

## HB 2750 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Basye

This bill modifies provisions relating to elementary and secondary education.

### TAX DEDUCTION FOR EDUCATOR EXPENSES

For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, this bill establishes a tax deduction in the amount of 100% of unreimbursed educator expenses incurred by an eligible educator, not to exceed \$500.

An eligible educator is defined as an individual who is a kindergarten through grade 12 teacher, instructor, counselor, principal, or aide in a school for at least 900 hours during a school year, or is a teacher in an early childhood education program.

Educator expenses are defined as expenses incurred as a result of the participation by the educator in professional development courses related to the curriculum in which the educator provides instruction, and expenses in connection with books, supplies, computer equipment and other equipment, and supplementary materials used by the eligible educator in the classroom (Section 143.121 RSMo).

### INCOME TAX REFUND DONATIONS

Beginning January 1, 2021, this bill will provide each individual or corporation entitled to a tax refund to designate an amount not less than \$1 on a single return, or \$2 on a combined return, but not more than \$100, of the refund due be credited to the "Missouri Loves Teachers Trust Fund" created in the bill. The contribution designation authorized by this bill shall be clearly and unambiguously printed on each income tax return provided by the state.

Moneys deposited into the fund shall be used by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to disburse to school districts for the purpose of providing bonuses to well-performing teachers in the district (Section 143.1031).

### TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR SUPERINTENDENTS

This bill, will allow a school district to receive state aid for its education program only if, beginning July 1, 2021, such district limits individual administrator and individual

superintendent total compensation to no more than three times the average total compensation provided to all certified teachers employed full time by the district.

"Total compensation" shall include all amounts of base salary, district paid medical benefits, health insurance, life insurance, supplemental insurance, bonus and incentive pay, auto or mileage allowances, use of district-owned automobiles, membership dues, retirement benefits, and any additional annuity.

In order to receive state aid as specified in the bill in any year after July 1, 2021, any such school district with an administrator or superintendent receiving total compensation in excess of the amount set forth in the bill on July 1, 2021, shall demonstrate to DESE that the compensation of the administrator or superintendent is reduced by one-third in each subsequent year so that the total compensation for such administrator or superintendent conforms to the limits set forth in the bill on or before July 1, 2024 (Section 163.021).

#### FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

This bill, allows in any fiscal year in which the total appropriation for the foundation formula is greater than the amount reimbursed to public schools, DESE shall transfer such excess cash balances by the 15th day of the succeeding fiscal year to the School Transportation Fund.

This bill establishes the "School Transportation Fund" in the State Treasury. The fund shall be administered by the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and any funds deposited into the fund shall be paid to public school districts to provide transportation to students, in addition to state aid currently provided for transportation of students, based on the cost of pupil transportation.

This bill shall not apply in any year in which state transportation aid reaches 75% of the total allowable cost of transporting all pupils eligible to be transported. (Section 163.164)

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This bill requires DESE to post the annual performance report scores for every school district and attendance center in the state on their website each year (Section 167.235).

#### READING INTERVENTION FOR THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

This bill requires a school district to retain any student in grade

three who has been determined as not reading at grade level by the end of such student's third-grade year.

This bill requires that, beginning with the school year 2022-2023, any student whose second-grade reading assessment determines that such student is reading below second-grade level shall have a reading improvement plan for the student's third-grade year. This bill also repeals the provision allowing the school district to require summer school as a condition of promotion to the fourth grade.

Each student for whom a reading improvement plan has been designed shall be given another reading assessment within 45 days of the end of the student's third-grade year, rather than at the end of such student's fourth-grade year. If such student is determined to be reading below third-grade level, the student shall not be promoted to the fourth grade.

Any student retained in third grade shall be referred for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and the district shall provide appropriate intensive structured literacy instruction on a one-to-one individualized basis. If the student does not qualify for an IEP under the state guidelines for qualification, the student shall continue to receive appropriate intensive structured literacy instruction on a one-to-one individualized basis until the student is reading at grade level.

This bill repeals provisions of current law requiring a reading-deficient student to attend summer school at the end of the student's fourth-grade year (Section 167.645).

#### STUDENT TRANSFERS

This bill, allows a student to transfer to another public school within the student's district of residence if such student is enrolled in an attendance center that is in an unaccredited district, or if such student's attendance center has an annual performance report score consistent with a classification of unaccredited.

The school board of each unaccredited district, and each district that has an attendance center with an annual performance report score consistent with a classification of unaccredited, shall determine the capacity at each of the district's attendance centers, and report to DESE the number of available slots in attendance centers in the district that has annual performance report scores consistent with a classification of accredited (Section 167.895).

## VISITING SCHOLARS TEACHING CERTIFICATES

This bill modifies the criteria for the visiting scholars teaching certificate shall include verification from the hiring school district that the applicant will be employed as part of an initiative designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-staff public schools or hard-to-fill subject areas for high school students (Section 168.021).

## TEACHER TENURE BUY-OUT PROGRAM

This bill creates a voluntary buy-out program for any teacher who has entered into an indefinite contract with a school district, and wishes to terminate such contract. Any teacher wishing to participate in the program shall apply to DESE for a buy-out by October 1 of each year. Such teacher shall offer a bid to buy out of his or her contract in any amount no less than \$1,000 and up to \$10,000.

Based on appropriations to the "Teacher Tenure Buy-Out Fund", created in the bill, the monies in the fund shall be exhausted by awarding funds to the lowest bidding teachers first, up to the highest bidding teachers, until all funds are exhausted for the fiscal year.

Any teacher awarded a buy-out of his or her contract shall fulfill his or her employment contract for the current academic year, and shall receive buy-out payment at the end of such year. Such teacher shall sign an agreement with DESE stating that such teacher is forfeiting tenure rights, including the ability to gain tenure rights in any other school district in the state. Such agreement shall be provided to the school district in which such teacher is employed. No teacher shall receive more than one buy-out under the provisions of this bill (Section 168.123).

## TEACHER TENURE

The bill specifies that, no teacher employed by a school district, including a metropolitan school district, on or after August 28, 2020, shall be eligible for tenure. Such teacher shall instead receive a contract on an annual basis (Section 168.125).

This bill is similar to SB 1055 (2020).