

HCS SS SB 218 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Hoskins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 3.

This bill modifies provisions relating to elementary and secondary education.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The bill restricts a political subdivision from targeting a charter school with an ordinance or policy that limits the acquisition or use of property by a charter school or for educational purposes.

This bill provides that a nonresident student may enroll in a charter school, but may not cause a resident student to be denied admission, and gives charter schools the option to give preference for admission to students eligible for free and reduced lunch (Sections 67.139 and 160.410, RSMo).

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This bill defines "accreditation standards" for Section 161.089, RSMo, and requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt modified accreditation standards for special school districts (SSD) to reflect the educational needs of SSD students by July 1, 2020 (Section 161.089).

BRYCE'S LAW

This bill would modify the section of law known as "Bryce's Law" by changing the definition of "Department" from DESE to the office of the State Treasurer. The bill removes the sunset provision for Section 161.825, RSMo and has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2020 (Section 161.825).

SCHOOL TURNAROUND ACT

This bill establishes the "School Turnaround Act." Beginning September 1, 2020 and subject to appropriations, DESE shall use an outcome-based measure to set criteria for the designation of schools in need of intervention and specifies a time line for the initial remedial year.

The bill specifies that before August 30, 2020, DESE identify two or more approved independent school turnaround experts of which

schools in need of intervention may partner. DESE shall award contracts to independent school turnaround experts and the governing board shall not be required to pay independent school turnaround experts.

This bill also establishes the "School Turnaround Fund" for the payment of contracts. DESE shall review school turnaround plans within 30 days of submission. Criteria for the approval and the appeals process are specified in the bill.

The bill establishes the "School Intervention Fund," to fund interventions identified in approved school turnaround plans (Section 161.1110). 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.

DESE is required to submit a report to the Joint Committee on Education on the implementation of the School Turnaround Act before November 30, 2021 (Sections 161.1080 to 161.1130).

#### LEASE AGREEMENTS

Under this bill, DESE shall not limit the reimbursement rate to school districts for early learning program facility lease agreements for any lease agreement entered into by a school district before March 2, 2015. Reimbursements to a school district for an early learning program facility lease agreement shall be subject to appropriation.

This provision has an emergency clause (Section 162.703).

#### GIFTED INSTRUCTION

This bill requires school districts to establish a state-approved gifted program if 3% or more of the students are determined to be gifted. Districts with average daily attendance of 350 or fewer students are not required to have a teacher certificated to teach gifted education, but any teacher providing gifted instruction without a gifted-teaching certificate must participate in six hours per year of professional development regarding gifted services (Section 162.720).

#### FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Currently, pupils between the ages of three and five who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch and attend an early childhood education program that is operated by and in a district or by a charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency providing full-day kindergarten and that meets standards established by the SBE are included in the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance. This bill specifies that such students shall also be included in the

calculation of average daily attendance if they attend an early childhood education program that is under contract with a district or charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency and that meets standards established by the (SBE). In establishing such standards, the SBE shall consider certain factors specified in the bill. The staff members of an early childhood education program are required to undergo background checks (Section 163.018).

#### READING SUCCESS PLAN

This bill modifies current provisions regarding reading intervention programs.

Currently, each local school district and charter school shall have a policy on file for reading intervention plans for any pupil of the district through grade three. This bill changes the policy to require such plans through grade four. Authority to develop guidelines to assist school districts and charter schools in formulating policies for reading intervention plans is transferred from the SBE to DESE.

The bill requires each school district and charter school to administer a reading assessment or set of assessments to each student within the first 30 days of school for grades one through four, and by January 31 for Kindergarten.

Currently, each school district and charter school is required to design a reading intervention plan for the student's fourth-grade year if the student's third-grade reading assessment determines the student is reading below second-grade level. This bill changes the requirement and specifies that each school district and charter school offer a reading intervention program to each Kindergarten through fourth grade student who exhibits a reading deficiency or has a formal diagnosis of dyslexia. Any Kindergarten through fourth grade student who exhibits a deficiency in reading at any time, based upon local or statewide screening assessments, shall receive an individual reading intervention plan no later than 30 days after the identification of the deficiency. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, this bill requires any student who is not reading at grade level by the end of the second grade to receive intensive reading improvement to remedy the student's specific reading deficiency. School districts and charter schools shall provide improvement and support services as specified in the bill.

The bill requires school districts and charter schools to establish an intensive acceleration class for any student not reading proficient or above on the third-grade state assessment, and shall meet specified criteria.

Each school district and charter school is required to offer summer school reading instruction to any student with a reading success plan. Districts may fulfill the requirement through cooperative arrangements with neighboring districts or virtual schools. The parent or legal guardian of any student who exhibits a deficiency in reading shall be notified in writing no later than 30 school days after identification of the deficiency. The written notification shall meet certain requirements specified in the bill. This bill requires the board of each school district and charter school to post, by September 1 of each year, by building, the number and percentage of all students in grades three through eight scoring at each proficiency level on the English language arts statewide assessment; by building, the number and percentage of all students in grades three through eight in each demographic category scoring proficiency level on the English language arts statewide assessment; by district, the number and percentage of all students in grades three through eight scoring at each proficiency level on the English language arts statewide assessment; and by district, the number and percentage of all students in grades three through eight in each demographic category scoring at each proficiency level on the English language arts statewide assessment. DESE is also required to report the information in a state-level summary to the SBE, the public, the Governor, and the Joint Committee on Education by October 1 of each year. This bill also repeals provisions of law relating to mandatory retention for reading deficiencies (Sections 167.269 and 167.645).

#### MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH EDUCATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

This bill requires DESE to establish a voluntary pilot program, beginning in the 2020-21 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 application, collaboration, and evaluation process for schools and DESE is outlined in the bill.

DESE is required to maintain an adequate number of full time employees, certified in mental and emotional health education, and distributed regionally throughout the state (Section 170.02).

#### SCHOOL START DATE

Beginning with school year 2020-21, this bill modifies the law governing school start dates by removing the option that school districts may set an opening date more than 14 calendar days prior to the first Monday in September (Section 171.031).

## AGRICULTURAL EDUCATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

This bill authorizes DESE to develop a pilot program, beginning in the 2020-21 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. The application, collaboration, and evaluation process for schools and DESE is outlined in the bill.

DESE is required to maintain an adequate number of full time employees, certified in agricultural education and distributed regionally throughout the state (Section 178.530).

## TRANSPORTATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

This bill modifies criminal background checks of school bus drivers to include those drivers employed by municipalities or any other entity under contract with a school district.

The bill authorizes school boards to contract with municipalities to transport high school children for a primary bus route. The contract shall require the presence of an adult supervisor approved by the school board on any municipal vehicle transporting school children. While transporting school children, municipal vehicles shall include seating designated solely for school children.

Additional transportation services may be contracted, as outlined in the bill, in any urban district containing the greater part of the population of a city which has more than 300,000 inhabitants; this currently only applies to Kansas City (Sections 168.133 and 304.060).

**PROPOSERS:** Supporters say that early exposure to agriculture education is very beneficial and that a comprehensive counseling program addresses core skills that all students benefit from. Supporters point out that the DESE offers schools counseling curriculum on their website and that the Missouri school improvement plan does allot points for counseling services.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Hoskins; Missouri Corn Growers Association; John Bryan, Missouri Poultry Federation; Missouri Association For Career And Technical Education; and Susan Perkins, Missouri School Counselor Association.

**OPPOSERS:** There was no opposition voiced to the committee.