

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Molly Baumgardner, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 532 by Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 532 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 532 would establish the Literacy Advisory Committee. The Committee would be composed of 15 voting members as outlined in the bill. Non-voting members would include the Commissioner of Education or designee and any members appointed by the Director of Literacy Education. Members would be appointed on or before July 1, 2024, and voting members would serve a four-year term.

The Committee would have the following duties:

1. Monitor progress of literacy training for in-service and pre-service teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary students;
2. Designate best practices for literacy training for in-service and pre-service teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary students;
3. Be responsible for the attainment of the transformation goal to have 100.0 percent of the Kansas elementary teacher workforce achieve a micro-credential in the science of reading and structured literacy by 2030, leading to 85.0 percent of Kansas fourth graders achieving a level two or above on the English language arts state assessment by 2033;
4. Make recommendations to the Director of Literacy Education;
5. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education, the State Board of Regents, and the postsecondary educational institutions' presidents or chancellors on literacy training

- for in-service and pre-service teachers and literacy education of elementary and secondary students and reading instruction methods based on the science of reading;
6. Make recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education on the implementation of the goals of the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy and any changes necessary to achieve such goals; and
 7. Submit a plan to the State Board of Regents on the establishment of centers of excellence in reading on or before January 1, 2025.

Legislative members of the Committee and members appointed by a member of the Legislature who attend Committee meetings would be paid for expenses, mileage, and subsistence. Members of the Committee who are not members of the Legislature may be paid for expenses, mileage, and subsistence by the entity each member was appointed by and represents. The Director of Literacy Education would be required to provide executive support to the Committee and would serve as Chairperson. The staff of the State Board of Regents, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Research Department, and Legislative Administrative Services would provide assistance as requested by the Committee.

On or before July 1, 2024, the Chief Executive Officer of the State Board of Regents would be required to appoint a Director of Literacy Education. The bill specifies the responsibilities and duties of the Director. The Director would be an unclassified employee of the State Board of Regents and would serve at the pleasure of the Board and the Director's compensation would be determined by the Executive Officer of the Board.

The State Board of Regents, in collaboration with postsecondary educational institutions and research experts, would establish a comprehensive reading and literacy assessment system with universal screening measures, diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments to be used by each school district in the state. The assessment system would allow teachers to adjust instruction to meet specific needs of students. The State Board of Regents would be required to make recommendations to the State Board of Education on the assessment system and ensure that the assessment system is available to school districts on or before May 1, 2025.

The State Board of Regents would develop training modules for the assessments on or before July 1, 2025; support the State Board of Education action to officially designate the science of reading as the official tier I literacy methodology; support elementary and secondary schools as necessary to eliminate any discredited methodologies; recommend literacy-specific universal screening measures and diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments to school districts and accredited non-public schools; and approve reading instruction methodologies recommended by the Literacy Advisory Committee for postsecondary educational institutions. Each school district would be required to use the comprehensive assessment system beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The Director of Literacy Education would be required to report to the House and Senate Education Committees on or before January 31, 2025, on the progress on utilization of the science of reading, elimination of discredited methodologies, use of universal screening measures, and assessments in elementary and secondary schools in Kansas.

The bill outlines further duties of the State Board of Regents and the State Board of Education. Postsecondary educational institutions would have oversight and supervision of undergraduate and graduate level reading and literacy courses at their respective institutions. The bill outlines the responsibilities and duties of postsecondary educational institutions. The Literacy Advisory Committee would develop a plan to establish six regional centers of excellence in reading as outlined in the bill. The bill would take effect upon its publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect			
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Expenditures			
State General Fund	--	\$18,470,267	\$16,472,574
Fee Fund(s)	--	--	--
Federal Fund	--	--	--
Total Expenditures	--	--	--
Revenues			
State General Fund	--	--	--
Fee Fund(s)	--	--	--
Federal Fund	--	--	--
Total Revenues	--	--	--
FTE Positions	--	3.00	3.00

The Kansas Board of Regents estimates State General Fund expenditures of \$18.5 million in FY 2025 and \$16.5 million in FY 2026, along with an additional 3.00 FTE positions if the bill is enacted. Of the FY 2025 amount, \$1.0 million would be to develop and validate the literacy performance assessment and \$1.0 million would be to develop the science of reading fundamentals performance-based micro-credential. The above expenditures would be one-time only in FY 2025.

For the remaining FY 2025 amounts and for all of FY 2026, \$1.5 million (one-time expenditures in both FY 2025 and FY 2026) would be to offer the science of reading fundamentals training stipend to in-service teachers (3,000 participants X \$500 per participant); \$250,000 (one-time expenditures in both FY 2025 and FY 2026) would be to offer the science of reading fundamentals training for paraprofessionals; \$5.4 million would be to pay tuition for in-service teachers' graduate level coursework in the science of reading foundation for six graduate credit hours; \$500,000 would be to establish the Office of Literacy Education at the Board of Regents, including \$414,000 for salaries and wages for the additional FTE and \$86,000 for other operating expenditures; \$6.8 million would be to establish the six regional centers of excellence; and \$2.0 million would be to establish the Literacy Education Simulation Lab pilot.

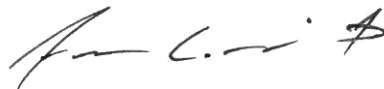
Legislative Administrative Services estimates expenditures of \$20,267 in FY 2025 and \$22,574 in FY 2026 from the State General Fund if the bill is enacted for meeting expenses for four legislators. Of the FY 2025 amount, \$15,876 would be for legislator pay, \$3,971 would be

for a committee assistant, and \$420 would be for publication in the *Kansas Register*. The agency's estimates assume there are four legislators on the Committee and assumes six meetings per year. The agency states if all the legislative appointees are non-legislators, then the cost for non-legislator pay would be \$8,292. For the FY 2026 estimate, there are increases for legislator pay, subsistence, mileage, and tolls.

The Department of Education states there would be no fiscal effect on agency operations if the bill is enacted and the agency also indicates its budget includes funding for Board member participation on committees. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 532 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of School Boards states it does not have enough data to estimate a fiscal effect if the bill is enacted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents
Gabrielle Hull, Department of Education
Angie Stallbaumer, Kansas Association of School Boards
Tom Day, Legislative Services