



Jones, Stephanie

From: Amber Rush <amber.davis39@yahoo.com>
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To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: [External] Chapter 49

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Dear Department of Education,

I am a parent of three children, two of whom have learning disabilities (dyslexia). It is paramount that our educators be trained in The Science of Reading and Structured Literacy. Many school districts teach our children using the whole language approach. This whole language teaching method doesn't follow the science of how a child learns to read. Many children, including mine, have fallen behind when the structured literacy method isn't used.

I have seen the struggle of children, parents, and educators. The struggle is often coupled with confusion as to why the children are not learning the fundamentals of what was is being taught. The confusion is mitigated when proper screening is completed and an evidence based intervention is implemented. To help lessen the learning gap for our future generation there are a few important pieces that need to be addressed in Chapter 49.: Definition in Chapter 49 needs to include the underlined. Structured Literacy is based on The Science of Reading (SOR) which combines several disciplines for the understanding of what processes are involved in reading, recognizing the importance of language and reading comprehension with systemic, explicit instruction that integrates listening, speaking, reading, spelling, and writing and emphasizes the structure of language across the speech sound system (phonology), the writing system (orthography), the structure of sentences (syntax), the meaningful parts of words (morphology), the relationships among words (semantics), and the organization of spoken and written discourse.

There must be checks and balances for school districts to ensure the proper implementation of Chapter 49 because few districts will go above and beyond the requirement. There must be oversight of districts and the programs they are using. Therefore structured literacy must be included in the list of programs to be evaluated by the Department of Education. Victory can only be achieved when reading specialists and special educators receive training in structured literacy. Training must begin at the preservice and continue to induction, and continuing education levels. There would be tremendous benefits if all teachers were trained.

Timing of Structured literacy in a child's learning is crucial. Learning must begin in Pre-K and be continued into elementary and middle levels at a minimum.

Please choose to continue literacy for all kids.

Thank you

Amber Rush
412.874.7865