

HB 2247 -- CHARTER SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Roeber

This bill changes the law regarding charter schools.

The bill removes provisions authorizing a charter school to operate in a school district that has been classified as provisionally accredited. Instead, a charter school may operate in any school district in which at least one school has received an annual performance report score of 60% or less for two of the three most recent reports available when the charter school applies to open a school. A charter school opening in such a district shall offer only grade levels consistent with the grade levels offered by the school building that underperformed. A charter school opened under this provision shall give a preference for admission of resident pupils who reside in the attendance area of any school building that underperformed. The charter school may continue to operate regardless of any improvement in the annual performance report scores in the district (Section 160.400, RSMo).

This bill establishes a performance standard under which a charter school is underperforming if the:

(1) Percentage of the charter school's students who perform proficient and advanced on the annual statewide system of assessments in English language arts and mathematics is lower than the average percentage of grade-level-equivalent students in nonselective school buildings in the school district in which it is located who perform proficient and advanced in English language arts and mathematics; or

(2) Average rate of growth in English language arts and mathematics on the annual statewide system of assessments based on a value-added model for the charter school's students is lower than the average rate of growth for grade-level-equivalent students in nonselective school buildings in the school district in which the charter school is located (Section 160.405).

If a charter school, other than one in which 50% or more of the school's students were previously considered dropouts, underperforms for at least two years the charter school's sponsor shall revoke the charter or take other remedial action, which may include a probationary period (160.405).

A sponsor's renewal process for a charter school, other than one in which 50% or more of the school's students were previously considered dropouts, shall consider if the school met the performance standard in two of the three consecutive years

immediately before the renewal decision is made. If such a charter school did not meet the standard in that period, any renewal granted shall be for only a three-year term. If the school again fails to meet the standard for two years of the three-year term, the school's charter shall not be renewed (Section 160.405).

Any sponsor of a charter school that failed to receive renewal of its charter after the three-year term shall not sponsor any new charter schools until the State Board of Education has determined that the sponsor was in compliance with all laws regarding charter schools for any charter school it sponsored at the time a charter school failed to receive such renewal (Section 160.400).

The bill also requires all members of the governing board of a charter school to be Missouri income taxpayers, except that members serving as of August 28, 2018 may serve the remainder of their terms regardless of that requirement (Section 160.400).

The bill also changes the law regarding how state aid and tuition are determined, as specified in the bill (Section 160.415).