

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) 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

36 (C) any not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education that has

1 its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas, is operated
2 independently and not controlled or administered by a state agency or
3 subdivision of this state, maintains open enrollment and is accredited by a
4 nationally recognized accrediting agency for higher education in the
5 United States.

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

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

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

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

16 (1) 15 voting members as follows:

17 (A) The director of literacy education who shall serve as chairperson
18 of the committee;

19 (B) one member appointed by the governor;

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

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

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

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

28 (G) one member appointed by and representing the Kansas national
29 education association;

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

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

36 (J) one member appointed by and representing Washburn university
37 school of education;

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

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

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

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

1 committee on education and the senate standing committee on education
2 on the implementation of the goals of the Kansas blueprint for literacy and
3 any changes necessary to achieve such goals; and

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

7 (d) (1) Legislative members of the committee and members appointed
8 by a member of the legislature who attend meetings of the committee shall
9 be paid for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-
10 3223(e), and amendments thereto.

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

14 (e) (1) The director of literacy education shall provide executive
15 support to the committee.

16 (2) The staff of the state board of regents, office of revisor of statutes,
17 the legislative research department and the division of legislative
18 administrative services shall provide such assistance as may be requested
19 by the committee.

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

22 (b) The director of literacy education shall be an employee of the
23 state board of regents in the unclassified service who serves at the pleasure
24 of the state board of regents. The compensation of the director shall be
25 determined by the executive officer of the state board of regents.

26 (c) The director of literacy education shall:

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

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

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

31 (4) appoint nonvoting ex officio members of the literacy advisory
32 committee as the director deems necessary;

33 (5) work with the state board of education and the state board of
34 regents to ensure:

35 (A) Progress on the initiatives, objectives and desired outcomes in the
36 blueprint for Kansas literacy;

37 (B) the development and utilization of the comprehensive assessment
38 system; and

39 (C) postsecondary educational institutions and elementary and
40 secondary schools are using tier I literacy methodologies;

41 (6) establish a program to track the science of reading and structured
42 literacy training progression of in-service and pre-service early childhood
43 and elementary teachers, special education teachers and paraprofessionals,

1 reading specialists and early childhood and elementary administrators for
2 all school districts in the state;

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

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

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

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

33 (2) The state board of regents shall:

34 (A) Develop training modules for the assessments on or before July
35 1, 2025;

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

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

40 (D) recommend literacy-specific universal screening measures and
41 diagnostic, formative and summative assessments to school districts and
42 accredited nonpublic schools; and

43 (E) approve reading instruction methodologies recommended by the

1 literacy advisory committee for postsecondary educational institutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 reading development;

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

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

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

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

16 (g) provide information, advice and recommendations to the Kansas
17 literacy advisory committee.

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

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

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

27 (c) require such centers to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 (7) identify projected cost, staffing and budget impacts to develop,
43 expand and sustain the centers for excellence and reading simulation

1 laboratories; and

2 (8) make recommendations and provide progress reports to the
3 literacy advisory committee.

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