

SENATE BILL No. 48

By Committee on Education

1-21

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to school district accreditation;
2 requiring school districts to demonstrate improvement in academic
3 performance and be in compliance with federal and state statutes and
4 rules and regulations to achieve or maintain accreditation; amending
5 K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5170 and repealing the existing section; also
6 repealing K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5170a.

7
8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5170 is hereby amended to read as
10 follows: 72-5170. (a) (1) In order to accomplish the ~~mission for Kansas~~
11 ~~education~~ *constitutional mandate of intellectual, educational, vocational*
12 *and scientific improvement*, the state board shall design and adopt a school
13 district accreditation system ~~based upon that requires conclusive,~~
14 *measurable evidence of improvement in student academic performance*
15 ~~that~~ *and equals or exceeds the educational goal set forth in K.S.A. 72-*
16 *3218(c), and amendments thereto, and is measurable. Beginning July 1,*
17 *2026, and each school year thereafter, to achieve or maintain*
18 *accreditation, school districts shall demonstrate material improvement in*
19 *student academic performance from the preceding school year, evidenced*
20 *by a significant reduction in the number of students who scored at level 1*
21 *on state assessments and a significant increase in the number of students*
22 *who scored above level 2 on state assessments, pursuant to rules and*
23 *regulations adopted by the state board. The state board shall hold all*
24 *school districts and each public school operated by such school districts*
25 *accountable through the Kansas education systems accreditation rules and*
26 *regulations; or any successor accreditation system and accountability*
27 *measures plan adopted by the state board. The state board also shall set*
28 *required academic performance improvement targets and ensure that all*
29 *school districts and the public schools operated by such districts have*
30 *programs and initiatives in place for providing those educational capacities*
31 *set forth in K.S.A. 72-3218(c), and amendments thereto. On or before*
32 *January 15 of each year, the state board shall prepare and submit a report*
33 *on the school district accreditation system to the governor and the*
34 *legislature.*

35 (2) The accountability measures established pursuant to paragraph (1)
36 shall be applied both at the district level and at the school level. Such

1 accountability measures shall be reported by the state board for each
2 school district and each school. All reports prepared pursuant to this
3 section shall be published in accordance with K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-1181,
4 and amendments thereto.

5 (3) *The school district accreditation system shall require school*
6 *districts and public schools operated by such school districts to be in*
7 *compliance with all applicable federal and state statutes and rules and*
8 *regulations. School districts and schools that are found to be out of*
9 *compliance with one or more applicable federal and state statutes and*
10 *rules and regulations shall be notified by the state board of such*
11 *noncompliance. Any such notification shall identify the nature and extent*
12 *of noncompliance and provide a deadline for the noncompliance to be*
13 *corrected. Such deadline shall not extend beyond June 30 of the*
14 *succeeding school year. Failure of a school district to correct the*
15 *noncompliance by the established deadline shall result in the loss of the*
16 *school district's accreditation. The notice of noncompliance shall be*
17 *posted on the state board's website and prominently posted on the*
18 *homepage of such school district's website until the noncompliance has*
19 *been corrected. The state board shall establish a due process procedure to*
20 *allow a school district, public school or individual to challenge a*
21 *determination of compliance.*

22 (4) If a school district is conditionally accredited, accredited with
23 conditions or otherwise not fully accredited ~~and~~, the state board shall
24 require a corrective action plan ~~is required~~, which shall be approved by the
25 state board. Such corrective action plan, and any subsequent reports
26 prepared by the state board regarding the progress of such school district
27 in implementing and executing such corrective action plan, shall be
28 published on the state department of education's internet website and such
29 school district's internet website in accordance with K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-
30 1181, and amendments thereto.

31 ~~(4)~~(5) If a school district is not fully accredited for failure to
32 demonstrate conclusive, measurable evidence of improvement in student
33 academic performance as required by paragraph (1), the superintendent,
34 or the superintendent's designee, shall appear before the committee on
35 education of the house of representatives and the committee on education
36 of the senate during the regular legislative session that occurs during the
37 same school year ~~in which~~ when such school district is not accredited.
38 Such school district shall provide a report to such committees on the
39 challenges and obstacles that are preventing such school district from
40 becoming fully accredited and what actions, including, but not limited to,
41 reallocation of school district resources, are being taken or will be taken
42 to correct its unaccredited status.

43 (b) The state board shall establish curriculum standards that reflect

1 high academic standards for the core academic areas of mathematics,
2 science, reading, writing and social studies. The curriculum standards ~~shall~~
3 *may* be reviewed at least every seven years. *The state board shall not*
4 *substantially revise or update the English language arts or mathematics*
5 *curriculum standards that are in effect on July 1, 2024, in a manner that*
6 *would necessitate the development of new statewide assessments in*
7 *English language arts or mathematics until the state board's long-term*
8 *goal for all students submitted to the United States department of*
9 *education in the consolidated state plan is achieved such that 75% of all*
10 *students score in performance levels 3 and 4 combined on the statewide*
11 *assessments in English language arts and mathematics by 2030.* Nothing
12 in this subsection shall be construed in any manner ~~so as to~~ impinge upon
13 any school district's authority to determine its own curriculum *if the school*
14 *district's curriculum reflects high academic standards.*

15 (c) (1) The state board shall provide for statewide assessments in the
16 core academic areas of mathematics, science, reading, writing and social
17 studies. The board shall ensure compatibility between the statewide
18 assessments and the curriculum standards established pursuant to
19 subsection (b). Such assessments shall be administered at three grade
20 levels, as determined by the state board. The state board shall determine
21 performance levels on the statewide assessments, the achievement of
22 which represents high academic standards in the academic area at the
23 grade level to which the assessment applies. The state board ~~should~~ *shall*
24 specify high academic standards both for individual performance and
25 school performance on the assessments.

26 (2) (A) On or before January 15 of each year, the state board shall
27 prepare and submit to the legislature a report on students who take the
28 statewide assessments. Such report shall include:

29 (i) The number of students and such number expressed as a
30 percentage of the total number of students who took the statewide
31 assessments during the immediately preceding school year disaggregated
32 by core academic area and by grade level; and

33 (ii) the percentage of students who took the statewide assessments in
34 grade 10 who, two years after graduating from high school, obtained some
35 postsecondary education disaggregated by statewide assessment
36 achievement level.

37 (B) When such information becomes available, or as soon thereafter
38 as practicable, the state board shall publish the information required for the
39 report under subparagraph (A) on the website of the state department of
40 education and incorporate such information in the performance
41 accountability reports and longitudinal achievement reports required under
42 K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5178, and amendments thereto.

43 (C) The provisions of this paragraph shall expire on July 1, 2029.

1 (d) Each school year, on such date as specified by the state board,
2 each school district shall submit the Kansas education system accreditation
3 report to the state board in such form and manner as prescribed by the state
4 board.

5 (e) Whenever the state board determines that a school district has
6 failed ~~either~~ to meet the accreditation requirements established *in this*
7 *section*, by rules and regulations ~~or standards~~ adopted by the state board or
8 provide curriculum based on state standards and courses required by state
9 law, the state board shall so notify the school district. Such notice shall
10 specify the accreditation requirements that the school district has failed to
11 meet and, *if applicable*, the curriculum that it has failed to provide. Upon
12 receipt of such notice, the board of education of such school district ~~is~~
13 ~~encouraged to reallocate~~ *shall address the deficiencies identified by the*
14 *state board, including, if applicable, reallocation of the resources of the*
15 *school district to remedy all such deficiencies identified by the state board.*

16 (f) Each school in every school district shall establish a school site
17 council composed of the principal and representatives of teachers and
18 other school personnel, parents of students attending the school, the
19 business community and other community groups. School site councils
20 shall be responsible for providing advice and counsel in evaluating state,
21 school district, and school site performance goals and objectives and in
22 determining the methods that should be employed at the school site to
23 meet these goals and objectives, *including, but not limited to, participation*
24 *in the building-based needs assessment process required by K.S.A. 72-*
25 *1163, and amendments thereto.* Site councils may make recommendations
26 and proposals to the school board regarding budgetary items and school
27 district matters, including, but not limited to, identifying and implementing
28 the best practices for developing efficient and effective administrative and
29 management functions. Site councils also may help school boards analyze
30 the unique environment of schools, enhance the efficiency and maximize
31 limited resources, including outsourcing arrangements and cooperative
32 opportunities as a means to address limited budgets.

33 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5170 and 72-5170a are hereby
34 repealed.

35 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
36 publication in the statute book.