

HB 924 -- CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

SPONSOR: Razer

This bill changes provisions relating to charter schools.

The bill limits a sponsor of a charter school that fails to receive renewal of its charter after the three-year term shall not sponsor any new charter schools until the State Board of Education has determined that the sponsor was in compliance for any charter school it sponsored at the time a charter school failed to receive renewal (Section 160.400).

This bill defines "student mobility ratio" for districts as a calculation of the number of students withdrawing for reasons other than academic promotion over the total number of students.

The bill states that an underperforming school includes those in which the percentage of the charter school's students who perform proficient and advanced on the annual statewide system of assessments in English language arts and mathematics is lower than the average percentage of grade-level-equivalent students in district in which it is located who perform proficient and advanced in English language arts and mathematics.

A charter school is not considered underperforming if the average rate of growth in English language arts and mathematics on the annual statewide assessment is higher than the average rate of growth for grade-level-equivalent students in the school district or is comprised of high risk students of which 50% or more were previously considered dropouts (Section 160.404).

This bill allows a charter school to renew for a five-year term. Application for renewal shall include a financial audit performed by an independent third party. If a charter school underperforms 2 of 3 years before renewal then any renewal granted shall be for only a three-year term. A charter may also be revoked for underperformance of 2 years.

The bill requires that charter schools include in their charter that they will seek to ensure that the percentage of its students who perform proficient and advanced on the annual statewide system of assessments in English and mathematics is equal to or higher than the average percentage of grade level-equivalent students attending attendance centers in the school district in which it is located and seek to ensure that its student mobility ratio is equal to or lower than the 200 student mobility ratio of the school district in which it is located (Section 160.405).

This bill requires student mobility ratio to be calculated annually by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for charter schools and the districts in which charter schools are located. If the student mobility ratio is higher than the districts in 2 of 3 years then the charter governing board and sponsor shall amend the performance contract, review enrollment and counseling practices, and implement a remedial plan to be approved by the State Board of Education (Section 160.407).