

HB 1731 -- PARENT AND COMMUNITY SCHOOL INFORMATION ACT

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill establishes the Parent and Community School Information Act and requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to publish a simplified report card for each public school attendance center and each charter school, except for a school that has only grades lower than third grade. The report card is separate from and in addition to the annual report required by Section 160.522, RSMo, is for informational purposes, and is not part of the school improvement program. The department must make reports to the Joint Committee on Education on the establishment of the report card and on simplifying access to its data portal and must provide a link to the report card from its homepage.

The first report card must be distributed before December 1, 2015. Each school must notify parents and the community about the report's contents and provide directions for accessing information. The department must establish rules to create the report card so that it is easy for the general public to understand and contains applicable standards for each school, the overall score and corresponding letter grade for the standard, any components of the standard, and an average overall grade that fits on one sheet of standard paper.

The principal may include a statement not to exceed 250 words to provide background information and which contains, where applicable, the percentage of third grade students scoring at or above proficient; a link for information on dual credit and advanced placement, entrepreneurship, alternative, remedial, and credit recovery programs as well as access to virtual courses. A school that scores below 70% overall must submit an action plan for improvement to the department for its approval.