

Proposed Amendments to  
House Bill No. 2839  
House Committee on Education  
"Independent Colleges"

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Office of Revisor of Statutes

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

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

32 (2) "Postsecondary educational institution" means:

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

35 (B) a municipal university; and

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

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

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

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

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

17 (1) 15 voting members as follows:

18 (A) The director of literacy education, appointed pursuant to section  
19 3, and amendments thereto, who shall serve as chairperson of the  
20 committee;

21 (B) one member appointed by the governor;

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

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

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

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

30 (G) one member appointed by and representing the Kansas national  
31 education association;

32 (H) one member appointed by and representing a school of education  
33 from Emporia state university, Fort Hays state university or Pittsburg state  
34 university;

35 (I) one member appointed by and representing a school of education  
36 from the university of Kansas, Kansas state university or Wichita state  
37 university;

38 (J) one member appointed by and representing Washburn university  
39 school of education;

40 (K) one member appointed by the Kansas association of community  
41 colleges to represent community colleges;

42 (L) one member appointed by the Kansas independent colleges  
43 association to represent a not-for-profit institution of postsecondary

- 1 education school or college of education;
- 2 (M) one member appointed by the state board of education;
- 3 (N) one member of the state board of regents appointed by the state  
4 board of regents; and
- 5 (O) one member who is an English for speakers of other languages  
6 literacy expert appointed by the united school administrators of Kansas;  
7 and
- 8 (2) nonvoting members as follows:
- 9 (A) The commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;  
10 and
- 11 (B) any number of members appointed by the director of literacy  
12 education pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto.
- 13 (b) (1) Members shall be appointed on or before July 1, 2024.
- 14 (2) Except for the director of literacy education, voting members shall  
15 serve for a term of four years.
- 16 (3) Any vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be filled  
17 by appointment in the same manner prescribed by this section for the  
18 original appointment.
- 19 (4) A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the voting  
20 members. All actions of the committee may be taken by a majority of the  
21 voting members present when there is a quorum.
- 22 (5) The committee may meet at any time and at any place within the  
23 state upon the call of the chairperson.
- 24 (6) If any member of the committee fails to attend three meetings of  
25 the committee within any 12-month period, such member's appointment  
26 shall terminate and a new member shall be appointed in the same manner  
27 prescribed by this section for the original appointment.
- 28 (c) The literacy advisory committee shall:
- 29 (1) Monitor progress of literacy training for in-service and pre-service  
30 teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary students;
- 31 (2) designate best practices for literacy training for in-service and pre-  
32 service teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary  
33 students;
- 34 (3) be responsible for the attainment of the transformational goal to  
35 have 100% of the Kansas elementary teacher workforce achieve a micro-  
36 credential in the science of reading and structured literacy by 2030,  
37 leading to 85% of Kansas fourth graders achieving level 2 or above on the  
38 English language arts state assessment by 2033;
- 39 (4) make recommendations to the director of literacy education;
- 40 (5) make recommendations to the state board of education, the state  
41 board of regents and the postsecondary educational institution presidents  
42 or chancellors on:
- 43 (A) Literacy training for in-service and pre-service teachers and

1 literacy education of elementary and secondary students; and  
 2 (B) reading instruction methods based on the science of reading;  
 3 (6) make recommendations to the house of representatives standing  
 4 committee on education and the senate standing committee on education  
 5 on the implementation of the goals of the Kansas blueprint for literacy and  
 6 any changes necessary to achieve such goals; and  
 7 (7) submit a plan to the state board of regents on the establishment of  
 8 centers of excellence in reading pursuant to section 7, and amendments  
 9 thereto, on or before January 1, 2025.  
 10 (d) (1) Legislative members of the committee and members appointed  
 11 by a member of the legislature who attend meetings of the committee shall  
 12 be paid for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-  
 13 3223(e), and amendments thereto.  
 14 (2) Members of the committee who are not members of the  
 15 legislature or appointed by a member of the legislature may be paid for  
 16 expenses, mileage and subsistence by the entity each such member was  
 17 appointed by and represents.  
 18 (e) (1) The director of literacy education shall provide executive  
 19 support to the committee.  
 20 (2) The staff of the state board of regents, office of revisor of statutes,  
 21 the legislative research department and the division of legislative  
 22 administrative services shall provide such assistance as may be requested  
 23 by the committee.  
 24 Sec. 3. (a) On or before July 1, 2024, the executive officer of the state  
 25 board of regents shall appoint a director of literacy education.  
 26 (b) The director of literacy education shall be an employee of the  
 27 state board of regents in the unclassified service who serves at the pleasure  
 28 of the state board of regents. The compensation of the director shall be  
 29 determined by the executive officer of the state board of regents.  
 30 (c) The director of literacy education shall:  
 31 (1) Serve as chairperson of the literacy advisory committee  
 32 established in section 2, and amendments thereto;  
 33 (2) implement and administer the Kansas blueprint for literacy;  
 34 (3) provide executive support to the literacy advisory committee;  
 35 (4) appoint nonvoting members of the literacy advisory committee as  
 36 the director deems necessary;  
 37 (5) work with the state board of education and the state board of  
 38 regents to ensure:  
 39 (A) Progress on the initiatives, objectives and desired outcomes in the  
 40 Kansas blueprint for literacy;  
 41 (B) the development and utilization of the comprehensive assessment  
 42 system; and  
 43 (C) ~~postsecondary~~ educational institutions and elementary and

state

1 secondary schools are using tier I literacy methodologies;  
 2 (6) establish a program to track the science of reading and structured  
 3 literacy training progression of in-service and pre-service early childhood  
 4 and elementary teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals,  
 5 reading specialists and early childhood and elementary administrators for  
 6 all school districts in the state;

7 (7) on or before January 15 of each year, prepare and present a report  
 8 to the senate standing committee on education and the house of  
 9 representatives standing committee on education, or any successor  
 10 committees, on the implementation and administration of the Kansas  
 11 blueprint for literacy, including, but not limited to, an implementation  
 12 timeline, progress of initiatives, development and utilization of the  
 13 comprehensive assessment system, progress toward the goal established in  
 14 section 2(c), and amendments thereto, use of tier I methodologies,  
 15 outcomes and any proposed changes; and

16 (8) report to the house of representatives standing committee on  
 17 education and the senate standing committee on education on or before  
 18 January 31, 2025, on the state board's progress on utilization of the science  
 19 of reading, elimination of discredited methodologies, use of universal  
 20 screening measures and assessments in elementary and secondary schools  
 21 in the state.

22 Sec. 4. (a) Postsecondary educational institutions shall designate  
 23 practices based on the science of reading through structured literacy as the  
 24 official tier I literacy methodology and shall prohibit the use or teaching of  
 25 any discredited methodologies, such as the three-cueing system.

26 (b) (1) The state board of regents, in collaboration with postsecondary  
 27 educational institutions and research experts, shall establish a  
 28 comprehensive reading and literacy assessment system with universal  
 29 screening measures, diagnostic, formative and summative assessments to  
 30 be used by each school district in the state. Such assessment system shall  
 31 allow teachers to adjust instruction to meet the specific needs of students,  
 32 including with regard to reading difficulties and the remediation of reading  
 33 and literacy skill gaps. The state board of regents shall make  
 34 recommendations to the state board of education on such assessment  
 35 system and ensure that such assessment system is available to school  
 36 districts on or before May 1, 2025.

37 (2) The state board of regents shall:

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

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

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

encourage independent institutions referred to in section 1(b)(2)  
 (C), and amendments thereto, to use such tier I methodologies;  
 (7)

And by redesignating subelements accordingly

1 (D) recommend literacy-specific universal screening measures and  
2 diagnostic, formative and summative assessments to school districts and  
3 accredited nonpublic schools; and

4 (E) approve reading instruction methodologies recommended by the  
5 literacy advisory committee for postsecondary educational institutions.

state

6 (3) Each school district shall use the comprehensive assessment  
7 system beginning in school year 2025-2026.

8 (c) The director of literacy education shall report to the house of  
9 representatives standing committee on education and the senate standing  
10 committee on education on or before January 31, 2025, on the state board's  
11 progress on utilization of the science of reading, elimination of discredited  
12 methodologies, use of universal screening measures and assessments in  
13 elementary and secondary schools in the state.

14 Sec. 5. The state board of regents and the state board of education  
15 shall collaborate to:

Strike in line 16

16 (a) Jointly approve micro-credential ~~or certification~~ requirements for  
17 teachers ~~in the science of reading and structured literacy developed by~~  
18 ~~postsecondary educational institution colleges or schools of education and~~  
19 ~~other collaborative partners pursuant to section 6, and amendments~~  
20 ~~thereto;~~

in-service

or certification requirements for pre-service teachers at  
state educational institutions

21 (b) develop or make accessible professional development programs  
22 and micro-credential courses for all in-service early childhood teachers,  
23 general education teachers and special education teachers at low or no cost  
24 to such teachers. Such programs and courses shall be delivered by national  
25 online learning programs or accredited Kansas postsecondary educational  
26 institutions;

Strike in lines 17-20

27 (c) ensure all pre-service teacher preparation programs are based on  
28 the science of reading and structured literacy;

at state educational institutions

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

31 (e) provide data for the program to the director of literacy education  
32 that tracks the science of reading and structured literacy training  
33 progression of in-service and pre-service early childhood and elementary  
34 teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals, reading  
35 specialists and early childhood and elementary administrators for all  
36 school districts in the state.

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

41 (a) Ensure explicit courses in the science of reading and structured  
42 literacy, including the five pillars of reading for all undergraduate early  
43 childhood and elementary teacher preparation programs;

at state educational institutions

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

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

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

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

14 (f) assist in the development of a science of reading and structured  
15 literacy micro-credential for early childhood teachers, elementary  
16 education teachers, English for speakers of other languages teachers,  
17 reading specialists, special education teachers and paraprofessionals, early  
18 childhood and elementary administrators that focuses on research-based  
19 fundamentals of reading instruction; and

20 (g) provide information, advice and recommendations to the literacy  
21 advisory committee.

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

24 (a) Require postsecondary educational institutions to collaborate with  
25 colleges or schools of education, the center for reading at Pittsburg state  
26 university and community-based literacy organizations;

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

31 (c) require such centers to:

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

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

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

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

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

43 (6) pilot a literacy education simulation training laboratory for pre-

1 service elementary teachers as a controlled environment for the application  
2 of the science of reading;

3 (7) identify projected cost, staffing and budget impacts to develop,  
4 expand and sustain the centers for excellence and reading simulation  
5 laboratories; and

6 (8) make recommendations and provide progress reports to the  
7 literacy advisory committee.

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