

HB 2156 -- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Berry

This bill expands the Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Initiative to require the Department of Higher Education to develop a process to award grants to Missouri public two- and four-year higher education institutions and school districts that have entered into articulation agreements to offer information technology certification through technical course work. The department must develop a program to offer information technology certification through technical course work that leads to postsecondary academic credit for students enrolled in a public high school that has entered into an articulation agreement with a Missouri public two- or four-year higher education institution. The program must provide instruction on skills and competencies essential for the workplace and requested by employers and must include specified components. The department must conduct a study to identify the information technology industry certifications most frequently requested by Missouri employers; complete the study by January 31, 2015; and prepare the findings in a report and provide it to the President Pro Tem of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Joint Committee on Education, Governor, Coordinating Board for Higher Education, and State Board of Education.