

HB 1365 -- STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

SPONSOR: Gannon

This bill creates the "Student Assessment Bill of Rights" which, beginning with the 2018-19 school year, allows a parent or an adult student to excuse the student from taking a statewide summative assessment if the parent or adult student properly notifies the school or charter school that is a local educational agency that the student attends.

At the beginning of each school year, parents and adult students shall be provided with a notice about statewide summative assessments by the school district or charter school. The notice shall include information about statewide summative assessments, the time frame when the assessments will most likely be administered, and a parent's or student's right to excuse the student from taking the assessment. In addition, a notice shall be given to parents and adult students, at least 30 days prior to the administration of statewide summative assessments, that shall include the purpose of the assessment and how the results will be used, when the assessment will be administered, the amount of class time required by the assessment, the learning targets that make up the assessment, the difference between good and poor performances on the assessment, when assessment results will be available, and access to a form to excuse the student from taking the assessment.

The bill also creates the "Advisory Council on Special Education" to be comprised of 12 individuals appointed by the Governor or Lieutenant Governor as specified in the bill. The advisory council shall develop, and recommend for adoption by the State Board of Education, an alternate assessment for special education students as described in Section 160.518, RSMo, an alternate academic achievement standards for high school students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, and modified assessment and learning standards. The process by which the advisory council shall develop the assessments and learning standards is specified in the bill.

Any significantly delayed student in grades 7-12 who is excused from the statewide summative assessment may take a modified assessment and learn under modified learning standards developed by the advisory council. No district shall permit more than 5% of the total number of students in the district to take the modified assessment.

The advisory council shall dissolve after presenting the assessments and standards to the state board and making requested modifications unless a majority of the advisory council members

vote to continue.