

HCS SCS SB 945 and SB 803 and SB 1257 -- SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

This bill requires the State Board of Education to encourage school districts to adopt service-learning programs to foster academic achievement, civic engagement, and character development. The state board will, upon request, provide technical assistance and help in locating financial resources for teachers developing service-learning programs and projects. These projects may be counted for credit in courses for high school graduation and may be used at any grade level to address state educational standards, where appropriate.

The bill also prohibits students who have been expelled for safe school violations from being counted as dropouts for accreditation purposes. The juvenile court will have concurrent jurisdiction with municipal courts on curfew violations by children. The Division of Family Services is permitted to interview possible victims of child abuse at the school or child care center if the alleged abuse did not occur on that property. This provision contains an emergency clause.