

## HOUSE BILL No. 2546

By Committee on Appropriations

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AN ACT establishing the Kansas skills for success in school program; imposing certain duties on the state department of education and school districts.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. (a) On or before October 31, 2001, the state department of education, in consultation with the Kansas children's cabinet, the state department of social and rehabilitation services, the state department of health and environment, and other citizens knowledgeable about early childhood education and children's health, shall determine a school readiness definition. Based upon the definition of school readiness so determined, the state department of education shall design a school readiness indicator for use with children upon entrance to kindergarten.

(b) On or before October 31, 2001, the state department of education shall define a skill set for reading, for writing and for mathematics which a child at the completion of third grade should be able to execute if the child has mastered third grade level reading, writing and mathematics. Such skill sets shall not be minimum level skills, but shall reflect grade level proficiency.

(c) The state department of education shall design a third grade accomplishment examination to be administered at the end of each school year, beginning with the 2002-03 school year, to determine whether pupils have achieved mastery of the reading, writing and mathematics skill sets. The examination shall be administered to all third grade pupils upon completion of the grade.

(d) On or before October 31, 2001, the state department of education shall set a goal that by 2010, not less than 90% of pupils exiting the third grade have acquired the reading, writing and mathematics skill sets to be determined on the basis of the results of the third grade accomplishment examination. If the goal is not achieved, the state department of education shall establish a new plan to meet the goal.

Sec. 2. (a) School districts shall construct a plan for identifying markers which indicate whether a child is progressing adequately toward acquisition of the skill sets designed by the state department of education and for diagnosing each child's skill level. The school district shall use

1 assessments or diagnostic reviews during kindergarten and each of the  
2 grades first, second and third to determine a child's level of performance.  
3 Each school district's plan shall embed the assessments or diagnostic re-  
4 views into the curriculum and implement a measure to check each child's  
5 progress during the fall or spring semesters or both such semesters. The  
6 school district shall establish a plan for providing each child needing as-  
7 sistance with locally determined interventions. The plan may include, but  
8 need not be limited to, a restructured school day, additional school days,  
9 summer school, individualized instruction and such other interventions  
10 as the school district may deem necessary. The plan shall not include a  
11 requirement for full-day kindergarten attendance. In addition to the fore-  
12 going, the plan providing for interventions shall include implementation  
13 of a first grade reading intervention that meets the following specifica-  
14 tions: A research-based reading intervention method designed for first-  
15 graders with a proven track record of a 75% success rate, with sustained  
16 learning over time using a short-term, one-on-one tutoring intervention  
17 from 12 to 20 weeks. The diagnostic reviews or assessments may be im-  
18 plemented in addition to current assessments or diagnostic reviews, or in  
19 lieu of current assessments or diagnostic reviews, as long as the district  
20 continues to meet quality performance accreditation requirements.  
21 School districts shall continue to implement the second grade reading  
22 diagnostic currently required by the state.

23 (b) When a child has been identified as needing assistance, the school  
24 district plan shall create a mechanism to track the child's interventions  
25 and progress. When a child has accomplished the district-determined  
26 level of accomplishment, no further tracking will be necessary unless the  
27 child falls behind in another grade. If the child does not accomplish the  
28 grade-level markers defined by the school district despite intervention,  
29 the child will be retained to repeat the grade. The school district will  
30 determine the measures by which the child's progress is measured.

31 Sec. 3. The state department of education shall pilot the third grade  
32 accomplishment examination in the spring of 2002. The school readiness  
33 indicator required by subsection (a) of section 1, and amendments  
34 thereto, shall be developed by the state department of education on or  
35 before August 1, 2002. The plans required by subsection (a) of section 2,  
36 and amendments thereto, shall be constructed by school districts on or  
37 before August 1, 2002. The statewide program shall begin in the 2002-  
38 03 school year. During the first year, each school district will administer  
39 the third grade examination to set the school's baseline.

40 Sec. 4. (a) There is hereby created the joint committee on education  
41 review which shall be within the legislative branch of state government  
42 and which shall be composed of five members of the senate and five  
43 members of the house of representatives.

1 (b) The president of the senate shall appoint three senators and the  
2 minority leader shall appoint two senators as members of the committee.

3 (c) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint three  
4 representatives and the minority leader shall appoint two representatives  
5 as members of the committee.

6 (d) Any vacancy in the membership of the joint committee on edu-  
7 cation review shall be filled by appointment in the manner prescribed by  
8 this section for the original appointment.

9 (e) All members of the joint committee on education review shall  
10 serve for terms ending on the first day of the regular legislative session  
11 in odd-numbered years. The joint committee shall organize annually and  
12 elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. If the chairperson is a senator,  
13 the vice-chairperson shall be a representative. If the chairperson is a rep-  
14 resentative, the vice-chairperson shall be a senator. The vice-chairperson  
15 shall exercise all of the powers of the chairperson in the absence of the  
16 chairperson. If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairperson or vice-chair-  
17 person, a member of the joint committee, who is a member of the same  
18 house as the member who vacated the office, shall be elected by the  
19 members of the joint committee to fill such vacancy. Within 30 days after  
20 the effective date of this act, the joint committee shall organize and elect  
21 a chairperson and a vice-chairperson in accordance with the provisions of  
22 this act.

23 (f) A quorum of the joint committee on education review shall be six.  
24 All actions of the joint committee shall be by motion adopted by a majority  
25 of those present when there is a quorum.

26 (g) The joint committee on education review may meet at any time  
27 and at any place within the state on the call of the chairperson, vice-  
28 chairperson and ranking minority member of the house of representatives  
29 when the chairperson is a representative or of the senate when the chair-  
30 person is a senator.

31 (h) The provisions of the acts contained in article 12 of chapter 46 of  
32 the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, applicable to  
33 special committees shall apply to the joint committee on education review  
34 to the extent that the same do not conflict with the specific provisions of  
35 this act applicable to the joint committee.

36 (i) In accordance with K.S.A. 46-1204 and amendments thereto, the  
37 legislative coordinating council may provide for such professional services  
38 as may be requested by the joint committee on education review.

39 (j) The joint committee on education review may introduce such leg-  
40 islation as it deems necessary in performing its functions.

41 (k) In addition to other powers and duties authorized or prescribed  
42 by law or by the legislative coordinating council, the joint committee on  
43 education review shall:

1 (1) Monitor and oversee the implementation of all legislation passed  
2 during the preceding year concerning students who are enrolled in kin-  
3 dergarten through grade 12; and

4 (2) have the authority to review state funded preschool and early  
5 childhood development programs to see if such programs are reaching  
6 or attaining the school readiness indicators.

7 Sec. 5. The state department of education shall report its progress  
8 toward implementation of the provisions of this act to the education re-  
9 view committee on November 1, 2001, with continuing annual reports  
10 and other reports as requested by the chairperson of the education review  
11 committee.

12 Sec. 6. The state department of education, the Kansas children's cab-  
13 inet, the state department of social and rehabilitation services, the state  
14 department of health and environment, along with any other state agency  
15 or state-funded program which impacts early childhood development,  
16 must all report in their fiscal year 2003 budget requests how their early  
17 childhood programs impact children from birth to entry into kindergarten  
18 according to the school readiness definition.

19 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
20 publication in the statute book.

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