

Senate Education Committee

Trevor Currier 271-4151

HB 1529, repealing the reading recovery training program.

Hearing Date: April 14, 2026

Time Opened: 9:53 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:04 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Altschiller

Bill Analysis: This bill repeals the reading recovery training program.

Sponsors:

Rep. Noble

Rep. Belcher

Rep. Corcoran

Who supports the bill: Nate Dwyer, Heather Baker, and Cory Stone.

Who opposes the bill: William Copeland Jr, Joyce Weston, Julie Retelle, Richard Osborne, Suzanna Derynioski, Carol Lenahan, Janet Lucas, Sheila Donahue, Nancy Donahue, Lisa Day-Copeland, Richard Hunnewell, Anne Hunnewell, Nathaniel Blair, and Gary McCool.

Who is neutral on the bill: Nick Greene (NH Department of Education).

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Kristen Noble – *Hillsborough 2*

- Representative Noble introduced and testified in support of House Bill 1529
- Representative Noble explained that the reading recovery training program provides short-term improvements rather than long-term gains.
- Representative Noble stated that there are several states that have restricted or even banned the use of the methodology described in Reading Recovery.
- She explained that the Department of Education (DOE) does not support the program and has no intentions of supporting it in the future.

- She added that the DOE has transitioned to training in the LETTERS Program, which has a foundation rooted in phonics and evidence-based studies aligned with the Science of Reading.
- Senator Ward asked what the aim of the reading recovery program was. Representative Noble responded that the program uses a model known as “3 Q’ing,” which has not been productive or proven overly effective. She added that some local districts may still use this method, but the training is no longer provided at the state level.
- Senator Prentiss asked for further explanation of the statement that some districts could be using this program. Representative Noble explained that some districts testified at the House that they do still use this reading recovery program, but it has proven to be ineffective.
- Senator Prentiss asked how many districts are using this program. Representative Noble responded that she is unsure but can inquire with the DOE.
- Senator Prentiss asked what is happening in other states where the reading recovery program is being repealed. Representative Noble explained that states are prohibiting the use of this “3 Q’ing” method.

Nate Dwyer

- Mr. Dwyer explained that he has tutored many children in underprivileged areas and has seen the reading recovery program's ineffectiveness.
- Mr. Dwyer added that it has been found that teaching according to the Reading Recovery method is more harmful than not being taught at all.
- Mr. Dwyer explained that the program is targeted at kids who are already struggling with literacy.
- Mr. Dwyer stated that the theory of mind on which the program was founded has been disproven by many studies.
- Mr. Dwyer explained that this is a non-partisan issue and that it is relatively settled among experts in the field.
- He explained that states that have eliminated the Reading Recovery training program have seen incredible improvements in nationwide reading levels.
- Senator Sullivan asked if the city of Manchester is still using this reading recovery training program. Mr. Dwyer responded that he is unsure.

Heather Baker - *New Hampshire School Administrators Association*

- Ms. Baker voiced her support for House Bill 1529.
- Ms. Baker explained that the program is designed for progress monitoring when students start to fail.
- Ms. Baker stated that the bill's intention is appreciated, because the Reading Recovery Program does not align with the Science of Reading.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented:

Nick Greene - New Hampshire Department of Education

- Mr. Greene explained that the DOE has not supported the program in over 10 years.

