - sponsored by Senator Cindy O’Laughlin

HB2470 - sponsored by Representative David Gregory

These bills are updating current state statutes to include appropriate, scientific evidenced-based practices that help students with dyslexia and other reading difficulties learn to read.

### SB966/HB2470 address:

- MO has a screening law but schools are not required to offer the appropriate remediation for pupils who screen positive for dyslexia.
- The “Reading Success” bill would require schools to offer a **“Structured literacy”, evidence-based reading curriculum** to students screening positive or who have a diagnosis of dyslexia.
- The bill also requires districts to employ one person who holds certification and knowledge in structured literacy, schools to notify parents of the results of the reading screenings done by school districts, and also provide summer school reading classes for struggling readers.

### Opponents say:

- **“Structured literacy” is one way of teaching reading, but may not work for all struggling readers.** They say this because they have not been educated about the science of reading and are relying on the system that they were taught (3-cueing) which encourages children to guess. They also think reading is a natural process and children who can’t read have tried enough or haven’t been read to at home.
- **“Structured literacy” will be expensive to implement because it requires training and curriculum.** Schools already receive money for curriculum, they are choosing to spend it on the wrong type of curriculum. Additionally, the Regional Professional Development Centers (funded by taxpayers and tasked with teacher professional development) have trained “trainers” via DESE in the LETRS system (a structured literacy program) that schools can choose and implement.

### The Current State of Reading in Missouri:

- **More than half** of Missouri students in K-7th grade are not proficient in reading.
- Parents are paying **thousands of dollars out of pocket** for their students to be privately tutored in a structured literacy curriculum. (Even though schools are required to provide this “appropriate” curriculum by federal law as part of FAPE).
- **Mississippi** has retrained teachers and changed curriculums to align with Structured Literacy (Science of Reading). They are **the only state in the nation that showed an increase in student outcomes** last year according to the NAEP analysis.