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Laura Kelly, Governor

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Adam Turk, Chairperson
House Committee on Higher Education Budget
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 281-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Turk:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2660 by House Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2660 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2660 would appropriate $8.6 million from the State General Fund to the Board of Regents in FY 2027 for the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy. The funding would be for the full implementation of the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy Strategic Plan. The bill would also amend the Every Child Can Read Act. The bill would require the use of a single statewide universal screening tool recommended by the State Board of Education. Under current law, on or before June 30 of each school year, each school district is required to report to the State Department of Education on the school district's implementation of the Act. The bill would add the following items that would be required to be included in the report:

1. The number of students in prekindergarten through eighth grade who performed in the high-risk category on the fall screening measure;
2. The number of students in kindergarten through third grade with an individual student literacy plan; and
3. The number of students in kindergarten through third grade who exited the high-risk category or each student's individual student literacy plan by the end of the school year.

The bill would amend the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy by adding definitions as outlined in the bill. Members of the Literacy Advisory Committee would be required to have expertise in evidence-based literacy practices, educator preparation, science of reading research and

evaluation, dyslexia research, literacy intervention, implementation science, or literacy policy development.

Beginning in the 2029-2030 school year, each school district would be required to employ, either through direct employment or by contract, a licensed reading specialist for each elementary school of the school district. Each school district would have to develop individual student literacy plans for all students in kindergarten through third grade who perform at a high-risk level on fall literacy screening measures. The plans would be developed in partnership with the student's parent or person acting as parent. Each plan would include a minimum of 90 minutes of targeted and tiered interventions designed to match the student's individual deficiencies per week in one-on-one instruction, small group instruction, tutoring, or a summer school program. The teacher of any student requiring an individual student literacy plan would communicate with the student's parent or person acting as parent and provide the information required by the Every Child Can Read Act to the parent or person acting as parent.

The State Board of Education would be required to designate best practices based on the science of reading through structured literacy as the literacy methodology and prohibit the use or teaching of any discredited methodologies, including the three-cueing system; require applicants for licensure as a prekindergarten through eighth grade general education teacher or special education teacher to complete a minimum of 45 clock hours in a literacy practicum that is designed to increase skills and expertise in screening, diagnostic and formative assessments, developing instructional plans, and applying evidence-based practices in an elementary and secondary school setting; requiring reading specialists to complete a minimum of 45 clock hours in a literacy clinic focused on assessment progress monitoring, lesson planning, and delivery under the supervision of a literacy expert with minimum certification as a certified structured literacy dyslexia interventionist; ensure that school districts develop individual student literacy plans; and ensure that educator preparation programs provide evidence that teacher candidates can demonstrate a mastery of certain skills outlined in the bill.

The State Department of Education would be required to submit an annual report to the Literacy Advisory Committee by November 1, which would be published on the Department's website and include specific information outlined in the bill. The Board of Regents would be required to support State Board of Education action to officially designate best practices based on the science of reading through structured literacy as the official 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 the State Board of Education; and approve reading instruction methodologies recommended by the Literacy Advisory Committee for state educational institutions.

Both the Board of Regents and the State Board of Education would have joint oversight of and responsibility to: (1) ensure that all pre-service teacher preparation programs at state educational institutions are based on the science of reading and structured literacy in accordance with the State Board of Education accreditation of undergraduate elementary licensure programs, reading specialists, special education, school psychologists, and education leadership graduate

programs; (2) make recommendations to the State Board of Education on vetted high quality instructional materials that include tier I curriculum resources and intervention curriculum; (3) review undergraduate courses, materials, and resources and make recommendations for improvements to the courses, materials, and resources; implement ongoing professional learning in evidence-based practices in literacy, at low or no cost for reading specialists, special education teachers, paraeducators, school psychologists, and school and school district leaders at least once every three years; and (4) in partnership with the Legislature, develop a comprehensive literacy implementation plan for prekindergarten through grade 12 and postsecondary education.

In developing a plan, input from educators, families, research, and evidence-based practices would be considered and the requirements for the plan would be outlined in the bill. The annual report for the comprehensive literacy implementation plan would be presented to the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents, the Senate Education Committee, and the Education and Higher Education Budget Committees of the House of Representatives. The initial report would be required to be submitted by May 1, 2026, and a full comprehensive literacy plan would be required to be submitted by January 15, 2027.

The State Department of Education indicates it would incur additional expenditures to increase the rate at which higher education programs are reviewed. The Department notes it does not have the staff to fulfill this requirement. The Department estimates additional State General Fund expenditures of $203,970 in both FY 2027 and FY 2028, along with an additional 2.00 FTE positions. Of the FY 2027 and FY 2028 amounts, $199,970 would be for salaries and wages for 2.00 Coordinator FTE positions and $4,000 would be for other operating expenditures to implement the bill's provisions.

Based on the data from the most recent school year, 101 school districts currently employ a reading specialist and there would be additional costs to school districts to employ a reading specialist. The Department states it is not able to estimate how many school districts would choose to hire a full-time reading specialist or how districts would share this cost. According to the Department, a full-time reading specialist would cost approximately $90,000 and the Department indicates it cannot estimate how many school districts would choose to share a reading specialist, but it could cost the 174 remaining school districts between $4.0 million (0.20 FTE) and $16.3 million (1.00 FTE each).

The Board of Regents states enactment of the bill would add new responsibilities and add joint oversight duties with the State Board of Education. The Board indicates the bill's provisions could be implemented with the $8.6 million State General Fund appropriation that is included in the bill. The Division of the Budget notes that the Governor also recommended $8.6 million from the State General Fund to continue the work of the Kansas Blueprint for Literacy in FY 2027.

The $8.6 million FY 2027 State General Fund appropriation is reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*; however, any other fiscal effect associated with HB 2660 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of School Boards indicates enactment of the bill would have a fiscal effect on school districts to hire and train staff to implement the bill's provisions; however, the Association did not estimate a fiscal effect.

Sincerely,

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