

Good afternoon committee members. My name is Colby Ricci and I am a 15 year educator in Colorado and a Colorado Native. I am honored to be here today to share my experience as a Literacy Resource Teacher and provide some feedback for your consideration as you work to improve literacy instruction and therefore ask that you amend SB19-199.

The majority of students that I work with are on READ plans. I work with students to support and strengthen literacy skills and help them to first, develop a life-long love of reading and second to be able to read for learning and success in life. Without the ability to read successfully we are limiting the potential of our students.

Since the READ Act was enacted and supports were put into place I know that countless students have been helped, but I know we can do better.

One main part of the SB19-199 that I would like to address today with you is the per-pupil funding. I would like to respectfully ask that per-pupil funding not be shifted to early literacy grants. By keeping the per-pupil funding we can better ensure that the necessary resources for increasing literacy is actually going directly to students.

In my experience it is the teachers and educators that work directly with students day in and day out that make the most impact for and with our students. Educators that work with students daily can better see the skills necessary for success and make immediate adjustments for supporting students.

We need to do everything we can to support direct instruction through interventionists, and best first instruction. When I say best first instruction I mean teachers and educators in front of students for the majority of their day working

The second piece of feedback that I would like to provide to the committee today is the desire to for more time before making the significant changes to the READ Act legislation. As a member of the CDE READ Plan working group, we are working to provide more specific feedback, and and suggestions for improving the legislation and ultimately instruction in literacy. I understand based on a potential amendment that this working group will also be giving feedback on professional development and training supports. I want to thank you for ensuring educators, practitioners, and parents are weighing in on this. It is so very important to hear from the individuals involved at the student level.

We have just started our work this past fall and need more time to make effective, recommendations. The READ plan working group is comprised of educators,

administrators, parents and community members and I know that the final product that we produce will be one that will be invaluable to making changes for the better. Our hope is to have our recommendations completed quickly. Please take this into consideration before making any major changes.

Lastly, I just wanted to thank you for your time today. I am a passionate educator that will do anything to help my students- that is why I am here today, to help make a difference for my students.

Colby Ricci
Educator
colbiashi@gmail.com
970-390-8862