

## HOUSE BILL No. 2612

By Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Requested by Representative Thomas

1-25

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to school district accreditation;  
2 requiring school districts to be in compliance with all state laws and  
3 rules and regulations to be accredited; requiring school districts to  
4 notify parents in writing if the school district is not accredited;  
5 requiring the state board to establish a process to challenge a  
6 determination of school district compliance with state laws and rules  
7 and regulations; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 72-5170 and repealing  
8 the existing section.  
9

10 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

11 Section 1. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 72-5170 is hereby amended to read as  
12 follows: 72-5170. (a) (1) In order to accomplish the mission for Kansas  
13 education, the state board shall design and adopt a school district  
14 accreditation system based upon improvement in performance that equals  
15 or exceeds the educational goal set forth in K.S.A. 72-3218(c), and  
16 amendments thereto, and is measurable. The state board shall hold all  
17 school districts accountable through the Kansas education systems  
18 accreditation rules and regulations, or any successor accreditation system  
19 and accountability plan adopted by the state board. The state board also  
20 shall ensure that all school districts and the public schools operated by  
21 such districts have programs and initiatives in place for providing those  
22 educational capacities set forth in K.S.A. 72-3218(c), and amendments  
23 thereto. On or before January 15 of each year, the state board shall prepare  
24 and submit a report on the school district accreditation system to the  
25 governor and the legislature.

26 (2) The accountability measures established pursuant to paragraph (1)  
27 shall be applied both at the district level and at the school level. Such  
28 accountability measures shall be reported by the state board for each  
29 school district and each school. All reports prepared pursuant to this  
30 section shall be published in accordance with K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 72-1181,  
31 and amendments thereto.

32 (3) (A) *The school district accreditation system shall require school*  
33 *districts to be in compliance with all applicable state laws and rules and*  
34 *regulations. Any school district not in compliance with such laws and*  
35 *rules and regulations shall not be accredited. A school district that is not*

1 *accredited for failing to comply with state laws or rules and regulations*  
2 *shall notify each parent of a student enrolled in such school district in*  
3 *writing that such school district is no longer accredited.*

4 (B) *After a school district is not accredited for failing to comply with*  
5 *state laws and rules and regulations, such school district may only become*  
6 *accredited if an audit conducted by the state department of education*  
7 *determines that the school district made the changes necessary to be in*  
8 *compliance with state laws and rules and regulations.*

9 (C) *The state board shall establish a process to allow an individual to*  
10 *challenge a determination of school district compliance or noncompliance*  
11 *with state laws and rules and regulations.*

12 (4) If a school district is not fully accredited and a corrective action  
13 plan is required by the state board, such corrective action plan, and any  
14 subsequent reports prepared by the state board regarding the progress of  
15 such school district in implementing and executing such corrective action  
16 plan, shall be published on the state department of education's internet  
17 website and such school district's internet website in accordance with  
18 K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 72-1181, and amendments thereto.

19 ~~(4)~~(5) If a school district is not accredited, the superintendent, or the  
20 superintendent's designee, shall appear before the committee on education  
21 of the house of representatives and the committee on education of the  
22 senate during the regular legislative session that occurs during the same  
23 school year ~~in which~~ *when* such school district is not accredited. Such  
24 school district shall provide a report to such committees on the challenges  
25 and obstacles that are preventing such school district from becoming  
26 accredited.

27 (b) The state board shall establish curriculum standards that reflect  
28 high academic standards for the core academic areas of mathematics,  
29 science, reading, writing and social studies. The curriculum standards shall  
30 be reviewed at least every seven years. Nothing in this subsection shall be  
31 construed in any manner so as to impinge upon any school district's  
32 authority to determine its own curriculum.

33 (c) The state board shall provide for statewide assessments in the core  
34 academic areas of mathematics, science, reading, writing and social  
35 studies. The board shall ensure compatibility between the statewide  
36 assessments and the curriculum standards established pursuant to  
37 subsection (b). Such assessments shall be administered at three grade  
38 levels, as determined by the state board. The state board shall determine  
39 performance levels on the statewide assessments, the achievement of  
40 which represents high academic standards in the academic area at the  
41 grade level to which the assessment applies. The state board should specify  
42 high academic standards both for individual performance and school  
43 performance on the assessments.

1 (d) Each school year, on such date as specified by the state board,  
2 each school district shall submit the Kansas education system accreditation  
3 report to the state board in such form and manner as prescribed by the state  
4 board.

5 (e) Whenever the state board determines that a school district has  
6 failed either to meet the accreditation requirements established by rules  
7 and regulations or standards adopted by the state board or provide  
8 curriculum based on state standards and courses required by state law, the  
9 state board shall so notify the school district. Such notice shall specify the  
10 accreditation requirements that the school district has failed to meet and  
11 the curriculum that it has failed to provide. Upon receipt of such notice,  
12 the board of education of such school district is encouraged to reallocate  
13 the resources of the school district to remedy all deficiencies identified by  
14 the state board.

15 (f) Each school in every school district shall establish a school site  
16 council composed of the principal and representatives of teachers and  
17 other school personnel, parents of students attending the school, the  
18 business community and other community groups. School site councils  
19 shall be responsible for providing advice and counsel in evaluating state,  
20 school district, and school site performance goals and objectives and in  
21 determining the methods that should be employed at the school site to  
22 meet these goals and objectives. Site councils may make recommendations  
23 and proposals to the school board regarding budgetary items and school  
24 district matters, including, but not limited to, identifying and implementing  
25 the best practices for developing efficient and effective administrative and  
26 management functions. Site councils also may help school boards analyze  
27 the unique environment of schools, enhance the efficiency and maximize  
28 limited resources, including outsourcing arrangements and cooperative  
29 opportunities as a means to address limited budgets.

30 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 72-5170 is hereby repealed.

31 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
32 publication in the statute book.