

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 436 717

CS 013 766

TITLE Read To Achieve: Securing a Bright Future for Our Children.
INSTITUTION Colorado Office of the Governor, Denver.
PUB DATE 1999-06-00
NOTE 5p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom (055) -- Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Elementary Secondary Education; Grants; *Literacy; *Reading Achievement; *Reading Improvement; *Student Needs
IDENTIFIERS *Colorado

ABSTRACT

This brochure discusses the "Read to Achieve" initiative undertaken by the state of Colorado because Colorado faces a literacy challenge. The brochure first states the problem and then proposes the solution (Read to Achieve). It uses a colorful, easy-to-see graphic design to show how the initiative works. The brochure contends that children who receive the help they need to become proficient readers: they succeed in school; are prepared to master complex subjects; are more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college; have increased self esteem; and are prepared to succeed in life. (NKA)

“Colorado faces a literacy challenge. One out of three third graders cannot read at grade level, and three out of five fourth graders cannot write at grade level. We can, we must, do better.”

Governor Bill Owens

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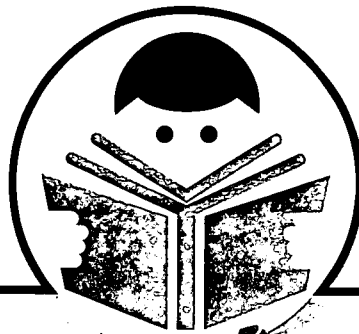
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READ TO ACHIEVE

Securing a Bright Future for Our Children



THE PROBLEM

Currently in Colorado:

- 33% of third graders cannot read at grade level
- 66% of fourth graders cannot write at grade level
- 44% of seventh graders cannot read at grade level

16,817 of Colorado's 54,007 third grade students cannot read at grade level. Reading is essential to basic achievement in every school subject, including math and science.

Children who cannot read at grade level by the time they enter fourth grade are more likely to fall behind in school and never graduate from high school.

THE SOLUTION



READ TO ACHIEVE

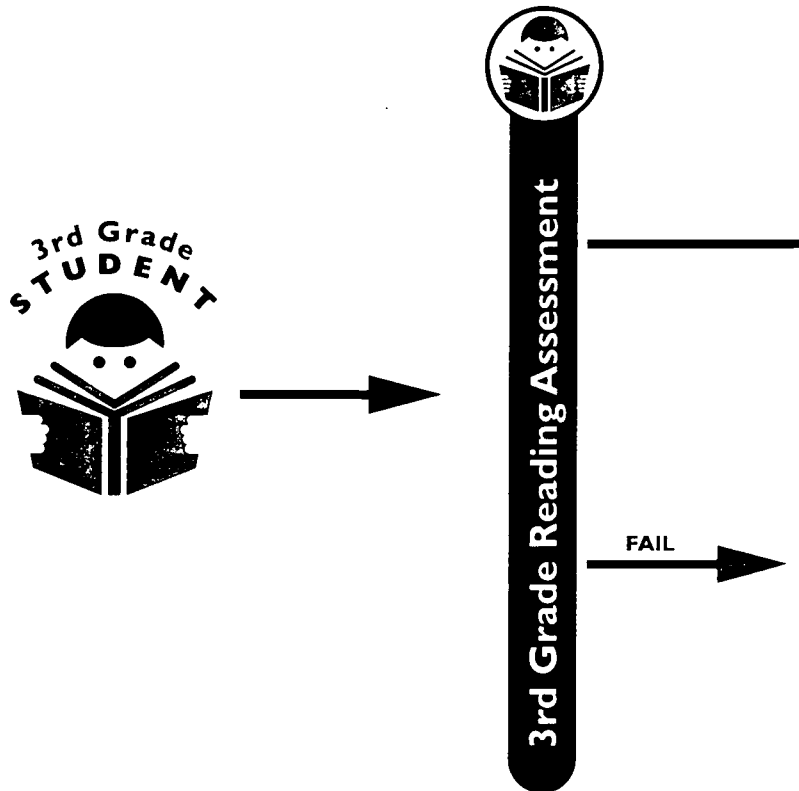
Securing a Bright Future for Our Children

READ TO ACHIEVE is a proven initiative designed to take immediate action to address low reading proficiency in our public schools. It will provide additional resources to schools and assist teachers in helping our children acquire the reading skills so essential to their success.

HOW IT WORKS

Children who receive the help they need to become proficient readers:

- succeed in school
- are prepared to master complex subjects such as literature, science, history, and math
- are more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college
- have increased self-esteem
- are better prepared to succeed in life



Children who cannot read proficiently by third grade, while still routinely promoted:

- struggle with learning in all subjects
- fall behind quickly and typically remain behind most of their lives
- often drop out of school

As under-educated adults:

- job/income opportunities are limited
- reliance on government welfare often results

Currently:

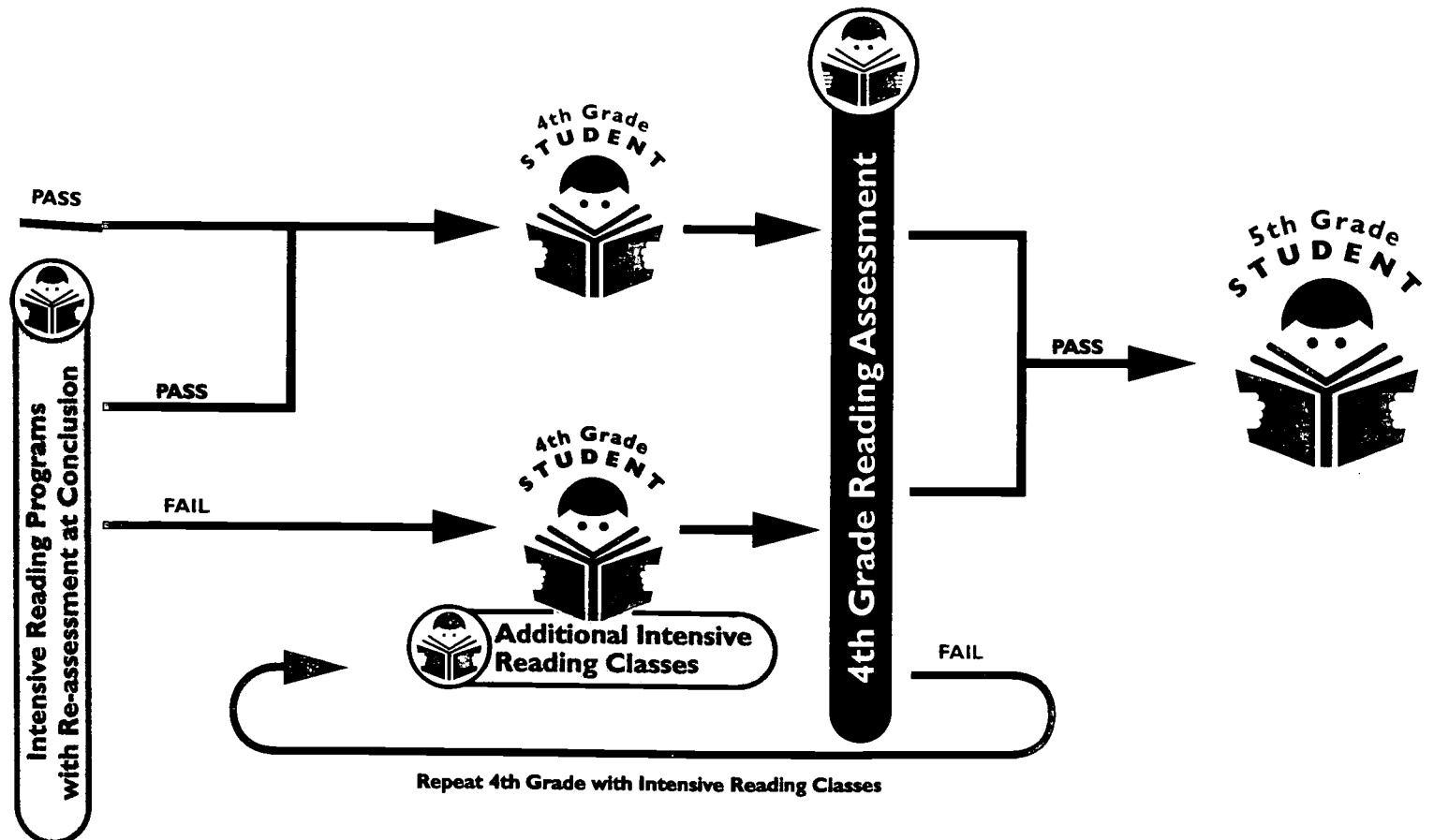
- 53% of Colorado's current prison population are functionally illiterate (below ninth grade proficiency)
- 28% of Colorado's current prison population are below fourth grade proficiency

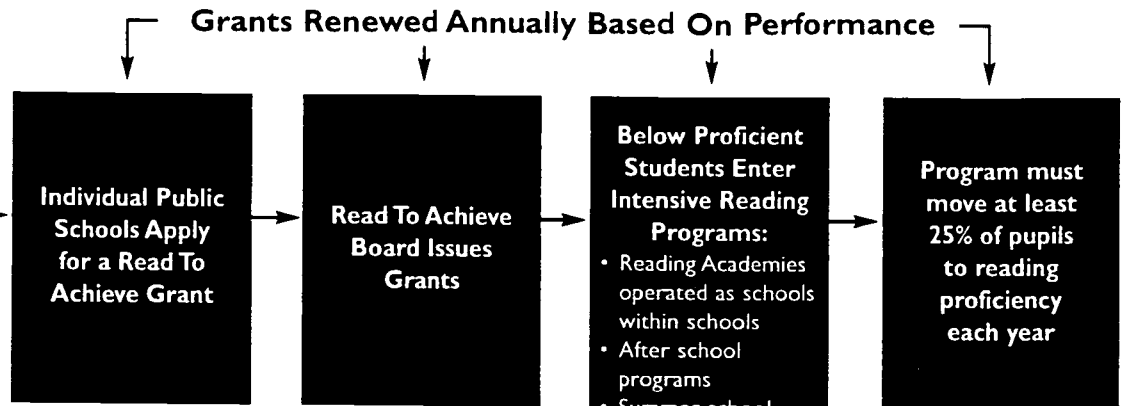
Read To Achieve will:

- provide grants to individual public schools
- deploy proven reading programs for our second, third, and fourth grade students who need to catch up
- provide options such as after school programs, summer school clinics, and one-on-one tutoring

Read To Achieve grants:

- will be made available to individual schools
- are contingent upon clear and measurable results, demonstrating that students enrolled in READ TO ACHIEVE programs are moving forward and mastering reading skills





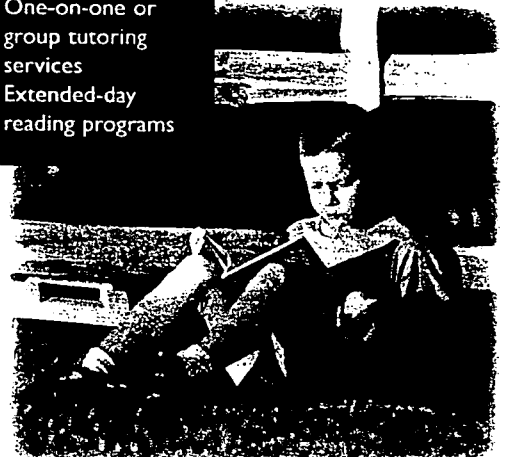
The Read To Achieve Board

There will be eight board members appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Colorado Senate. The board will consist of:

- one member of the State Board of Education
- two second or third grade elementary school teachers (one of whom works in a rural school district)
- two elementary school principals (one of whom works in a rural school district)
- one representative of the Governor's office
- one expert of best practices in reading and reading instruction
- one member who, at the time of appointment, is a parent of a child in second or third grade

Below Proficient Students Enter Intensive Reading Programs:

- Reading Academies operated as schools within schools
- After school programs
- Summer school clinics
- One-on-one or group tutoring services
- Extended-day reading programs



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Title: READ TO ACHIEVE	
Author(s): GOVERNOR BILL OWENS	
Corporate Source:	Publication Date: June, 1999

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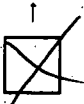
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