

HB 1252 -- STUDENT TRANSFERS

SPONSOR: Chappelle-Nadal

This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt a policy to classify individual attendance centers by July 1, 2020 with limits as outlined in the bill (Section 161.238, RSMo).

The bill requires notification of parents if the State Board of Education classifies any district or attendance center as unaccredited (Section 162.1310).

The bill states that any district that does not maintain a high school shall pay tuition and transportation costs for all students to the district or charter that the students attend (Section 167.131).

The bill outlines requirements for student transfers for school year 2019-20, with distinctions and exceptions as outlined in the bill with students that attended unaccredited districts having the option of transferring to a virtual school, approved charter, or additional attendance center (Section 167.825).

The bill allows for any student to transfer to another attendance center in the student's district of residence that offers the student's grade level of enrollment and that is accredited without provisions, with additional restrictions as outlined in the bill.

Applications for transfer must be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by March 1st. Districts may adopt a policy for desirable class size and student-teacher ratios by January 1st annually (Section 167.826).

The bill sets deadlines for school districts, charter schools, DESE and parents or guardians in regard to notifications of eligibility and intentions. The bill outlines the role for DESE and guides the department on how to assign or deny transfers eligible districts and charters with guidelines outlined in the bill. The bill additionally addresses how test scores for transfer students shall be calculated by a district or charter (Section 167.827).

The bill requires that a district operating an unaccredited attendance center that transfers a student to an accredited attendance center in an adjoining district shall pay tuition to the receiving district in an amount equal to the tuition rate of the receiving district. If the tuition charged by the receiving district exceeds the tuition rate of the sending district, 50% of the difference in rates shall be paid from the "Supplemental Tuition Fund" created by this bill. The sending district shall pay

25% of the difference and the receiving district shall absorb 25% of the difference as outlined in the bill (Section 167.829).

The bill defines "accredited district," "approved charter school," "attendance center," and distinguishes between provisionally accredited and unaccredited attendance centers and districts (Section 167.848).

The bill requires DESE to compile and maintain performance data scores of transfer students (Section 167.890).