

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2024

HOUSE BILL No. 2839

By Committee on Appropriations

Requested by Representative Estes

3-13

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to literacy; establishing the
2 Kansas blueprint for literacy; creating a literacy advisory committee;
3 directing the state board of regents to appoint a director of literacy
4 education and develop a comprehensive assessment system ~~for school~~
5 ~~districts~~; requiring the state board of regents and the state board of
6 education to collaborate on a literacy micro-credential and professional
7 development; authorizing the state board of regents to recommend
8 diagnostic and formative literacy assessments; authorizing university
9 presidents and deans of education oversight over postsecondary literacy
10 courses; requiring a plan to establish centers of excellence in reading.

11
12 WHEREAS, Kansas is experiencing unprecedented economic growth.
13 By the year 2030, Kansas will add 54,000 new jobs, 80% of which will
14 require a bachelor's degree or higher. At the same time, the state is at a
15 crucial moment where a comprehensive approach to equipping Kansas
16 educators with training in the science of reading, structured literacy and
17 literacy screening and assessment tools is essential; and

18 WHEREAS, It is imperative that we leverage our strengths and ensure
19 we lead the nation in producing highly literate talent to lead our
20 communities and state forward; and

21 WHEREAS, Making literacy a priority is without a doubt one of the
22 most important and impactful investments that we can make to help
23 families, support businesses and continue to advance economic prosperity
24 for all Kansans.

25 Now, therefore:

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

27 Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 7, and amendments thereto, shall be
28 known and may be cited as the Kansas blueprint for literacy.

29 (b) **Each provision of sections 1 through 7, and amendments**
30 **thereto, that requires the expenditure of moneys shall be subject to**
31 **legislative appropriations therefor.**

32 (c) As used in sections 1 through 7, and amendments thereto:

33 (1) "In-service" means a licensed individual who is employed by a
34 school district or accredited nonpublic school as a teacher.

35 (2) "Postsecondary educational institution" means:

1 (A) A state educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and
2 amendments thereto;

3 (B) a municipal university; and

4 (C) any not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education that has
5 its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas, is operated
6 independently and not controlled or administered by a state agency or
7 subdivision of this state, maintains open enrollment and is accredited by a
8 nationally recognized accrediting agency for higher education in the
9 United States.

10 (3) "Pre-service" means an individual who is receiving the education
11 and training to become a licensed teacher but is not yet licensed.

12 (4) "Science of reading" means the teaching of reading using
13 evidence-based research that includes phonemic awareness, phonics,
14 fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

15 (5) "Structured literacy" means the application of knowledge from the
16 science of reading that teaches reading in an evidence-based and
17 systematic way.

18 Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established a literacy advisory committee.
19 The committee shall be composed of:

20 (1) 15 voting members as follows:

21 (A) The director of literacy education, appointed pursuant to section
22 3, and amendments thereto, who shall serve as chairperson of the
23 committee;

24 (B) one member appointed by the governor;

25 (C) one member of the house of representatives or a literacy expert
26 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

27 (D) one member of the house of representatives or a literacy expert
28 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

29 (E) one member of the senate or a literacy expert appointed by the
30 president of the senate;

31 (F) one member of the senate or a literacy expert appointed by the
32 minority leader of the senate;

33 (G) one member appointed by and representing the Kansas national
34 education association;

35 (H) one member appointed by and representing a school of education
36 from Emporia state university, Fort Hays state university or Pittsburg state
37 university;

38 (I) one member appointed by and representing a school of education
39 from the university of Kansas, Kansas state university or Wichita state
40 university;

41 (J) one member appointed by and representing Washburn university
42 school of education;

43 (K) one member appointed by the Kansas association of community

- 1 colleges to represent community colleges;
- 2 (L) one member appointed by the Kansas independent colleges
3 association to represent a not-for-profit institution of postsecondary
4 education school or college of education;
- 5 (M) one member appointed by the state board of education;
- 6 (N) one member of the state board of regents appointed by the state
7 board of regents; and
- 8 (O) one member who is an English for speakers of other languages
9 literacy expert appointed by the united school administrators of Kansas;
10 and
- 11 (2) nonvoting members as follows:
- 12 (A) The commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;
13 and
- 14 (B) any number of members appointed by the director of literacy
15 education pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto.
- 16 (b) (1) Members shall be appointed on or before July 1, 2024.
- 17 (2) Except for the director of literacy education, voting members shall
18 serve for a term of four years.
- 19 (3) Any vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be filled
20 by appointment in the same manner prescribed by this section for the
21 original appointment.
- 22 (4) A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the voting
23 members. All actions of the committee may be taken by a majority of the
24 voting members present when there is a quorum.
- 25 (5) The committee may meet at any time and at any place within the
26 state upon the call of the chairperson.
- 27 (6) If any member of the committee fails to attend three meetings of
28 the committee within any 12-month period, such member's appointment
29 shall terminate and a new member shall be appointed in the same manner
30 prescribed by this section for the original appointment.
- 31 (c) The literacy advisory committee shall:
- 32 (1) Monitor progress of literacy training for in-service and pre-service
33 teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary students;
- 34 (2) designate best practices for literacy training for in-service and pre-
35 service teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary
36 students;
- 37 (3) be responsible for the attainment of the transformational goal to
38 have 100% of the Kansas elementary teacher workforce achieve a micro-
39 credential in the science of reading and structured literacy by 2030,
40 leading to ~~85%~~ **75% or more of third through eighth graders achieving**
41 **level 3 or above and at least 90%** of ~~Kansas fourth~~ **third through eighth**
42 **graders achieving upper** level 2 or above on the English language arts
43 state assessment by 2033;

1 (4) make recommendations to the director of literacy education;
 2 (5) make recommendations to the state board of education, the state
 3 board of regents and the postsecondary educational institution presidents
 4 or chancellors on:

5 (A) Literacy training for in-service and pre-service teachers and
 6 literacy education of elementary and secondary students; and

7 (B) reading instruction methods based on the science of reading;

8 (6) make recommendations to the house of representatives standing
 9 committee on education and the senate standing committee on education
 10 on the implementation of the goals of the Kansas blueprint for literacy and
 11 any changes necessary to achieve such goals; and

12 (7) submit a plan to the state board of regents **and the legislature** on
 13 the establishment of centers of excellence in reading pursuant to section 7,
 14 and amendments thereto, on or before January 1, 2025.

15 (d) **The committee shall be subject to the open records act, K.S.A.**
 16 **45-419 et seq., and amendments thereto, and the open meetings act,**
 17 **K.S.A. 75-4317 et seq., and amendments thereto. The committee shall**
 18 **publish each meeting agenda and any available meeting documents**
 19 **online prior to each scheduled meeting of the committee.**

20 (e) (1) Legislative members of the committee and members appointed
 21 by a member of the legislature who attend meetings of the committee shall
 22 be paid for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-
 23 3223(e), and amendments thereto.

24 (2) Members of the committee who are not members of the
 25 legislature or appointed by a member of the legislature may be paid for
 26 expenses, mileage and subsistence by the entity each such member was
 27 appointed by and represents.

28 ~~(e)~~(f) (1) The director of literacy education shall provide executive
 29 support to the committee.

30 (2) The staff of the state board of regents, office of revisor of statutes,
 31 the legislative research department and the division of legislative
 32 administrative services shall provide such assistance as may be requested
 33 by the committee.

34 Sec. 3. (a) On or before July 1, 2024, the executive officer of the state
 35 board of regents shall appoint a director of literacy education.

36 (b) The director of literacy education shall be an employee of the
 37 state board of regents in the unclassified service who serves at the pleasure
 38 of the state board of regents. The compensation of the director shall be
 39 determined by the executive officer of the state board of regents.

40 (c) The director of literacy education shall:

41 (1) Serve as chairperson of the literacy advisory committee
 42 established in section 2, and amendments thereto;

43 (2) implement and administer the Kansas blueprint for literacy;

- 1 (3) provide executive support to the literacy advisory committee;
- 2 (4) appoint nonvoting members of the literacy advisory committee as
3 the director deems necessary;
- 4 (5) work with the state board of education and the state board of
5 regents to ensure:
- 6 (A) Progress on the initiatives, objectives and desired outcomes in the
7 Kansas blueprint for literacy;
- 8 (B) the development and utilization of the comprehensive assessment
9 system; and
- 10 (C) ~~postsecondary~~state educational institutions and elementary and
11 secondary schools are using tier I literacy methodologies;
- 12 (6) **encourage independent institutions referred to in section 1(c)**
13 **(2)(C), and amendments thereto, to use such tier I methodologies;**
- 14 (7) establish a program to track the science of reading and structured
15 literacy training progression of in-service and pre-service early childhood
16 and elementary teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals,
17 reading specialists and early childhood and elementary administrators for
18 all school districts in the state;
- 19 ~~(7)~~**(8)** on or before January 15 of each year, prepare and present a
20 report to the senate standing committee on education and the house of
21 representatives standing committee on education, or any successor
22 committees, on the implementation and administration of the Kansas
23 blueprint for literacy, including, but not limited to, an implementation
24 timeline, progress of initiatives, development and utilization of the
25 comprehensive assessment system, progress toward the goal established in
26 section 2(c), and amendments thereto, use of tier I methodologies,
27 outcomes and any proposed changes; and
- 28 ~~(8)~~**(9)** report to the house of representatives standing committee on
29 education and the senate standing committee on education on or before
30 January 31, 2025, on the ~~state board's~~ progress **of the state board of**
31 **regents** on utilization of the science of reading, elimination of discredited
32 methodologies, use of universal screening measures and assessments in
33 elementary and secondary schools in the state.
- 34 Sec. 4. (a) Postsecondary educational institutions shall designate
35 practices based on the science of reading through structured literacy as the
36 official tier I literacy methodology and shall prohibit the use or teaching of
37 any discredited methodologies, such as the three-cueing system.
- 38 (b) (1) The state board of regents, in collaboration with postsecondary
39 educational institutions and research experts, shall establish a
40 comprehensive reading and literacy assessment system with universal
41 screening measures, diagnostic, formative and summative assessments to
42 be used ~~by each school district in the state~~ **in teacher preparation**
43 **programs**. Such assessment system shall allow teachers to adjust

1 instruction to meet the specific needs of students, including with regard to
2 reading difficulties and the remediation of reading and literacy skill gaps.
3 The state board of regents shall make recommendations to the state board
4 of education on such assessment system and ensure that such assessment
5 system is available to school districts on or before May 1, 2025. **Nothing**
6 **in this paragraph shall be construed to include the English language**
7 **arts statewide assessments.**

8 (2) The state board of regents shall:

9 (A) Develop training modules for the assessment system on or before
10 July 1, 2025;

11 (B) support state board of education action to officially designate the
12 science of reading as the official tier I literacy methodology;

13 (C) support elementary and secondary schools as necessary to
14 eliminate any discredited methodologies;

15 (D) recommend literacy-specific universal screening measures and
16 diagnostic, formative and summative assessments to ~~school districts and~~
17 ~~accredited nonpublic schools~~ **the state board of education**; and

18 (E) approve reading instruction methodologies recommended by the
19 literacy advisory committee for ~~postsecondary~~ **state** educational
20 institutions.

21 ~~(3) Each school district shall use the comprehensive assessment~~
22 ~~system beginning in school year 2025-2026.~~

23 (c) The director of literacy education shall report to the house of
24 representatives standing committee on education and the senate standing
25 committee on education on or before January 31, 2025, on the ~~state board's~~
26 progress **of the state board of regents** on utilization of the science of
27 reading, elimination of discredited methodologies, use of universal
28 screening measures and assessments in elementary and secondary schools
29 in the state.

30 Sec. 5. The state board of regents and the state board of education
31 shall collaborate to:

32 (a) Jointly approve micro-credential ~~or certification~~ requirements for
33 **in-service teachers or certification requirements for pre-service**
34 **teachers at state educational institutions** in the science of reading and
35 structured literacy ~~developed by postsecondary educational institution~~
36 ~~colleges or schools of education and other collaborative partners pursuant~~
37 ~~to section 6, and amendments thereto;~~

38 (b) develop or make accessible professional development programs
39 and micro-credential courses for all in-service early childhood teachers,
40 general education teachers and special education teachers at low or no cost
41 to such teachers. Such programs and courses shall be delivered by national
42 online learning programs or accredited Kansas postsecondary educational
43 institutions;

1 (c) ensure all pre-service teacher preparation programs **at state**
2 **educational institutions** are based on the science of reading and
3 structured literacy;

4 (d) publish standards and course progressions to achieve transparency
5 of Kansas reading education programs; and

6 (e) provide data for the program to the director of literacy education
7 that tracks the science of reading and structured literacy training
8 progression of in-service and pre-service early childhood and elementary
9 teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals, reading
10 specialists and early childhood and elementary administrators for all
11 school districts in the state.

12 Sec. 6. The president or chancellor, provost and dean of the college or
13 school of education of each postsecondary educational institution shall
14 jointly have oversight and supervision of undergraduate and graduate level
15 reading and literacy courses at their respective institution and shall:

16 (a) Ensure explicit courses in the science of reading and structured
17 literacy, including the five pillars of reading for all undergraduate early
18 childhood and elementary teacher preparation programs **at state**
19 **educational institutions**;

20 (b) appoint one representative from each such postsecondary
21 educational institution to conduct an annual systemwide analysis of the
22 curriculum maps across all literacy courses. Such analysis shall include
23 identifying clear evidence of instructional approaches and the core
24 components of reading development;

25 (c) present a report on such systemwide analysis and any results from
26 such analysis to the literacy advisory committee;

27 (d) design and implement two three-credit hour applied application
28 courses that shall be included within the approved graduation requirements
29 to earn a degree in elementary education on or before August 2024;

30 (e) implement a common performance-based assessment for such
31 courses to be used by all postsecondary educational institutions on or
32 before August 2024;

33 (f) assist in the development of a science of reading and structured
34 literacy micro-credential for early childhood teachers, elementary
35 education teachers, English for speakers of other languages teachers,
36 reading specialists, special education teachers and paraprofessionals, early
37 childhood and elementary administrators that focuses on research-based
38 fundamentals of reading instruction; and

39 (g) provide information, advice and recommendations to the literacy
40 advisory committee.

41 Sec. 7. The literacy advisory committee shall develop a plan to
42 establish six regional centers of excellence in reading. The plan shall:

43 (a) Require postsecondary educational institutions to collaborate with

1 colleges or schools of education, the center for reading at Pittsburg state
2 university and community-based literacy organizations;

3 (b) include options that would allow centers for excellence in reading
4 to be co-located in an existing building or school of a school district,
5 postsecondary educational institution, community facility or other facility
6 or building, as appropriate; and

7 (c) require such centers to:

8 (1) Provide evaluation and identification of reading difficulties and
9 reading disabilities, including, but not limited, dyslexia;

10 (2) collaborate with school districts to develop strategic literacy plans
11 for individual students;

12 (3) collaborate with the state department of education, state board of
13 regents and postsecondary educational institutions to support pre-service
14 and in-service teacher training;

15 (4) support the professional development and training of school-
16 based instructional coaches;

17 (5) pilot structured reading applied learning simulation laboratories
18 for pre-service and in-service teachers;

19 (6) pilot a literacy education simulation training laboratory for pre-
20 service elementary teachers as a controlled environment for the application
21 of the science of reading;

22 (7) identify projected cost, staffing and budget impacts to develop,
23 expand and sustain the centers for excellence and reading simulation
24 laboratories; and

25 (8) make recommendations and provide progress reports to the
26 literacy advisory committee.

27 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
28 publication in the Kansas register.