

1 SB170
2 216798-2
3 By Senators Orr, Scofield, Livingston, Stutts, Jones and
4 Melson
5 RFD: Education Policy
6 First Read: 02-FEB-22

1 SB170

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

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11 To amend Section 16-6C-2, Code of Alabama 1975,
12 relating to the public K-12 school grading system; to exempt
13 the academic performance of certain English as a second
14 language students from consideration in the assigning of an
15 academic achievement grade to a school or school system; and
16 to require the State Superintendent of Education to submit an
17 amendment to the state Every Student Succeeds Act plan
18 detailing the provisions of this act.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. Section 16-6C-2 of the Code of Alabama
21 1975, is amended to read as follows:

22 "§16-6C-2.

23 "(a) In addition to any other labels or designations
24 assigned to public schools and public school districts
25 pursuant to a federal, state, school, district, or other
26 assessment or accountability system, the State Superintendent
27 of Education, consistent with ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter,

1 shall develop a school grading system reflective of school and
2 district performance. The grading system shall utilize the
3 traditional A, B, C, D, or F framework.

4 "(1) Schools receiving a grade of "A" are making
5 excellent progress.

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

8 "(3) Schools receiving a grade of "C" are making
9 satisfactory progress.

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

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

14 "(b) In developing this school grading system, the
15 State Superintendent of Education shall seek input from
16 parents, teachers, school administrators, existing State
17 Department of Education advisory groups or task forces, and
18 other education stakeholders on how the system can properly
19 reflect not only the overall academic proficiency of each
20 public school but also the academic improvements made by each
21 public school, along with other key performance indicators
22 that give a total profile of the school or the school system,
23 or both.

24 "(c) The State Superintendent of Education shall
25 prescribe the design and content of the school grading system
26 by not later than December 31, 2012. It is the intent of the
27 Legislature that the system be in place by no later than the

1 2013-2014 school year. The system may not be utilized by the
2 State Superintendent of Education or the State Department of
3 Education until sufficient rules have been ~~promulgated~~ adopted
4 by the State ~~Department~~ Board of Education pursuant to the
5 Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

6 "(d) Using an easy to understand grading scale, the
7 school grading system shall describe achievement in the state,
8 each district, and each school. Additionally, the State
9 Superintendent of Education shall not be precluded from also
10 assigning grades to school feeder patterns or grades that
11 reflect the fiscal health and fiscal efficiency of a school or
12 school system.

13 "(e) The State Superintendent of Education shall
14 make these grades available to the general public, and shall
15 post these grades on the website of the State Department of
16 Education as soon as the grades are available. Additionally,
17 appropriate grade information shall be delivered to the parent
18 or guardian of each public school student at least once
19 annually in the same manner that student report cards are
20 currently delivered.

21 "(f) (1) Using state-authorized assessments and other
22 key performance indicators that give a total profile of the
23 school or the school system, or both, a school's grade, at a
24 minimum, shall be based on a combination of student
25 achievement scores, achievement gap, college and career
26 readiness, learning gains, and other indicators as determined

1 by the State Superintendent of Education to impact student
2 learning and success.

3 "(2) Commencing with the 2022-2023 school year, the
4 academic achievement of each student identified as an English
5 language learner, who has not shown proficiency on ACCESS for
6 EL, or other state approved English proficiency assessment,
7 may not be considered in assigning an academic achievement
8 grade to a school or school system for the first three years
9 of enrollment of the student. The educational progress of each
10 of these students shall continue to be measured in the
11 academic growth category and the progress in English language
12 proficiency category and, at the end of the three-year period
13 for the student, his or her proficiency shall again be
14 considered in assigning an academic achievement grade to a
15 school or school system.

16 "(3) On or before July 1, 2022, the State
17 Superintendent of Education shall submit an amendment to the
18 state Every Student Succeeds Act plan detailing the provisions
19 of this subsection.

20 "(g) The school grading system shall be consistently
21 applied so that grades of one school or system may be compared
22 to the grades of any other school or system."

23 Section 2. This act shall become effective
24 immediately following its passage and approval by the
25 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate
committee on Education Policy..... 02-FEB-22

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-
dar 1 amendment..... 09-FEB-22

Read for the third time and passed as amended 10-FEB-22

Yeas 23
Nays 0

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.