

SS HCS HB 1606 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, this bill requires schools to be in session for 1044 hours of pupil attendance, and eliminates the requirement that schools be in session for any minimum number of days (Sections 160.011, 160.041, 163.021, 163.073, 171.031, and 171.033, RSMo).

The bill requires schools to post certain financial information online, including a searchable expenditure and revenue document or database detailing actual income, expenditures, and disbursements for the current calendar or fiscal year on its district or school website by September 1, 2019. A school is not required to post any confidential information, including any personal information regarding payroll (Section 160.066).

This bill provides that if less than 25% of the public school student transportation funding formula is funded by the state, a school board may vote to reduce its allocation of foundation formula money going to professional development from a minimum of 1% to a minimum of 0.5% (Section 160.530).

The bill provides students the opportunity to choose between the ACT WorkKeys assessment or the ACT assessment in any school year in which the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or a school district directs an administration of the ACT assessment (Section 160.572).

This bill requires the Governor to appoint a teacher representative to the State Board of Education (SBE). The teacher representative will not have the right to vote on any matter or be counted in establishing a quorum. The teacher representative is not allowed in a closed meeting (Sections 161.026 and 161.072).

This bill provides a high school equivalency certificate applicant with the opportunity to voluntarily submit his or her contact information for the purpose of evaluating college and career placement rates of certificate applicants. Subject to appropriation, DESE must subsidize the examination fee for first-time exam takers (Sections 161.094 and 161.095).

The bill also requires DESE to handle career and technical student organization funds (Section 161.106).

This bill changes the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program to "The Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program." School districts and charter schools must adopt a policy for student enrollment in the Missouri course access and virtual school program that is substantially similar to the student enrollment process for

courses offered in the brick-and-mortar school. Public schools shall pay the costs of enrollment in virtual courses for full-time students who attended a public school for at least one semester immediately before enrolling in the virtual courses (Sections 161.670 and 167.121).

The bill allows school bus drivers to have a medical examination every two years instead of every year (Section 162.064).

This bill authorizes the treasurer of a seven-director school district, when entering into a bond to the State of Missouri, to use one or more sureties instead of the two or more sureties required by current law (Section 162.401).

This bill requires any district with an approved gifted education program to have a process, approved by the district's board of education, that outlines the procedures and conditions under which parents or guardians may request a review of the decision that determined that their child did not qualify to receive services through the district's gifted education program. Schools also must establish a policy that allows for subject or whole grade acceleration for any student who demonstrates advanced performance and emotional readiness for acceleration (Sections 162.720 and 162.722).

This bill requires schools to send written notification to a student's parent or legal guardian, DESE, and the State Auditor if the student's personal information was exposed in a data breach (Section 162.1475).

This bill provides that when including early childhood education students in a school's calculation of average daily attendance for purposes of state funding, the school may fill an enrollment spot vacated by a student leaving the program during the school year with another child who meets the same criteria without affecting the school's calculation of average daily attendance (Section 163.018).

This bill requires the commissioner of education to assign a St. Elizabeth or St. Albans student to another school district if the student's parent requests, the driving distance from the student's residence to his or her school in the district of residence is at least 15 miles, and the new school is at least five miles closer (Section 167.125).

The bill requires schools to provide braille instruction to eligible students unless the individual education program team determines that braille instruction is not appropriate (Section 167.225).

The bill allows a school board or charter school to establish an academic and career counseling program in cooperation with parents and the local community that is in the best interest of and meets the needs of students in the community. Schools may use the Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program as a resource. DESE shall develop a process for recognition of a school district's academic and career counseling program (Section 167.266).

The bill requires schools to include information about influenza with any other information sent to parents regarding school health issues (Section 167.637).

This bill requires high schools to provide students with information about careers, salaries, job-finding, and education. The Department of Economic Development shall annually identify occupations that are experiencing a critical need for trained personnel. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Department of Economic Development shall jointly provide information to public institutions of higher education regarding employment trends for each credential offered and the estimated tuition and fees required to obtain the credential. Public institutions of higher education shall publish this information on their website and in their course catalogs (Sections 167.902 and 173.1004).

This bill establishes a "Career Readiness Course Task Force" to explore a course offering, for eighth or ninth grade public school students, that would cover topics related to various career and educational opportunities, as specified in the bill. The course should focus on career readiness and emphasize the importance of work ethic, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. The course should also demonstrate that graduation from a four-year college is not the only path to success and discuss other pathways (Section 167.910).

The bill allows teachers to count hours spent in local business externships as professional development hours (Section 168.024).

This bill requires school sexual education courses to include information about sexual harassment, sexual violence, and consent (Section 170.015).

This bill removes the requirement that school bus drivers over 70 be tested annually on the pre-trip inspection portion of the CDL test (Section 302.272).

The bill permits the Kansas City school district to contract with any governmental agency for the purpose of transporting high school

children for extra-curricular activities (Section 304.060).