

## HB 1040 -- Education Accountability

Sponsor: Cunningham (86)

### ASSESSMENTS AND ACCREDITATION

This bill permits districts to incorporate a student's performance on the statewide assessments into the grade point average or class standing of a student or, when a student scores less than proficient, permits a district to require additional coursework before graduation. By January 1, 2006, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will align assessment standards to levels comparable with those used in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and by July 1, 2006, will revise its accreditation standards to permit process and resource standard waivers consistent with academic performance profiles. The accreditation scoring rubric must not require points for the Parents as Teachers Program and must reward districts that use instructional technology to accomplish their advanced placement goals.

### STUDENTS

The bill permits parents and guardians of students to opt into a higher compulsory school age of 18. The bill also adds religious exemptions to compulsory school attendance and clarifies that students who successfully complete all grade levels or complete school by examination are not subject to compulsory attendance.

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The bill clarifies that the nepotism provisions of the Missouri Constitution apply to school districts. Districts may count as reimbursable miles any mileage less than one mile from school when a student faces a transportation safety hazard such as a major highway. Districts that run their own bus operations may use their buses for non-school transportation options under certain conditions. Districts serving the same students, such as K-8 districts and the districts that provide high school to these districts, must make a good faith effort to coordinate their schedules.

### OTHER PROVISIONS

The department must seek feedback on its rules and regulations and give priority to the review of existing regulations that could be relaxed in hard economic times without affecting student achievement. The Division of Family Services cannot meet with a child in the same school or child care facility where abuse is alleged to have occurred. Currently, the division cannot meet

with a child at any school or child care facility.