

1.1 Section 1. **READ ACT TEACHER STIPENDS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL**  
1.2 **DEVELOPMENT FUNDING.**

1.3 Subdivision 1. **Funding uses; stipends.** (a) A school district, charter school, or  
1.4 cooperative unit providing direct instructional services must use the funding appropriated  
1.5 for Read Act stipends and other professional development as provided in this section. After  
1.6 paying stipends to eligible teachers, a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit  
1.7 providing direct instructional services may use its remaining Read Act professional  
1.8 development funding to:

1.9 (1) pay for substitute teachers or other staff needed while teachers or other staff receive  
1.10 an evidence-based professional development program approved under Minnesota Statutes,  
1.11 section 120B.124;

1.12 (2) compensate other staff who receive an evidence-based professional development  
1.13 program approved under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.124, outside of the regular work  
1.14 time or staff development time at their regular hourly wage;

1.15 (3) pay for other costs agreed to under a memorandum of understanding under paragraph  
1.16 (f); or

1.17 (4) implement other literacy measures under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.98,  
1.18 subdivision 5.

1.19 (b) The teacher stipend amount is \$800 per eligible teacher for a teacher who is registered  
1.20 for, is receiving, or has completed an approved Read Act training program.

1.21 (c) Notwithstanding the stipend amounts established in paragraph (b), if by September  
1.22 1, 2024, the school district, charter school, or cooperative unit providing direct instructional  
1.23 services estimates that the money available from the reserve account under subdivision 2  
1.24 is not adequate to pay the full amount of the stipend to each eligible teacher, the district  
1.25 may adjust the stipend amount accordingly.

1.26 (d) The stipend amounts under paragraph (b) must be the same for each eligible teacher  
1.27 in the school district, charter school, or cooperative unit providing direct instructional  
1.28 services.

1.29 (e) Nothing in this section changes or alters the terms or conditions of employment  
1.30 provided in a collective bargaining agreement, except that the stipends allowed under this  
1.31 section are compensation provided in addition to the compensation provided under the  
1.32 collective bargaining agreement.

2.1 (f) A school district or charter school may negotiate a memorandum of understanding  
2.2 with the exclusive representative of teachers that provides for an alternate use of funding  
2.3 to implement requirements under the Read Act, including compensating teachers for  
2.4 professional development time devoted to approved training under the Read Act at a teacher's  
2.5 regular hourly rate of pay, or for the cost of substitute teachers to enable teachers to complete  
2.6 approved training under the Read Act.

2.7 Subd. 2. **Read Act stipend and professional development reserve account.** A school  
2.8 district, charter school, or cooperative unit must reserve aid provided for Read Act stipends  
2.9 and other professional development and use the aid only for the purposes of this section.

2.10 Subd. 3. **Teacher eligibility.** A teacher is eligible for a stipend under this section if the  
2.11 teacher:

2.12 (1) is currently employed by a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit providing  
2.13 direct instructional services, or is currently contracted between a charter school and a teacher  
2.14 cooperative;

2.15 (2) is currently serving in a position that requires a license issued by the Professional  
2.16 Educator Licensing and Standards Board; and

2.17 (3) is required to receive approved training under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.123,  
2.18 subdivision 5.

2.19 Subd. 4. **Administrative process; timelines.** Within 60 days of receipt of state aid for  
2.20 this purpose, a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit providing direct instruction  
2.21 must pay the required stipend to an eligible teacher who has registered for, is receiving, or  
2.22 has completed an approved Read Act training program.

2.23 Subd. 5. **Stipends not considered income for certain purposes.** (a) Notwithstanding  
2.24 any law to the contrary, payments under this section must not be considered income, assets,  
2.25 or personal property for purposes of determining eligibility or recertifying eligibility for:

2.26 (1) child care assistance programs under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119B, and early  
2.27 learning scholarships under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.165;

2.28 (2) general assistance, Minnesota supplemental aid, and food support under Minnesota  
2.29 Statutes, chapter 256D;

2.30 (3) housing support under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256I;

2.31 (4) the Minnesota family investment program and diversionary work program under  
2.32 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256J; and

3.1 (5) economic assistance programs under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256P.

3.2 (b) The commissioner of human services must not consider a stipend under this section  
 3.3 as income or assets when determining medical assistance eligibility under Minnesota Statutes,  
 3.4 section 256B.055, subdivisions 7, 7a, and 12; or section 256B.057, subdivisions 3, 3a, 3b,  
 3.5 and 4. The commissioner of human services must not include the stipend received under  
 3.6 this section when calculating an individual's premiums under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 3.7 256B.057, subdivision 9.

3.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024, except for subdivision 5,  
 3.9 paragraph (b), which is effective July 1, 2024, or upon federal approval, whichever is later.

3.10 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; SUPPLEMENTAL READ ACT FUNDING.**

3.11 Subdivision 1. **Department of Education.** The sum indicated in this section is  
 3.12 appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education in the fiscal year  
 3.13 designated.

3.14 Subd. 2. **Read Act stipends and other professional development.** (a) For payment of  
 3.15 state aid to school districts, charter schools, and cooperative units providing direct  
 3.16 instructional services:

3.17     \$    31,375,000    .....    2025

3.18 (b) The state aid for each school district, charter school, and cooperative unit providing  
 3.19 direct instruction equals the greater of \$2,000, or \$36.06 times the number of students served  
 3.20 by the school district, charter school, or cooperative unit as determined by the fall 2023  
 3.21 enrollment count of students. The Department of Education must send payments to school  
 3.22 districts, charter schools, and cooperative units providing direct instructional services by  
 3.23 October 15, 2024. This aid is 100 percent payable in fiscal year 2025.

3.24 (c) This is a onetime appropriation.

3.25 Subd. 3. **Culturally responsive materials.** (a) For the Department of Education to issue  
 3.26 a request for proposals for a contract to develop supplemental culturally responsive materials  
 3.27 for the approved evidence-based structured literacy curricula under Minnesota Statutes,  
 3.28 section 120B.124, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1):

3.29     \$    1,000,000    .....    2025

3.30 (b) The contractor must review all approved instructional and intervention materials to  
 3.31 ensure they are culturally responsive within 90 days of receiving the materials from the  
 3.32 Department of Education. The contractor must work with publishers to ensure materials are

4.1 culturally responsive and provide districts with supplementary materials and guidance as  
 4.2 needed.

4.3 (c) Any balance does not cancel but is available until June 30, 2027.

4.4 (d) This is a onetime appropriation.

4.5 Subd. 4. **Regional literacy network paraprofessional and volunteer training.** (a) For  
 4.6 the regional literacy networks to develop training for paraprofessionals and volunteers that  
 4.7 regularly provide Tier 2 literacy interventions to students in accordance with Minnesota  
 4.8 Statutes, section 120B.124, subdivision 4:

4.9 §            375,000    ..... 2025

4.10 (b) Any balance does not cancel but is available until June 30, 2027.

4.11 (c) This is a onetime appropriation.

4.12 Subd. 5. **CAREI paraprofessional and volunteer training.** (a) For CAREI to develop  
 4.13 training for paraprofessionals and volunteers that regularly provide Tier 2 literacy  
 4.14 interventions to students in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.124,  
 4.15 subdivision 4:

4.16 §            375,000    ..... 2025

4.17 (b) Any balance does not cancel but is available until June 30, 2027.

4.18 (c) This is a onetime appropriation.

4.19 Subd. 6. **Read Act Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing working group.** (a) For  
 4.20 the Read Act Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of hearing working group:

4.21 §            100,000    ..... 2025

4.22 (b) Any balance does not cancel but is available until June 30, 2027.

4.23 (c) This is a onetime appropriation.