

HCS HB 1609 -- STUDENT STUDY PLANS

SPONSOR: Dieckhaus (Nasheed)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 1.

This substitute requires each school district to ensure that every student develops a personal plan of study before the end of the student's seventh grade year to include graduation requirements, career or educational goals with course work to support them, career-related experiences, assessments necessary to revise the plan of study, and opportunities for a postsecondary experience. Plans will cover eight years or until the student reaches his or her postsecondary goals and must be reviewed at least annually by school personnel and the student's parents or guardians.

Each district must adopt all necessary policies to implement a comprehensive guidance and counseling program that focuses on career awareness in elementary school, exploration in middle school, and planning in high school. The school district's policies must include, but are not limited to, active participation of counselors, teachers, administrators, and parents in the development, review, and revision of the plans; adequate resources and training; adequate time and opportunity to implement the plans; access to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's web-based educational and career planning system; and opportunities for community involvement.

When a student leaves the school district, the district is not required to continue maintaining the plan, but must provide a copy to the student or the student's parents and transfer the implementation of the plan to any training program or higher education institution.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the personal plan of study helps keep students involved and should help lower the dropout rate and increase academic proficiency. The emphasis on shared responsibility is important.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Nasheed; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say clarification that the plan should follow the student to postsecondary training or study is desirable.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Coalition of School Administrators.