

I urge the Education committee to adopt SB74 and SB410.

I was taught to read with intensive, systematic phonics instruction in kindergarten. This method should be available for all students, especially those who are struggling to learn to read.

As juvenile detention officer and have seen children who do not have adequate reading skills and I believe the lack of reading skills has contributed to their delinquent behaviors. Prior to my position as a detention officer I was a para in a high school resource room where the lack of reading skills was extremely high.

Kids need to learn how to read in early elementary years. By the time they are in High School or incarcerated it is too hard to teach beginning reading skill. Unsuccessful learners are put in resource rooms without research based programs, where the expectations are low and they do not gain skills needed to read. They continue to fall behind their peers and are not able to learn materials on grade level because the lack of reading skills. Early identification of struggling readers will save them from remedial programs that have not been successful in teaching any better than in the classroom. Special Education should be for those for have a true disability not a curriculum disability.

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