

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 14-0502.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 14-1204**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Wilson,** Dore, Sonnenberg

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING FLEXIBILITY REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED**  
102     **ON RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/bills summaries>.)*

The bill allows a school district that the department of education (department) identifies as rural and that enrolls fewer than 1,000 students (small rural school district) to submit certain reports biennially, instead of annually, and exempts the school district from another report, if the small rural school district is accredited or accredited with distinction. A

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

small rural school district that is accredited with an improvement plan or lower may submit a strategic plan that demonstrates how biennial submittals of the identified reports and exemption from the one report will enable the small rural school district to improve student academic performance. The department will review the strategic plan, and the state board of education (state board) may approve the plan and the biennial submittals.

The bill exempts a small rural school district from the requirement to:

- ! Perform certain duties of the district and school accountability committees;
- ! Hold public meetings in the process of preparing and adopting a school priority improvement or turnaround plan;
- ! Identify an employee to act as a point of contact for parent engagement training and resources; and
- ! Participate on a local or regional child fatality prevention review team.

A small rural school district may apply to the state board for a waiver of the early literacy requirements by submitting a strategic plan that explains how the small rural school district will ensure that the students enrolled in the district develop the necessary reading skills by the end of third grade to enable them to master the academic standards and expectations applicable to the fourth grade and beyond. A small rural school district that receives a waiver must meet the local targets for student achievement on the third grade English language arts statewide assessment. If the district does not meet the local targets for 2 consecutive school years, the state board must revoke the waiver. A small rural school district that operates under a waiver is eligible for early literacy funding and must comply with the reporting requirements that are related to the funding.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-303, **add** (4)

3 as follows:

4 **22-11-303. Accredited or accredited with distinction -**  
5 **performance plan - school district or institute - contents - adoption.**

6 (4) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF

7 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE LOCAL SCHOOL

8 BOARD OF A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ADOPT AND SUBMIT TO

1 THE DEPARTMENT A SCHOOL DISTRICT PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE  
2 SCHOOL DISTRICT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION  
3 EVERY TWO YEARS SO LONG AS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTAINS THE  
4 STATUS OF ACCREDITED OR ACCREDITED WITH DISTINCTION.

5 (b) AS USED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (4), A SMALL  
6 RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN COLORADO THAT THE  
7 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF  
8 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM  
9 THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA, AND THAT ENROLLS FEWER THAN  
10 ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-403, **add** (4)  
12 as follows:

13 **22-11-403. School performance plan - contents.**

14 (4) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE  
15 CONTRARY, THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
16 SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL OF A  
17 SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ADOPT A SCHOOL PERFORMANCE  
18 PLAN FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
19 SECTION EVERY TWO YEARS SO LONG AS THE STATE BOARD, PURSUANT TO  
20 SECTION 22-11-210, REQUIRES THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TO IMPLEMENT A  
21 PERFORMANCE PLAN.

22 (b) AS USED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (4), A SMALL  
23 RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN COLORADO THAT THE  
24 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF  
25 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM  
26 THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA, AND THAT ENROLLS FEWER THAN  
27 ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS.

1           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-210, **amend**  
2 (2) (b) as follows:

3           **22-11-210. Public schools - annual review - plans - supports**  
4 **and interventions - rules.** (2) (b) (I) Notwithstanding any provision of  
5 this article to the contrary, a school district with one thousand students or  
6 fewer may submit a single plan to satisfy the school district and school  
7 plan requirements, so long as the plan meets all state and federal  
8 requirements for school and district plans. A school district with more  
9 than one thousand but fewer than one thousand two hundred students  
10 may, upon request and at the department's discretion, submit a single plan  
11 to satisfy the school district and school plan requirements, so long as the  
12 plan meets all state and federal requirements for school and district plans.

13           (II) A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS AUTHORIZED  
14 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-11-303 (4) TO SUBMIT A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
15 PERFORMANCE PLAN EVERY TWO YEARS MAY SUBMIT A SINGLE PLAN TO  
16 SATISFY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND SCHOOL PLAN REQUIREMENTS ONLY  
17 IF EACH OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE SINGLE PLAN  
18 IS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-11-403 (4) TO SUBMIT A SCHOOL  
19 PERFORMANCE PLAN EVERY TWO YEARS. AS USED IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH  
20 (II), A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN  
21 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE  
22 GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE  
23 SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA, AND THAT  
24 ENROLLS FEWER THAN ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS.

25           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1210, **amend**  
26 (5) (b) (III); and **add** (5) (b) (III.5) as follows:

27           **22-7-1210. Early literacy fund - created - repeal.** (5) (b) A

1 local education provider may use the per-pupil intervention moneys only  
2 as follows:

3 (III) To purchase tutoring services in reading for students with  
4 significant reading deficiencies; or

5 (III.5) FOR A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT IS A SMALL  
6 RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-11-303 (4) (b), TO  
7 PURCHASE FROM A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES THE SERVICES OF A  
8 LITERACY SPECIALIST TO PROVIDE EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL  
9 DEVELOPMENT IN LITERACY AND OTHER SUPPORT IN IMPLEMENTING THE  
10 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PART 12; OR

11 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1211, **amend**  
12 (1) and (2) (c); and **add** (2) (c.5) as follows:

13 **22-7-1211. Early literacy grant program - created.** (1) There  
14 is hereby created in the department the early literacy grant program to  
15 provide moneys to local education providers to implement literacy  
16 support and intervention instruction programs, including but not limited  
17 to related professional development programs, to assist students in  
18 kindergarten and first, second, and third grades to achieve reading  
19 competency. The state board by rule shall establish the application  
20 timelines and the information to be included in each grant application. A  
21 local education provider may apply individually or as part of a group of  
22 local education providers. A rural school district that is a member of a  
23 board of cooperative services may seek assistance in writing the grant  
24 application from the board of cooperative services. A BOARD OF  
25 COOPERATIVE SERVICES MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE  
26 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT IN LITERACY FOR SMALL RURAL SCHOOL  
27 DISTRICTS, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-11-303 (4) (b), THAT ARE

1 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES.

2 (2) The department shall review each grant application received  
3 and recommend to the state board whether to award the grant and the  
4 duration and amount of each grant. In making recommendations, the  
5 department shall consider the following factors:

6 (c) The cost of the instructional program that the applying local  
7 education provider or group of local education providers plans to  
8 implement using the grant moneys; and

9 (c.5) IN THE CASE OF A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES THAT  
10 APPLIES FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT IN LITERACY,  
11 THE NUMBER OF SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AS DESCRIBED IN  
12 SECTION 22-11-303 (4) (b), THE NUMBER OF KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST-,  
13 SECOND-, AND THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SMALL RURAL  
14 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE SMALL RURAL  
15 SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT AS A  
16 RESULT OF THE GRANT;

17 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.