

HB 2287 -- VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM (Christofanelli)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Special Committee on Education Reform

As specified in bill, the average daily attendance of a student who is enrolled full-time in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program shall be defined as the quotient or the sum of the quotients obtained by dividing the total number of hours attended in a term by the actual number of hours that the virtual program was in session. Such attendance shall be calculated by the virtual provider and provided to the host school district for submission to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Host districts that enroll one or more full-time virtual school students shall receive an amount of state aid specified in the bill for such students on a monthly basis.

The bill provides that students who reside in Missouri may enroll in the virtual program of their choice. Provisions of current law regarding a school district's approval of a student's request to enroll in a virtual program shall not apply to full-time virtual program enrollment.

The bill requires host districts to adopt student enrollment policies for full-time virtual students and allows virtual schools to mutually agree with resident and host districts on the services that the resident district might offer, including possible financial reimbursements for those services. For students with disabilities, the enrollment policy shall ensure the development of an individualized education program and related services agreement, as necessary. The bill also specifies that student progress reports are necessary for part-time and full-time virtual school program enrollees. The bill requires a student's parent or guardian, if the student is not considered homeless, to apply for enrollment directly with the full-time virtual program.

Finally, the bill specifies that a host district may contract with a provider to perform any required services involved with delivering a full-time virtual education.

This bill is similar to SB 921 (2024) and HB 827 (2023).