

HCS HB 1250 -- STUDENT ASSESSMENT (Wood)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

This bill changes the laws regarding accreditation and student assessment. The bill:

(1) Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a process and scoring guide that awards additional performance points on the School Improvement Program to a school district that provides free full-day kindergarten to students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, students under an individualized education program, and students who are identified as at-risk;

(2) Prohibits, after June 30, 2017, the state and the department from contracting with an out-of-state company to develop and implement a statewide assessment unless the in-state request for proposal for assessment is greater than the amount appropriated and requires the department to pilot assessments from the Smarter Balanced Consortium in the 2014-15 school year, but prohibits the use of the information from the assessments in high stakes accountability, accreditation, or teacher evaluation decisions for the 2014-15 school year;

(3) Requires, after June 30, 2017, the department to create a question database for each grade-level standard from suggestions submitted by teachers and to develop a process for soliciting and reviewing submissions;

(4) Requires, after June 30, 2017, the department to move toward administering statewide assessments on-line throughout the year rather than at the end of the course or the end of school year. Until that goal is achieved, the department must ensure that an alternative assessment is available;

(5) Restricts the number of end-of-course assessments used in determining an annual performance report or accreditation status to no more than five;

(6) Restricts the amount and scope of student data collected in the assessment process to not exceed that of the 2013-14 school year and further clarifies that personally identifiable data must not be shared and the conditions under which aggregate data may be shared;

(7) Requires, as of the 2015-16 school year, school districts to implement competency-based instruction and promotion policies and

procedures for kindergarten through third grade; and

(8) Revises the provisions regarding the statewide assessment system to:

(a) Require the updating of the system on an ongoing basis to conform to the learning standards adopted by the State Board of Education;

(b) Repeal the provision allowing the system to only permit the academic performance of students in each school to be tracked against past performance in the same school;

(c) Repeal the provision regarding the Outstanding Schools Waivers; and

(d) Repeal the obsolete provisions regarding requirements for yearly testing and waivers of the resource and process standards.