HB 755 -- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CENTER REPORT CARD

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill establishes the Parent and Community School Information Act and must apply to each public school attendance center in a school district and to each charter school in the state except for any attendance center or charter school that includes only grades lower than third grade. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must produce annually a simplified school attendance center report card that must not be construed to be part of the school improvement program. The report card is to be for informational rather than evaluative purposes.

The department must provide a link between the report card referred to in Section 160.522, RSMo, and the simplified school attendance center report card. The department must make an annual report to the Joint Committee on Education of its progress in establishing the report card and in simplifying access to the information in the department's data portal.

The first simplified school attendance center report card must be distributed before December 1, 2016, and the attendance center must notify parents and the community about the contents of the report and provide directions for accessing the information. The department must include a direct link from its home page to the instructions for accessing the simplified attendance center report card.

The department is required to establish a report card that is easy for the general public to understand, in a format that does not exceed an 8 inch by 11 1/2 inch one-sided sheet of paper and that contains information from the school improvement program that accurately reflects the performance level of individual attendance centers or charter schools by indicating the standards applicable to each attendance center or charter school, overall score for the standard and, where applicable, the scores on the components for each applicable component that comprise the standard. The report must also include the remediation rate for current students and the college remediation rate of the preceding year's high school graduates.

The principal of each attendance center or charter school is authorized to include a statement not to exceed 250 words that provides context or background information that he or she deems necessary to a full understanding of the school's scores and which contains, when applicable to the grade range of the attendance center or charter school, the percentage of third grade students scoring at proficient or above on the statewide assessment of reading, math, and science, and a clickable link to or universal resource locator (URL) for information relating to an attendance center or charter school's dual credit or advanced placement program, entrepreneurship program, alternative program, virtual courses, and remedial or credit recovery programs.

Any attendance center or charter school that scores less than 70% overall on its annual performance report is required to submit an action plan to the department for its approval describing the steps the attendance center or charter school will take to improve its grade during the next academic year after the grade is assigned.