

HB 859 -- School Intervention and Reform Grants Program

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill establishes the School Intervention and Reform Grants Program to be administered by the Commissioner of Education to award grants to unaccredited or provisionally accredited school districts funded from money contributed to the program, for which taxpayers may receive a 50% tax credit. The total amount of tax credits for any one fiscal year is capped at \$40 million. Procedures for applying for and granting the tax credits are specified in the bill.

The recipients of a School Intervention and Reform Grant will implement programs such as early childhood education, after-school programs, and alternative classrooms that research has shown to be effective in improving and sustaining student performance. The grants will have a term of five years. Grant applicants must give priority to using consultants from colleges of education of certain state universities and from cooperative organizations representing school districts in urban areas. Priority will be given to applicants whose proposed programs feature community partnerships, whole-child approaches, and high school redesign recommendations. Schools that have been designated as not making adequate yearly progress under the No Child Left Behind Act will also be given priority.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.