

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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/billsummaries>.)*

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, **add** 22-32-110.9 as  
3 follows:

4           **22-32-110.9. Small rural school districts - reporting - biennial.**

5 (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW OR RULE TO THE  
6 CONTRARY, BEGINNING WITH THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR AND FOR SCHOOL  
7 YEARS THEREAFTER, A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT HOLDS THE  
8 STATUS OF ACCREDITED OR ACCREDITED WITH DISTINCTION PURSUANT TO

1 SECTION 22-11-208:

2 (a) MAY SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORTS OR DOCUMENTS  
3 BIENNIALY RATHER THAN ANNUALLY:

4 (I) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT UNIFIED IMPROVEMENT PLAN THAT THE  
5 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUIRES THROUGH THE ACCREDITATION  
6 PROCESS AND ANY ADDENDA THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
7 REQUIRES FOR THE UNIFIED IMPROVEMENT PLAN, INCLUDING BUT NOT  
8 LIMITED TO THE TITLE I ADDENDUM AND THE GIFTED AND TALENTED  
9 PROGRAM ADDENDUM;

10 (II) THE END-OF-YEAR ENROLLMENT REPORT THAT THE  
11 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUIRES THE SECRETARY OF THE SCHOOL  
12 DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SUBMIT;

13 (III) THE SAFE SCHOOL REPORT REQUIRED IN SECTION 22-32-109.1

14 (2) (b) AND THE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF  
15 EDUCATION REQUIRES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SUBMIT; AND

16 (IV) THE REPORT OF PROGRAMS AND PERSONNEL THAT SCHOOL  
17 DISTRICTS ARE REQUIRED BY RULE TO FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN THE  
18 SPRING; AND

19 (b) IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE REPORT THAT THE  
20 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUIRES SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUBMIT FOR  
21 PURPOSES OF PREPARING PRECODED LABELS FOR STATEWIDE  
22 ASSESSMENTS.

23 (2) A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT HOLDS THE STATUS OF  
24 ACCREDITED WITH IMPROVEMENT PLAN OR LOWER MAY SUBMIT TO THE  
25 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT EXPLAINS HOW, THE  
26 LEVEL TO WHICH, AND THE TIMEFRAME IN WHICH, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
27 WILL IMPROVE THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN

1 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ALLOWED TO SUBMIT  
2 THE REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF  
3 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION BIENNIALLY INSTEAD OF ANNUALLY AND  
4 IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE REPORT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF  
5 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL  
6 REVIEW THE PLAN AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD  
7 OF EDUCATION. BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT  
8 OF EDUCATION, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY APPROVE THE  
9 STRATEGIC PLAN AND ALLOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SUBMIT THE  
10 REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS BIENNIALLY AND EXEMPT THE SCHOOL  
11 DISTRICT FROM THE PRECODED LABELS REPORT. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
12 DOES NOT IMPROVE STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TO THE LEVEL  
13 IDENTIFIED IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN OR WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED  
14 IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY  
15 RECOMMEND REVOCATION, AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY  
16 REVOKE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO SUBMIT THE REPORTS AND  
17 DOCUMENTS BIENNIALLY AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EXEMPTION FROM  
18 THE PRECODED LABELS REPORT.

19 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS  
20 A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
21 DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL  
22 DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST  
23 LARGE, URBANIZED AREA, AND THAT ENROLLS FEWER THAN ONE  
24 THOUSAND STUDENTS.

25 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-302, **add** (3)  
26 as follows:

27 **22-11-302. School district accountability committee - powers**

1 **and duties.** (3) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SUBSECTION (1)  
2 OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY  
3 COMMITTEE FOR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DESCRIBED IN  
4 SECTION 22-32-110.9 (3), IS NOT REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE  
5 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (g) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS  
6 SECTION.

7 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-402, **add** (2)  
8 as follows:

9 **22-11-402. School accountability committee - powers and**  
10 **duties - meetings.** (2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF  
11 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE SCHOOL  
12 ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL OF A SMALL RURAL  
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-32-110.9 (3), IS NOT  
14 REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPHS  
15 (f) TO (h) OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

16 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-142, **add** (4)  
17 as follows:

18 **22-32-142. Parent engagement - policy - communications -**  
19 **incentives.** (4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION OR  
20 SECTION 22-11-405 OR 22-11-406 TO THE CONTRARY, A SMALL RURAL  
21 SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-32-110.9 (3), IS NOT  
22 REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THIS  
23 SECTION.

24 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-7-1209.5 as  
25 follows:

26 **22-7-1209.5. State board - waiver - small rural school districts.**  
27 (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS PART 12 TO THE

1 CONTRARY, THE STATE BOARD MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
2 PART 12 FOR A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT IS A SMALL RURAL  
3 SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-32-110.9 (3). TO OBTAIN  
4 A WAIVER PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
5 MUST SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT AN APPLICATION THAT SPECIFIES THE  
6 SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ENSURING THAT, NO LATER THAN  
7 THE COMPLETION OF THIRD GRADE, THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE  
8 SCHOOL DISTRICT DEVELOP THE NECESSARY READING SKILLS TO ENABLE  
9 THEM TO MASTER THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS  
10 APPLICABLE TO THE FOURTH-GRADE CURRICULUM AND BEYOND. THE  
11 STATE BOARD SHALL GRANT THE WAIVER BASED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S  
12 REVIEW OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

13 (2) A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT OBTAINS A WAIVER  
14 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST MEET THE LOCAL TARGETS FOR  
15 STUDENT PROFICIENCY ON THE THIRD-GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS  
16 STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SET IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PERFORMANCE,  
17 IMPROVEMENT, PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT, OR TURNAROUND PLAN,  
18 WHICHEVER IS APPLICABLE, FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR. IF THE SMALL RURAL  
19 SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT ACHIEVE THE LOCAL TARGETS FOR TWO  
20 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL YEARS, THE STATE BOARD SHALL REVOKE THE  
21 WAIVER, AND THE SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL COMPLY WITH  
22 THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 12.

23 (3) A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT IS OPERATING UNDER  
24 A WAIVER GRANTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE  
25 PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEYS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-7-1210 (5)  
26 (a) AND MAY APPLY FOR MONEYS THROUGH THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT  
27 PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-7-1211. NOTWITHSTANDING THE

1 WAIVER UNDER WHICH IT OPERATES, THE SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2 MUST USE THE PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEYS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION  
3 22-7-1210 (5) (b) AND SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REPORTING  
4 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-7-1213 (2).

5 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-20.5-404, **amend**  
6 (3) (a) (IV) as follows:

7 **25-20.5-404. Local and regional review teams - creation -**  
8 **membership - authority.** (3) (a) A local or regional review team must  
9 include representatives from the following entities located within the  
10 service area of the establishing county or district public health agency or  
11 agencies:

12 (IV) School districts; EXCEPT THAT A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL  
13 DISTRICT, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-32-110.9 (3), C.R.S., IS NOT  
14 REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON A LOCAL OR  
15 REGIONAL REVIEW TEAM;

16 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
18 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.