

# HB604 INTRODUCED



1 HB604  
2 6YTNJ33-1  
3 By Representative Collins  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 10-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the State Superintendent of Education is responsible for the development and implementation of a school grading system.

This bill would provide for the creation and membership of an Accountability Council to review and recommend revisions to the state accountability system.

This bill would also require the Alabama Workforce Board, with support from the State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, to develop a system for collecting, analyzing, and reporting on student performance data associated with completion of college and career readiness indicators.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to create the Accountability Council to review and recommend revisions to the state accountability system; and to require the Alabama Workforce Board, with support from the State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, to



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29 develop a system to measure student performance data  
30 associated with completion of college and career readiness  
31 indicators.

32 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

33 Section 1. (a) To further the intent of the Legislature  
34 to create transparency and ensure all agencies uphold the  
35 purposes of this section, on or before July 1, 2026, a  
36 standing Accountability Council shall be created. The goal of  
37 the Accountability Council is to ensure that the state's  
38 educational accountability system supports improved outcomes  
39 and long-term success for all Alabama students, with a focus  
40 on closing achievement gaps.

41 (b) The Chairs of the House of Representatives and  
42 Senate Education Policy Committees shall convene the  
43 organizational meeting of the Accountability Council.  
44 Thereafter, the Accountability Council shall meet at least  
45 annually to accomplish all of the following:

46 (1) Critically review the current state report card  
47 provided in Section 16-6C-2, Code of Alabama 1975, and  
48 research other state report cards for best practices for  
49 improving student achievement.

50 (2) Guide the relevant state agencies and experts to  
51 design an annual return on investment study as provided in  
52 Section 2.

53 (3) Critically review the annual return on investment  
54 study data to determine if college and career readiness  
55 indicators are preparing students to be successful after  
56 graduation.



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57 (4) Monitor state report card implementation and engage  
58 in formal reviews at established intervals.

59 (5) Provide recommendations for revisions to the  
60 accountability system to the Governor, the Legislature, the  
61 State Board of Education, and the State Department of  
62 Education designed to increase student performance and achieve  
63 lifelong success.

64 (c) The council shall be under the leadership of a  
65 chair annually elected by the membership of the Accountability  
66 Council.

67 (d) The membership of the Accountability Council shall  
68 consist of all of the following:

69 (1) Five members appointed by the Governor: One member  
70 who is a national expert on school accountability, two members  
71 who are from the business community, and two at-large members.

72 (2) The Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation  
73 Education Committee.

74 (3) The Chair of the House Ways and Means Education  
75 Committee.

76 (4) The Chair of the Senate Education Policy Committee.

77 (5) The Chair of the House Education Policy Committee.

78 (6) One member each appointed by the following:

79 a. The Secretary of Workforce.

80 b. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

81 c. The Minority Leader of the Senate.

82 d. The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

83 e. The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

84 f. The State Superintendent of Education.



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- 85 g. The Alabama Education Association.
- 86 h. The School Superintendents of Alabama.
- 87 i. The Alabama Association of School Boards.
- 88 j. The Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools.
- 89 k. The A+ Education Partnership.
- 90 l. The Alabama Public Charter Schools Association.
- 91 m. The Business Education Alliance.
- 92 n. The Alabama STEM Council.

93 (e) To inform the review of the Accountability Council  
94 and to ensure that the college and career readiness indicators  
95 accurately signal that students are prepared for high-wage,  
96 high-growth opportunities in this state, the Alabama Workforce  
97 Board, with support from the State Department of Education and  
98 the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, shall develop a  
99 system for collecting, analyzing, and reporting the public  
100 school student outcomes associated with the completion of each  
101 college and career readiness indicator. All agencies shall  
102 provide updated, relevant data as necessary to complete the  
103 study on an annual basis. This shall include an annual  
104 legislative report that captures the education system's return  
105 on investment, ensuring the state captures and reports on  
106 results beyond what is in the accountability formula  
107 including, but not limited to:

- 108 (1) Postsecondary enrollment and persistence;
- 109 (2) Military enlistment;
- 110 (3) Industry-recognized credentials;
- 111 (4) Income within six years after graduation; and
- 112 (5) Employment in high-wage, high-demand career sectors



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113 and occupations.

114 Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately.