

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 on 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 **the building needs assessment requirement provided in***
8 ***K.S.A. 72-1163, and amendment thereto, at-risk requirements provided***
9 ***in K.S.A. 72-5151 through 72-5154, and amendments thereto, and all***
10 *applicable ~~federal and~~ state statutes and rules and regulations. School*
11 *districts and schools that are found to be out of compliance with one or*
12 *more applicable ~~federal and~~ state statutes and rules and regulations shall*
13 *be notified by the state board of such noncompliance. Any such*
14 *notification shall identify the nature and extent of noncompliance and*
15 *provide a deadline for the noncompliance to be corrected. Such deadline*
16 *shall not extend beyond June 30 of the succeeding school year. Failure of*
17 *a school district to correct the noncompliance by the established deadline*
18 *shall result in the loss of the school district's accreditation. The notice of*
19 *noncompliance shall be posted on the state board's website and*
20 *prominently posted on the homepage of such school district's website until*
21 *the noncompliance has been corrected. The state board shall establish a*
22 *due process procedure to allow a school district, public school or*
23 *individual to challenge a determination of compliance.*

24 (4) If a school district is *conditionally accredited, accredited with*
25 *conditions or otherwise not fully accredited ~~and~~, the state board shall*
26 *require a corrective action plan ~~is required~~, which shall be approved by the*
27 *state board. Such corrective action plan, and any subsequent reports*
28 *prepared by the state board regarding the progress of such school district*
29 *in implementing and executing such corrective action plan, shall be*
30 *published on the state department of education's internet website and such*
31 *school district's internet website in accordance with K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-*
32 *1181, and amendments thereto.*

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

1 *to correct its unaccredited status.*

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

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

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

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

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

39 (B) When such information becomes available, or as soon thereafter
40 as practicable, the state board shall publish the information required for the
41 report under subparagraph (A) on the website of the state department of
42 education and incorporate such information in the performance
43 accountability reports and longitudinal achievement reports required under

1 K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 72-5178, and amendments thereto.

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

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

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

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

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

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