

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Free Conference Committee on **HB 257** has met as provided in the Rules of the House and Senate and hereby reports the following to be adopted:

_____ GA SCS 1 SCS _____ HCS

For the above-referenced bill, with these amendments (if applicable):

Committee (list by chamber and number): _____;

Floor (list by chamber and number): SFA 6; and

The following Free Conference Committee action:

On page 17, line 13, bracket and strikethrough "and"; and

On page 17, after line 13, insert the following:

" 5. Until June 30, 2030, targeted quality measures, which shall include a measure of the change from the prior school year on the following factors:

a. The percentage of certified teachers within the school and district who have attained:

i. Rank II status or higher as determined by the Education Professional Standards Board; or

ii. Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

b. For schools and districts containing students in grade eight (8), the percentage of students earning at least one (1) high school credit upon the completion of the student's grade eight (8) school year; and

c. For schools and districts containing students in grade twelve (12), the percentage of graduating students who have:

i. Completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by the

1 student's graduation date; or

2 ii. A parent or legal guardian that has submitted an appropriate form
 3 to the school or district to opt out of completion of the Free
 4 Application for Federal Student Aid after completing a district-
 5 approved presentation regarding the Free Application for Federal
 6 Student Aid; and"; and

7 On page 17, line 14, bracket and strikethrough "5." and insert "6." at the beginning of the
 8 line; and

9 Beginning on page 22, line 22, and continuing through page 23, line 9, delete all language
 10 and insert the following in lieu thereof:

11 "6. Beginning July 1, 2030, targeted quality measures, which shall include a
 12 measure of the change from the prior school year on the following factors:

13 a. The percentage of certified teachers within the school and district who
 14 have attained:

15 i. Rank II status or higher as determined by the Education
 16 Professional Standards Board; or

17 ii. Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching
 18 Standards;

19 b. For schools and districts containing students in grade eight (8), the
 20 percentage of students earning at least one (1) high school credit upon
 21 the completion of the student's grade eight (8) school year; and

22 c. For schools and districts containing students in grade twelve (12), the
 23 percentage of graduating students who have:

24 i. Completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by the
 25 student's graduation date; or

26 ii. A parent or legal guardian that has submitted an appropriate form
 27 to the school or district to opt out of completion of the Free

1 *Application for Federal Student Aid after completing a district-*
2 *approved presentation regarding the Free Application for Federal*
3 *Student Aid.*

4 *The targeted quality measures shall have a cumulative weight in*
5 *accountability of no less than five percent (5%);*" and

6 On page 42, after line 12, insert:

7 "➔Section 7. No later than November 1, 2026, the Kentucky Department of Education
8 shall submit a study report to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim
9 Joint Committee on Education on middle school mathematics and advanced mathematics
10 coursework opportunities. At a minimum, the report shall address:

11 (1) Existing local policies and procedures governing student assignment to advanced
12 mathematics coursework in general and advanced middle school mathematics coursework
13 specifically;

14 (2) The current availability of advanced mathematics coursework in Kentucky public
15 middle schools, identifying the following for public middle schools that offer advanced
16 mathematics coursework:

17 (a) Eligibility criteria for students to be identified for participation in the advanced
18 mathematics coursework;

19 (b) Methods for how students are being identified for participation in the advanced
20 mathematics coursework;

21 (c) For each school district, the number and percentage of students participating in
22 advanced mathematics coursework opportunities by grade level;

23 (d) For each school district, the number and percentage of students who complete
24 advanced middle school mathematics coursework and enroll in Algebra I by grade 8;

25 (e) The defined sequence of advanced mathematics coursework offered in grades 6 to 8
26 and the means of delivering those offerings to students, including whether the course is:

27 1. Offered virtually, in person, or both;

- 1 2. Offered exclusively to middle school students or in a combined setting with middle
2 and high school students; and
- 3 3. Taught by a teacher whose primary course load is middle school students or taught by
4 a teacher whose primary course load is high school students;
- 5 (f) Whether any advanced mathematics coursework previously offered is no longer
6 available to students and the reason for no longer offering that coursework;
- 7 (g) How the school districts are providing appropriate staffing to support offering access
8 to advanced mathematics coursework; and
- 9 (h) Barriers the school districts encountered in providing advanced mathematics
10 coursework opportunities, and strategies for overcoming these barriers;
- 11 (3) A list of each middle school that does not offer advanced mathematics coursework to
12 students that identifies:
- 13 (a) The accelerated learning opportunities to which middle school students in each
14 identified school are offered access;
- 15 (b) The specific staffing and facility needs for each identified school to transition to
16 offering access to advanced mathematics coursework;
- 17 (c) Any scheduling constraints reported by each identified school as a barrier to offering
18 access to advanced mathematics coursework;
- 19 (d) Other barriers identified by school districts to offering middle school students
20 enrolled in each identified school access to advanced mathematics coursework; and
- 21 (e) If the middle school historically offered advanced mathematics coursework, the
22 specific reasons the school no longer offers that coursework;
- 23 (4) The recent rates of participation in advanced mathematics courses of middle school
24 students, identifying the number and percentage of students in each school district's current grade
25 9, grade 10, grade 11, and grade 12 cohorts that successfully completed designated advanced
26 coursework in middle school;
- 27 (5) Best-practice strategies for ensuring that students are academically prepared for

1 advanced middle school mathematics coursework, including identification of advanced
2 coursework opportunities or other academic enrichment opportunities that best prepare students
3 for Algebra I coursework by grade 8;

4 (6) Analysis of school district capacity and needs to implement a policy providing all
5 public school students in Kentucky with access to Algebra I coursework by grade 8, including
6 but not limited to:

7 (a) The availability of qualified teachers and staff to support implementation of the
8 policy across each region of the Commonwealth;

9 (b) The scheduling constraints reported by each district;

10 (c) Course selection availability in each district and projected enrollment caps; and

11 (d) Facility, technology, and distance-learning capacity of each district;

12 (7) An analysis of any curriculum gaps between advanced mathematics coursework and
13 grade-level mathematics standards for the courses in which the student would otherwise be
14 enrolled and strategies to ensure that advanced mathematics students master those grade-level
15 standards; and

16 (8) Legislative recommendations to promote and encourage advanced mathematics
17 coursework for middle school students, including but not limited to recommended strategies for:

18 (a) Automatic enrollment in advanced middle school mathematics coursework;

19 (b) Identifying middle school students to participate in advance mathematics coursework;

20 and

21 (c) Small, medium, and large school districts to implement advanced mathematics
22 coursework.

23 ➔Section 8. Notwithstanding KRS 156.070(6), the Kentucky Department of Education is
24 hereby authorized to collect data and reports from Kentucky public schools and school districts
25 relevant to inform the study report required by Section 7 of this Act."
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