

1 HB588
2 136338-3
3 By Representatives Collins, Henry, Chesteen, Fincher, Scott,
4 Wallace, Beech, Williams (P), Mask, Buttram, Ball, Weaver,
5 Greer, Treadaway and Williams (D)
6 RFD: Education Policy
7 First Read: 20-MAR-12

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would require the State
9 Superintendent of Education to develop a school
10 grading system reflective of school and district
11 performance.

12
13 A BILL
14 TO BE ENTITLED
15 AN ACT
16

17 Relating to public K-12 education; to require the
18 State Superintendent of Education to develop a school grading
19 system reflective of school and district performance.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

21 Section 1. Just as there is value in assigning
22 grades that reflect the performance of public school students
23 in Alabama, the Legislature finds that there is also value in
24 assigning grades that reflect the performance of the public
25 schools attended by public school students in Alabama. The
26 Legislature further finds that an easy to understand school
27 grading system would best serve the interests of the public as

1 a whole, and specifically the parents and guardians of public
2 school students, by providing another transparent layer of
3 accountability for the public dollars allocated to elementary
4 and secondary education in the state.

5 Section 2. (a) In addition to any other labels or
6 designations assigned to public schools and public school
7 districts pursuant to a federal, state, school, district, or
8 other assessment or accountability system, the State
9 Superintendent of Education, consistent with the provisions of
10 this act, shall develop a school grading system reflective of
11 school and district performance. The grading system shall
12 utilize the traditional A, B, C, D, or F framework.

13 (1) Schools receiving a grade of "A" are making
14 excellent progress.

15 (2) Schools receiving a grade of "B" are making
16 above average progress.

17 (3) Schools receiving a grade of "C" are making
18 satisfactory progress.

19 (4) Schools receiving a grade of "D" are making less
20 than satisfactory progress.

21 (5) Schools receiving a grade of "F" are failing to
22 make adequate progress.

23 (b) In developing this school grading system, the
24 State Superintendent of Education shall seek input from
25 parents, teachers, school administrators, existing State
26 Department of Education advisory groups or task forces, and
27 other education stakeholders on how the system can properly

1 reflect not only the overall academic proficiency of each
2 public school but also the academic improvements made by each
3 public school, along with other key performance indicators
4 that give a total profile of the school or the school system,
5 or both.

6 (c) The State Superintendent of Education shall
7 prescribe the design and content of the school grading system
8 by not later than December 31, 2012. It is the intent of the
9 Legislature that the system be in place by not later than the
10 2013-2014 school year. The system may not be utilized by the
11 State Superintendent of Education or the State Department of
12 Education until sufficient rules have been promulgated by the
13 State Department of Education pursuant to the Alabama
14 Administrative Procedure Act.

15 (d) Using an easy to understand grading scale, the
16 school grading system shall describe achievement in the state,
17 each district, and each school. Additionally, the State
18 Superintendent of Education shall not be precluded from also
19 assigning grades to school feeder patterns or grades that
20 reflect the fiscal health and fiscal efficiency of a school or
21 school system.

22 (e) The State Superintendent of Education shall make
23 these grades available to the general public, and shall post
24 these grades on the website of the State Department of
25 Education as soon as the grades are available. Additionally,
26 appropriate grade information shall be delivered to the parent
27 or guardian of each public school student at least once

1 annually in the same manner that student report cards are
2 currently delivered.

3 (f) Using state-authorized assessments and other key
4 performance indicators that give a total profile of the school
5 or the school system, or both, a school's grade, at a minimum,
6 shall be based on a combination of student achievement scores,
7 achievement gap, college and career readiness, learning gains,
8 and other indicators as determined by the State Superintendent
9 of Education to impact student learning and success. The
10 school grading system shall be consistently applied so that
11 grades of one school or system may be compared to the grades
12 of any other school or system.

13 Section 3. This act shall become effective
14 immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or
15 its otherwise becoming law.