

SS#2 SCS HCS HB 604 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

CHARTER SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

This bill allows a charter school to also give preference for admission to students who will be eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program (Section 160.410, RSMo).

A+ FOR HIGH SCHOOL DUAL CREDIT

This bill modifies the A+ Schools program by adding a requirement that high schools in the program shall demonstrate a commitment to ensure that all students earn credits towards any type of college degree while in high school.

The Department of Higher Education shall establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition and fees for any dual-credit or dual-enrollment course offered to a student in high school in association with a public community college or vocational or technical school.

This bill provides that the student must have attended a high school in the state for at least two years.

The department shall distribute reimbursements first to community college or vocational or technical school students, then to any dual-credit or dual-enrollment students, on the basis of financial need (Section 160.545).

MISSOURI RELIGIOUS STUDIES ACT

This bill changes current language from "students or parents" to "any person" in regards to public schools and the prevention of discrimination on the basis of religion (Section 160.2500).

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND AWARENESS COMMISSION ACT

Modifies the definition of "holocaust" by removing "in Nazi concentration camps" and replacing with "by Nazi Germany and its collaborators" (Section 161.700).

SCHOOL TURNAROUND ACT

This bill establishes the "School Turnaround Act."

Beginning September 1, 2020, and subject to appropriations, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall establish a school turnaround program to assist schools designated as in need of intervention. DESE shall use an outcome-based

measure to set criteria for the designation of schools in need of intervention and, based on the same outcome-based measure, shall determine the specific criteria that a school shall be required to meet in order to exit the school turnaround program.

Before August 30, 2020, DESE must identify two or more approved independent school turnaround experts of which schools in need of intervention may partner. The governing board of any local educational agency with a school in need of intervention shall establish a school turnaround committee and together the governing board and school turnaround committee shall select one of the approved independent school turnaround experts. However, DESE, and not the governing board, shall be responsible for contracting with and paying the independent school turnaround expert.

The school turnaround committee and the chosen independent school turnaround expert shall develop a school turnaround plan, to be submitted to the governing board for approval. The governing board shall, in turn, submit the turnaround plan to DESE for approval. DESE shall review school turnaround plans within 30 days of submission. Criteria for approval is specified in the bill as well as an appeal process.

A school in need of intervention that does not meet the exit criteria within three school years may petition DESE for an extension to continue school improvement efforts for up to two years.

The bill requires that before November 30, 2021, DESE shall report to the Joint Committee on Education on the implementation of the School Turnaround Act.

This bill establishes the "School Turnaround Fund" for the payment of contracts and the "School Intervention Fund," to fund interventions identified in approved school turnaround plans (Sections 161.1080 - 161.1130).

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN SCHOOLS

This bill requires disclosure between school districts about a former employee when requested, specifically regarding any confirmed violation of a board policy related to abusive behavior toward a student. Additionally, any school, before offering employment, must contact the district or charter school that previously employed the prospective hire and request information.

The bill increases the training hours for initial school board members from 16 to 18 hours and 30 minutes and further requires that the training include two hours and 30 minutes of sexual

harassment training. Additionally, returning board members must take at least one hour of refresher training annually.

This bill defines a "screened volunteer" and requires a criminal background check to be conducted on any screened volunteer before they are left alone with a student or have access to student records.

This bill requires that schools provide trauma-informed developmentally-appropriate sexual abuse training to students in grades six and up. The training will be developed by DESE.

This bill adds school personnel, contractors, and volunteers that establish relationships through a school or school activity to the definition of those responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child for certain sections of statutes relating to child abuse as outlined in the bill (Sections 162.068, 162.203, 168.133, 170.045, and 210.110).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION INTERVENTION POWERS

This bill allows the State Board of Education to lapse the corporate organization of all or part of an unaccredited school district and to determine the equitable apportionment of state and federal aid. The bill further limits the number of elected school board members that may be appointed to a special administrative board (Section 162.081).

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

This bill allows children who attend early childhood education programs that are under contract with school districts or charter schools that have declared themselves as a local education agency to be included in the average daily attendance of the school district or charter school (Section 163.018).

MODIFICATION TO STATE SCHOOL AID

The bill requires DESE to distribute additional funds, in conjunction with funds calculated and distributed under the foundation formula, to any school district that meets certain performance goals (Section 163.031).

TRAVEL HARDSHIPS

This bill allows a student residing in an unincorporated area of Maries County to apply for a reassignment by the Commissioner.

A student will be eligible to apply to be reassigned by the

Commissioner if the student has applied for enrollment in a public school in his or her district of residence, but was denied and that student lived at least 15 miles from the district and within five miles closer to another district (Section 167.125).

TUITION

The board of education of each district in Missouri that does not maintain a high school offering work through grade 12 shall pay tuition as calculated by the receiving district as outlined in the bill, and provide transportation for each student resident therein who has completed the work of the highest grade offered in the schools of the district and who attends an accredited public high school.

The bill establishes the tuition rate paid to a receiving district or charter school by a sending district when a student transfers pursuant to Section 167.895 (Sections 167.131 and 167.132).

TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS TO ANOTHER DISTRICT

For transferring students, the district of residence is required to provide transportation only to school districts or approved charter schools designated by DESE (Section 167.241).

TRANSFER AND TRANSIENT STUDENT DATA

DESE shall compile and maintain student performance data scores of all transient and transfer students enrolled in districts other than their resident districts and make the data available on the Missouri Comprehensive Data System. Personally identifiable information shall not be accessible on the database (Section 167.890).

STUDENT TRANSFERS

Any student may transfer to another public school in the student's district of residence if such student is enrolled and has attended, for the full semester immediately prior to requesting the transfer, an attendance center, as defined in the bill, that is located within an unaccredited district and that has an annual performance report score consistent with a classification of unaccredited. Any student who is eligible to transfer within his or her district but who is unable to do so due to a lack of capacity in the attendance centers in his or her district of residence may apply to DESE or its designee to transfer to:

- 1) An attendance center that is located within an accredited district that is located in the same or an adjoining county and

that has an APR score consistent with a classification of accredited; or

2) An approved charter school located in another district in the same or an adjoining county.

However, no receiving district shall, as a result of such transfers, be required to hire additional classroom teachers, construct additional classrooms, or maintain a class size or enrollment that exceeds Missouri standards (Section 167.895).

By January 1 annually, each district eligible to receive transfer students shall report to DESE the number of its available enrollment slots in accredited schools by grade level. Each unaccredited district shall report the number of available enrollment slots in the district's accredited attendance centers (Section 167.898).

TEACHER EXTERNSHIPS

This bill defines a "teacher externship" and requires that the Department of Economic Development and DESE shall adopt requirements for teacher externships along with an equivalency schedule to allow externship hours to be considered for increases similar to graduate-level coursework on the salary schedule for districts before July 1, 2020 (Section 168.025).

VOLUNTARY PILOT PROGRAMS

This bill requires DESE to establish a voluntary pilot program, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, to provide for mental and emotional health education in elementary schools in the state. The purpose of the program is to determine whether and how to implement an elementary mental and emotional health education program statewide.

The bill authorizes DESE to develop a pilot program, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, to provide for agricultural education in elementary schools in the state. The purpose of the program is to determine whether and how to implement an elementary agricultural education program statewide (Sections 170.020 and 178.530).

START DATE FOR SCHOOL TERM

Beginning with school year 2020-21, this bill modifies the law governing school start dates so that school districts must set an opening date no earlier than 14 calendar days prior to the first Monday in September (Section 171.031).

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROVISIONS

This bill exempts school districts from the required number of days school districts are required to make up for days lost due to inclement weather for the 2018-2019 school year and specifies that affected school districts would only be required to make up six days lost due to inclement weather, rather than six days plus half the number of days lost in excess of six days. This provision contains an emergency clause that was defeated.

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, a district may use an alternative instruction plan approved by DESE for up to 36 hours missed due to inclement weather. The requirements for using an approved alternative method of instruction is specified in the bill.

This bill adds excessive heat to the definition of inclement weather (Section 171.033).

CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES

Currently, any school district authorizing the construction of facilities that may cost more than \$15,000 must advertise in a newspaper and comply with certain bidding requirements. This bill raises the expenditure to \$50,000 (Section 177.086).