

1 SB238
2 204700-2
3 By Senators Scofield, Orr, Livingston, Sessions, Barfoot,
4 Stutts, Givhan and Gudger
5 RFD: Education Policy
6 First Read: 25-FEB-20

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, public K-12 schools and school systems are annually subject to a school grading system that reflects school and district performance.

This bill would exempt the academic performance of certain English as a second language students from consideration in the assigning of an academic achievement grade to a school or school system.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Section 16-6C-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the public K-12 school grading system; to exempt the academic performance of certain English as a second language students from consideration in the assigning of an academic achievement grade to a school or school system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Section 16-6C-2 of the Code of Alabama
2 1975, is amended to read as follows:

3 "§16-6C-2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 "(b) In developing this school grading system, the
23 State Superintendent of Education shall seek input from
24 parents, teachers, school administrators, existing State
25 Department of Education advisory groups or task forces, and
26 other education stakeholders on how the system can properly
27 reflect not only the overall academic proficiency of each

1 public school but also the academic improvements made by each
2 public school, along with other key performance indicators
3 that give a total profile of the school or the school system,
4 or both.

5 "(c) The State Superintendent of Education shall
6 prescribe the design and content of the school grading system
7 by not later than December 31, 2012. It is the intent of the
8 Legislature that the system be in place by no later than the
9 2013-2014 school year. The system may not be utilized by the
10 State Superintendent of Education or the State Department of
11 Education until sufficient rules have been promulgated by the
12 State Department of Education pursuant to the Alabama
13 Administrative Procedure Act.

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

21 "(e) The State Superintendent of Education shall
22 make these grades available to the general public, and shall
23 post these grades on the website of the State Department of
24 Education as soon as the grades are available. Additionally,
25 appropriate grade information shall be delivered to the parent
26 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
4 key performance indicators that give a total profile of the
5 school or the school system, or both, a school's grade, at a
6 minimum, shall be based on a combination of student
7 achievement scores, achievement gap, college and career
8 readiness, learning gains, and other indicators as determined
9 by the State Superintendent of Education to impact student
10 learning and success. The academic achievement of students
11 identified as English language learners, who have not shown
12 proficiency on ACCESS for EL, or other state approved English
13 proficiency assessment, may not be considered in assigning an
14 academic achievement grade to a school or school system. The
15 educational progress of these students shall continue to be
16 measured in the academic growth category and the progress in
17 English language proficiency category. The school grading
18 system shall be consistently applied so that grades of one
19 school or system may be compared to the grades of any other
20 school or system."

21 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
22 first day of the third month following its passage and
23 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.