

HB 1294 -- SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

SPONSOR: McNeil

This bill changes the laws regarding school accreditation.

PREKINDERGARTEN (Sections 160.053 and 163.018, RSMo)

A district that is provisionally accredited or unaccredited and that provides full-day kindergarten is allowed to count prekindergarten pupils between the ages of three and five in the district's calculation of average daily attendance for state school aid. This provision does not change mandatory school attendance requirements.

EXTENDED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME (Section 162.1265)

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must develop and implement a grant program for unaccredited and provisionally accredited districts to support extended instructional time. To apply, a district must demonstrate that it has analyzed its current use of instructional time and the potential effects of additional time and provide a rationale for how the extra time will be implemented. Grant award amounts must be proportional to the additional instructional time over the minimum legal requirement and the average daily attendance rate, with unaccredited districts receiving priority. The Extended Instructional Time Fund is created consisting of all moneys that may be appropriated to it by the General Assembly and may include any gifts, contributions, or grants to be administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and used solely for the administration of the extended instructional time program.

STUDENT TRANSFERS (Sections 167.131 and 167.132)

The bill separates the transfer process for K-8 districts and schools that have scored in the unaccredited range. The K-8 process remains unchanged under Section 167.131, with the process for unaccredited schools specified in 167.132. A student in a school that scores unaccredited in the previous year may transfer to another accredited school in his or her district if he or she has attended school in the district for one year. A student enrolled in a school that has scored in the unaccredited range for two years may transfer to another district in the same or adjacent county if he or she meets the residency conditions and the receiving school is accredited and its approved class size has not been reached. Reasonable tuition is defined as no more than 80% of the per-pupil revenue received from state and local sources. Transportation must be provided to one receiving school or to a

second school if the first cannot accommodate the number wishing to attend.

#### STUDENT PERSONAL PLANS OF STUDY (Section 167.780)

Every student in a provisionally accredited or unaccredited district must develop a personal plan of study by the end of sixth grade in conjunction with his or her parents or guardian. The school district must provide a comprehensive guidance and counseling program with the goal of ensuring that all students will graduate college and be career ready. The policy must include, but not be limited to, active involvement by counselors, teachers, and parents; adequate resources and time to implement the plan; and access to the statewide educational and career-planning system sponsored by the department. The policy must be reviewed annually and will cover eight years or until the student has reached his or her postsecondary goals.