

April 27, 2023

Re: Support for HB 2162

On behalf of the undersigned parent and education organizations, we ask that you **please vote FOR HB 2162** when it comes to the floor. This bill would greatly accelerate the progress Texas has made in recent years to improve the single most important milestone for long-term student success: 3rd Grade Reading.

Only half of all Texas 3rd graders currently read on grade-level, with large gaps remaining for our largest and fast-growing student groups. As illustrated below, before 3rd grade students learn to read, after 3rd grade student read to learn. As a result, student proficiency never surpasses 3rd grade reading levels in later grades and subjects.

	Pre-K Enrollment*	Kindergarten Readiness	3rd Grade Reading	4th Grade Math	8th Grade Science	Algebra 1	College Ready
All Students	42%	58%	50%	41%	43%	46%	27%
Black Students		55%	38%	24%	29%	31%	15%
Hispanic/Latinx Students		51%	42%	34%	36%	41%	18%
White Students		62%	64%	55%	59%	59%	42%
Economically Disadvantaged S..		50%	39%	31%	32%	37%	14%

Source: <https://commitpartnership.org/dashboard>

We support HB 2162 because it supports the implementation of proven practices that improve early literacy:

- Focuses on data-driven intervention in grades K-3, allowing educators and parents to work together to course correct sooner instead of waiting to intervene
- Reinforces the Science of Reading as a proven method and provides public transparency to know how well our schools are implementing it
- Offers science-based instruments to provide diagnostic information that teachers can use to monitor student progress and deliver targeted intervention
- Empowers parents with reliable information about their child’s reading progress and provides resources for them to receive additional tutoring and intervention services
- Removes outdated “three-cueing” and “balanced literacy” approaches from teacher preparation programs

If passed, HB 2162 will bring the urgent focus needed for educators, families, and communities to equip our youngest learners with the foundational early literacy skills that put them on a path to success in life. We are willing to provide whatever support is necessary to successfully implement the science of teaching reading in our schools and respectfully ask you to support HB 2162 for our students and their futures.

A literate Texas is a great Texas.

Sincerely,

