

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

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;

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.

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:

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;

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;

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

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;

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.