

**SENATE BILL No. 532**

By Committee on Assessment and Taxation

2-22

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:

36 (A) A state educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and

1 amendments thereto;

2 (B) a municipal university; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 (1) 15 voting members as follows:

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

23 (B) one member appointed by the governor;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (L) one member appointed by the Kansas independent colleges  
2 association to represent a not-for-profit institution of postsecondary  
3 education school or college of education;

4 (M) one member appointed by the state board of education;

5 (N) one member of the state board of regents appointed by the state  
6 board of regents; and

7 (O) one member who is an English for speakers of other languages  
8 literacy expert appointed by the united school administrators of Kansas;  
9 and

10 (2) nonvoting members as follows:

11 (A) The commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;  
12 and

13 (B) any number of members appointed by the director of literacy  
14 education pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto.

15 (b) (1) Members shall be appointed on or before July 1, 2024.

16 (2) ***Except for the director of literacy education***, voting members  
17 shall serve for a term of four years.

18 (3) Any vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be filled  
19 by appointment in the same manner prescribed by this section for the  
20 original appointment.

21 (4) A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the voting  
22 members. All actions of the committee may be taken by a majority of the  
23 voting members present when there is a quorum.

24 (5) The committee may meet at any time and at any place within the  
25 state upon the call of the chairperson.

26 (6) If any member of the committee fails to attend three meetings of  
27 the committee within any 12-month period, such member's appointment  
28 shall terminate and a new member shall be appointed in the same manner  
29 prescribed by this section for the original appointment.

30 (c) The literacy advisory committee shall:

31 (1) Monitor progress of literacy training for in-service and pre-service  
32 teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary students;

33 (2) designate best practices for literacy training for in-service and pre-  
34 service teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary  
35 students;

36 (3) be responsible for the attainment of the transformational goal to  
37 have 100% of the Kansas elementary teacher workforce achieve a micro-  
38 credential in the science of reading and structured literacy by 2030,  
39 leading to ***at least 50% of students in each of the grades three through***  
40 ***eight achieving level 3 or above and at least 85% of Kansas fourth***  
41 ***graders students in each of the grades three through eight*** achieving level  
42 2 or above on the English language arts state assessment by 2033;

43 (4) make recommendations to the director of literacy education;

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

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

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

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

11 (7) *report to the legislature on English language arts state*  
12 *assessment progress for each grade level and all defined subgroups,*  
13 *including, but not limited to, English language learners, students*  
14 *receiving free meals pursuant to the national school lunch act, students*  
15 *in the custody of the secretary for children and families and race and*  
16 *ethnicity subgroups, at the following times each calendar year:*

17 (A) *Once on or before February 1 to the senate committee on*  
18 *education and the house of representatives committee on education;*

19 (B) *once on or before May 1 to the senate committee on education*  
20 *and the house of representatives committee on education; and*

21 (C) *once on or before December 1 to any interim, special, or select*  
22 *committee, task force or commission that has membership that includes*  
23 *legislators, is related to education, has been approved by the legislative*  
24 *coordinating council and requests such report; and*

25 (8) submit a plan to the state board of regents on the establishment of  
26 centers of excellence in reading pursuant to section 7, and amendments  
27 thereto, on or before January 1, 2025.

28 (d) *The committee shall be subject to the Kansas open records act,*  
29 *K.S.A. 45-419 et seq., and amendments thereto, and the Kansas open*  
30 *meetings act, K.S.A. 75-4317 et seq., and amendments thereto. The*  
31 *committee shall publish each meeting agenda and any available meeting*  
32 *documents online prior to each scheduled meeting of the committee.*

33 (e) (1) Legislative members of the committee and members appointed  
34 by a member of the legislature who attend meetings of the committee shall  
35 be paid for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-  
36 3223(e), and amendments thereto.

37 (2) Members of the committee who are not members of the  
38 legislature may be paid for expenses, mileage and subsistence by the entity  
39 each such member was appointed by and represents.

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

42 (2) The staff of the state board of regents, office of revisor of statutes,  
43 the legislative research department and the division of legislative

1 administrative services shall provide such assistance as may be requested  
2 by the committee.

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

5 (b) The director of literacy education shall be an employee of the  
6 state board of regents in the unclassified service who serves at the pleasure  
7 of the state board of regents. The compensation of the director shall be  
8 determined by the executive officer of the state board of regents.

9 (c) The director of literacy education shall:

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

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

13 (3) provide executive support to the literacy advisory committee;

14 (4) appoint nonvoting ~~ex-officio~~ members of the literacy advisory  
15 committee as the director deems necessary;

16 (5) work with the state board of education and the state board of  
17 regents to ensure:

18 (A) Progress on the initiatives, objectives and desired outcomes in the  
19 **Kansas** blueprint for ~~Kansas~~ literacy;

20 (B) the development and utilization of the comprehensive assessment  
21 system; and

22 (C) ~~postsecondary~~ **state** educational institutions and elementary and  
23 secondary schools are using tier I literacy methodologies;

24 (6) **encourage independent institutions referred to in section 1(c)(2)**  
25 **(C), and amendments thereto, to use such tier I methodologies;**

26 (7) establish a program to track the science of reading and structured  
27 literacy training progression of in-service and pre-service early childhood  
28 and elementary teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals,  
29 reading specialists and early childhood and elementary administrators for  
30 all school districts in the state;

31 ~~(7)(8)~~ (8) on or before January 15 of each year, prepare and present a  
32 report to the senate standing committee on education and the house of  
33 representatives standing committee on education, or any successor  
34 committees, on the implementation and administration of the Kansas  
35 blueprint for literacy, including, but not limited to, an implementation  
36 timeline, progress of initiatives, development and utilization of the  
37 comprehensive assessment system, progress toward the goal established in  
38 section 2(c), and amendments thereto, use of tier I methodologies,  
39 outcomes and any proposed changes; and

40 ~~(8)(9)~~ (9) report to the house of representatives standing committee on  
41 education and the senate standing committee on education on or before  
42 January 31, 2025, on the ~~state board's~~ progress **of the state board of**  
43 **regents** on utilization of the science of reading, elimination of discredited

1 methodologies, use of universal screening measures and assessments in  
2 elementary and secondary schools in the state.

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

7 (b) (1) The state board of regents, in collaboration with postsecondary  
8 educational institutions and research experts, shall establish a  
9 comprehensive reading and literacy assessment system with universal  
10 screening measures, diagnostic, formative and summative assessments to  
11 be used ~~by each school district~~ **in teacher preparation programs** in the  
12 state. Such assessment system shall allow teachers to adjust instruction to  
13 meet the specific needs of students, including with regard to reading  
14 difficulties and the remediation of reading and literacy skill gaps. The state  
15 board of regents shall make recommendations to the state board of  
16 education on such assessment system and ensure that such assessment  
17 system is available ~~to school districts~~ on or before May 1, 2025.

18 (2) The state board of regents shall:

19 (A) Develop training modules for the assessments on or before July  
20 1, 2025;

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

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

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

28 (E) approve reading instruction methodologies recommended by the  
29 literacy advisory committee for ~~postsecondary~~ **state** educational  
30 institutions.

31 (3) ~~Each school district shall use the comprehensive assessment~~  
32 ~~system beginning in school year 2025-2026~~ **On or before July 1, 2025, no**  
33 **school district shall use any textbooks or instructional materials that**  
34 **utilize:**

35 (A) **The three-cueing system model of reading;**

36 (B) **visual memory as the primary basis for teaching word**  
37 **recognition; or**

38 (C) **the three-cueing system model of reading based on meaning,**  
39 **structure and syntax and visual cues, commonly known as MVS.**

40 (c) The director of literacy education shall report to the house of  
41 representatives standing committee on education and the senate standing  
42 committee on education on or before January 31, 2025, on the ~~state board's~~  
43 progress **of the state board of regents** on utilization of the science of

1 reading, elimination of discredited methodologies, use of universal  
2 screening measures and assessments in elementary and secondary schools  
3 in the state.

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

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

12 (b) develop or make accessible professional development programs  
13 and micro-credential courses for all in-service early childhood teachers,  
14 general education teachers and special education teachers at low or no cost  
15 to such teachers. Such programs and courses shall be delivered by national  
16 online learning programs or accredited Kansas postsecondary educational  
17 institutions;

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

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

23 (e) provide data for the program to the director of literacy education  
24 that tracks the science of reading and structured literacy training  
25 progression of in-service and pre-service early childhood and elementary  
26 teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals, reading  
27 specialists and early childhood and elementary administrators for all  
28 school districts in the state.

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

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

37 (b) appoint one representative from each postsecondary educational  
38 institution to conduct an annual systemwide analysis of the curriculum  
39 maps across all literacy courses. Such analysis shall include identifying  
40 clear evidence of instructional approaches and the core components of  
41 reading development;

42 (c) present a report on such systemwide analysis and any results from  
43 such analysis to the ~~Kansas~~ literacy advisory committee;

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

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

7 (f) assist in the development of a science of reading and structured  
8 literacy micro-credential for early childhood teachers, elementary  
9 education teachers, English for speakers of other languages teachers,  
10 reading specialists, special education teachers and paraprofessionals, early  
11 childhood and elementary administrators that focuses on research-based  
12 fundamentals of reading instruction; and

13 (g) provide information, advice and recommendations to the ~~Kansas~~  
14 literacy advisory committee.

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

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

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

24 (c) require such centers to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (7) identify projected cost, staffing and budget impacts to develop,  
40 expand and sustain the centers for excellence and reading simulation  
41 laboratories; and

42 (8) make recommendations and provide progress reports to the  
43 literacy advisory committee.

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