



## **The Literacy Improvement and Transformation Act of 2024**

More than 8 million low-income K-5 students in America are not proficient in reading. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, children who struggle to read proficiently by fourth grade are four times more likely not to graduate from high school than their peers with grade-level reading skills.

Students in underserved communities or those with learning disabilities often face additional challenges when it comes to reading. Reading and literacy specialists are By hiring more trained professionals who specialize in literacy instruction, school districts can help bridge the literacy gap and provide targeted support to students who may be at a higher risk of falling behind their peers.

Literacy specialists are trained to identify struggling readers, provide targeted interventions, and offer personalized instruction that has proven successful at helping students improve their reading skills.

## **Literacy Improvement For Transformation Act of 2024**

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich's (D-N.M.) Literacy Improvement For Transformation (LIFT) Act of 2024 aims to improve literacy outcomes for all students by ensuring that every K-12 public school has at least one full-time reading or literacy specialist on staff.

The LIFT Act will empower local entities with the resources to address literacy outcomes and gaps and play a larger role in narrowing the educational achievement gap by improving literacy education.

The bill establishes a LIFT Grant Program that will provide entities – including Local and State educational agencies, non-profit partners, and Bureau of Indian Education schools – with federal support to hire full-time reading or literacy specialists.

### **Targeted Change:**

- The LIFT Act prioritizes entities working with high-need student populations, including economically disadvantaged, English Language Learner, and students of color, etc.
- The LIFT Act elevates biliteracy approaches to learning and protect oral-based indigenous languages.
- LIFT ensures that reading or literacy specialists hired as a result of its funding stream spend at least 80 percent of their time working directly with students and teachers.

### **Investing in Educators:**

- The LIFT Act supports the ongoing development of reading specialists, including funding for evidence-based reading or literacy specialist certifications.
- The LIFT Act enables entities to use federal funds to retain and/or hire a full-time reading or literacy specialist.