

HB 506 -- EVERY CHILD CAN LEARN ACT

SPONSOR: Carter

This bill creates the "Every Child Can Learn Act."

The bill requires that when an individual school is classified as unaccredited, the school board of the district in which it is located must adopt and implement a school turnaround option for that school. This bill defines options for school turnaround as a "restart model," a "transformation model," and a "turnaround model" in Section 160.085, RSMo.

The bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop a system of classification for the St. Louis and Kansas City school districts that accredits individual schools within those districts (Section 161.088).

Currently, the school board of a school district that does not maintain an accredited school is required to pay the tuition and transportation of resident students who attend an accredited school in another district of the same or an adjoining county.

This bill creates an intra district transfer system for the St. Louis and Kansas City school districts if a student attends an unaccredited school. Any student who attends an unaccredited school within those districts may transfer to an accredited school within his or her district of residence with sufficient capacity. If there is not sufficient capacity, the student may transfer to an accredited district in the same or an adjoining county (Section 167.131).

The bill requires, beginning July 1, 2020, all public schools in any metropolitan school district, including charter schools, to use a response-to-intervention tiered approach to reading instruction for any student determined by his or her school to be a struggling reader.

Annually, beginning on January 1, 2020, each public school in any metropolitan school district, including charter schools, must prepare a personalized learning plan for any kindergarten or first grade student whose most recent school-wide reading assessment result shows the student is below grade level. Certain exceptions from this requirement are specified in the bill.

Any student who is not reading at the second grade level by the end of second grade may be promoted to third grade only if the school provides additional reading instruction during the summer and demonstrates the student is ready for third grade at the end of summer school.

Metropolitan school districts and each charter school located in it must provide in the annual school accountability report card with the numbers and percentages by grade of any student at any grade level who has been promoted but is determined to be reading below

grade level (Section 167.730).

The school board of any district in which an unaccredited school is located may terminate the employment of any school personnel employed in the unaccredited school. The school board may also not renew the contract of any school personnel employed in the unaccredited school (Section 168.310).

By July 1, 2021, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) must develop and implement a system of assigning letter grades to each public school based on performance and student growth. Methods for grades kindergarten through eight will be different than grades 9-12.

The method for assigning letter grades to schools with grades K-8 must be based on the assignment of point values using performance and student growth factors, as described in the bill.

The method for assigning letter grades to schools with grades 9-12 must be based on the assignment of point values. The bill requires at least 50% of the points to be based on pupil proficiency, and the balance of points must be based on graduation rates, measures of college and career readiness, and measures of learning gains. After DESE assigns points to each public school, it must establish a grading scale for the letter grades to be assigned for that year for public schools with grades K-8 and a separate grading scale for public schools with grades 9-12.

For the first school year that grades are assigned, each grading scale must include criteria as outlined in the bill.

Before August 1 of each year, DESE must notify each public school, school district, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Joint Committee on Education of each school's letter grade, the detailed formula and metrics for the letter grade system, and the building-level data used to generate the letter grade.

A school district may apply to the Commissioner of Education to designate one or more of its schools as an alternative education campus. An alternative education campus will not receive a letter grade and will instead receive a summary status of "maintaining" or "failing."

By July 1, 2021, DESE must establish and implement a waiver system for waiving regulatory or statutory reports and requirements for a public school that consistently maintains a grade of A or B. A waiver is effective as long as a public school maintains a grade of A or B (Section 171.417.)

This bill contains an emergency clause.

This bill is similar to SB 255 (2017).