

HOUSE BILL No. 2188

By Representative Loganbill

1-27

9 AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to teachers; establishing a
10 grant program for development of peer assistance and peer assistance
11 and review programs.
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13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the teacher
15 peer assistance and peer assistance and review act.

16 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

17 (a) "Peer assistance" means the provision of confidential formative
18 assistance and support by colleagues informally and in defined assistance
19 structures.

20 (b) "Peer assistance and review program" means a program that com-
21 bines peer assistance with a peer review function for new teachers, and
22 experienced teachers, experiencing substantial difficulties with their
23 teaching in a manner that leads to improved practice and retention by
24 the school district.

25 (c) "Program" means the peer assistance and peer assistance and re-
26 view planning grant program established pursuant to section 3, and
27 amendments thereto.

28 Sec. 3. (a) The state board of education shall develop, monitor and
29 establish a peer assistance and peer assistance and review planning grant
30 program to provide funding to qualifying school districts in Kansas.

31 (b) Subject to the limitations of appropriations therefor, \$250,000
32 shall be set aside to fund the planning grant program with no qualifying
33 school district obtaining more than a \$50,000 planning grant.

34 Sec. 4. The purpose of the program is to improve the professional
35 practice of teaching, retain promising teachers and build professional
36 knowledge to improve student success.

37 Sec. 5. Application for a planning grant shall include:

38 (a) A statement of joint commitment signed by official representa-
39 tives of the local board of education and the professional employee's or-
40 ganization that is designated or selected for the purposes of professional
41 negotiations.

42 (b) Evidence of a positive relationship between the school district and
43 the professional employee's organization.

- 1 (c) An outline of proposed work tasks including, but not limited to:
2 (1) Training for all participants;
3 (2) selection criteria for assisting teachers;
4 (3) a plan for interaction between the peer assistance system and the
5 current teacher evaluation system; and
6 (4) the target audience of any such system, i.e., new teachers, veteran
7 teachers and teachers experiencing substantial difficulties.
8 (d) A proposed budget.
- 9 Sec. 6. (a) The state board of education shall use representatives of
10 school districts, statewide teachers' organizations and the legislature to
11 evaluate and select grant proposals for funding. The board shall deter-
12 mine the number of representatives to be selected from each school dis-
13 trict and teacher organizations, except that the legislator representatives
14 shall be limited to two persons, one appointed by the speaker of the house
15 of representatives and one by the president of the senate. The legislator
16 representatives shall be of different political parties.
- 17 (b) The members appointed by the board shall serve a term of three
18 years and serve at the pleasure of the board.
- 19 (c) All members shall be residents of Kansas.
- 20 (d) The terms of the legislator members shall expire upon termina-
21 tion of their holding office as a member of the legislature. However, such
22 members shall serve until the member's successor is appointed and qual-
23 ified in the same manner.
- 24 Sec. 7. (a) No member or employee of a peer assistance group or
25 peer review committee is liable to any person for any action taken or
26 recommendation made within the scope of the functions of such group
27 or committee if the group or committee member or employee acts with-
28 out malice and in the reasonable belief that the action or recommendation
29 is warranted by the facts known to such member after a reasonable effort
30 to obtain the facts of the matter as to which the action is taken or rec-
31 ommendation is made.
- 32 (b) No person who provides information to a peer assistance group
33 or peer review committee, professional standards review committee, or
34 counseling and assistance committee of a state or local professional or-
35 ganization for teachers, or a member or employee of the peer assistance
36 group or peer review committee, without malice and in good faith be-
37 lieves that the information is warranted by the facts known to such person
38 is liable in damages in a civil action as a result of providing that
39 information.
- 40 (c) A group or committee member may report to and discuss its ac-
41 tivities, information and findings with other group or committee members
42 without waiver of the privilege provided under this section, and the re-
43 cords of all such groups and committee members relating to such report

1 shall be privileged as provided under this section.

2 (d) Reports and records made pursuant to this act shall not be subject
3 to discovery, subpoena or other means of legal compulsion for their re-
4 lease to any person or entity and shall not be admissible in any civil or
5 administrative action other than a disciplinary proceeding.

6 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
7 publication in the statute book.