

HCS SB 1080 -- EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

SPONSOR: Nodler (Wallace)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Education by a vote of 21 to 0.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION

By June 30, 2006, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must align performance standards on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests to levels that meet but do not exceed those used in the National Assessment of Educational Progress and make other changes necessary to meet federal requirements. Grade level expectations must be considered in implementing performance standards. By July 1, 2006, the department must revise its accreditation standards to permit process and resource standard waivers consistent with academic performance profiles.

PRIORITY SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIC DEFICIENCY

The statute on academic deficiency is repealed, and the section on priority and performance schools is thoroughly revised, eliminating performance schools. The department will identify as a priority school any school that fails to meet standards of student achievement established by the State Board of Education based upon certain factors specified in the substitute, such as test performance, graduation rates, and attendance rates. Any district containing a priority school will submit a comprehensive school improvement plan, using the procedures and timeline established by the substitute, that:

- (1) Identifies areas of academic deficiency on the MAP by disaggregating scores, as specified;
- (2) Implements research-based strategies to address the areas of deficiency;
- (3) Aligns the school's curriculum to address academic deficiencies; and
- (4) Reallocates resources to address the areas of academic deficiency.

Priority schools will be listed in the district's annual school accountability report. The state board may appoint a team to conduct an educational audit to determine the factors that have contributed to the lack of student achievement. State aid may be withheld until the district submits an improvement plan.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that aligning state test standards with the national test will make results more easily comparable. Combining features from academic deficiency and priority schools should keep standards high while simplifying procedures.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Nodler; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri National Education Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City; Missouri School Boards Association; School Administrators Coalition; and Missouri Federation of Teachers.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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