

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[PERFECTED]
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 607
103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0419H.03P

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.518, 160.522, 160.2700, 160.2705, 160.2710, 161.670, 163.044, 163.045, 163.172, 167.151, 168.021, 168.025, 168.036, 170.014, 173.232, and 177.086, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seventeen new sections relating to elementary and secondary education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 160.518, 160.522, 160.2700, 160.2705, 160.2710, 161.670, 163.044, 163.045, 163.172, 167.151, 168.021, 168.025, 168.036, 170.014, 173.232, and 177.086, RSMo, are repealed and seventeen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.518, 160.522, 160.2700, 160.2705, 160.2710, 161.670, 163.044, 163.045, 163.172, 167.151, 167.167, 168.021, 168.025, 168.036, 170.014, 173.232, and 177.086, to read as follows:

160.518. 1. **(1)** Consistent with the provisions contained in section 160.526, the state board of education shall develop, modify, and revise, as necessary, a statewide assessment system that provides maximum flexibility for local school districts to determine the degree to which students in the public schools of the state are proficient in the knowledge, skills, and competencies adopted by such board pursuant to section 160.514.

(2) (a) The statewide assessment system shall assess problem solving, analytical ability, evaluation, creativity, and application ability in the different content areas and shall be performance-based to identify what students know, as well as what they are able to do, and shall enable teachers to evaluate actual academic performance.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

10 **(b)** The statewide assessment system shall neither promote nor prohibit rote
11 memorization and shall not include existing versions of tests approved for use pursuant to the
12 provisions of section 160.257, nor enhanced versions of such tests.

13 **(3)** After the state board of education adopts and implements academic performance
14 standards as required under section 161.855, the state board of education shall develop and
15 adopt a standardized assessment instrument under this section based on the academic
16 performance standards adopted under section 161.855.

17 **(4)** The statewide assessment system shall measure, where appropriate by grade level,
18 a student's knowledge of academic subjects including, but not limited to, reading skills,
19 writing skills, mathematics skills, world and American history, forms of government,
20 geography and science.

21 2. The statewide assessment system shall only permit the academic performance of
22 students in each school in the state to be tracked against prior academic performance in the
23 same school.

24 3. **(1)** The state board of education shall suggest, but not mandate, criteria for a
25 school to demonstrate that its students learn the knowledge, skills and competencies at
26 exemplary levels worthy of imitation by students in other schools in the state and nation.

27 **(2)** Exemplary levels shall be measured by the statewide assessment system
28 developed pursuant to subsection 1 of this section, or until said statewide assessment system
29 is available, by indicators approved for such use by the state board of education.

30 **(3)** The provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the commissioner of
31 education may, upon request of the school district, present a plan for the waiver of rules and
32 regulations to any such school, to be known as "Outstanding Schools Waivers", consistent
33 with the provisions of subsection 4 of this section.

34 4. **(1)** For any school that meets the criteria established by the state board of
35 education for three successive school years pursuant to the provisions of subsection 3 of this
36 section, by August first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education
37 shall present a plan to the superintendent of the school district in which such school is located
38 for the waiver of rules and regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school
39 and to enhance and encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services.

40 **(2)** The provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to
41 the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil testing
42 requirements pursuant to section 160.257, in the school.

43 **(3)** Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan shall
44 detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the
45 authority of the state board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision (9)
46 of section 161.092 and such other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of

47 education, excepting such waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the
48 district unless such other schools meet the criteria established by the state board of education
49 consistent with subsection 3 of this section and the waivers shall not include the requirements
50 contained in this section and section 160.514.

51 **(4)** Any waiver provided to any school as outlined in this subsection shall be void on
52 June thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails to meet the criteria established by
53 the state board of education consistent with subsection 3 of this section.

54 5. The score on any assessment test developed pursuant to this section or this chapter
55 of any student for whom English is a second language shall not be counted until such time as
56 such student has been educated for three full school years in a school in this state, or in any
57 other state, in which English is the primary language.

58 6. **(1) (a)** The state board of education shall identify or, if necessary, establish one or
59 more developmentally appropriate alternate assessments for students who receive special
60 educational services, as that term is defined pursuant to section 162.675.

61 **(b)** In the development of such alternate assessments, the state board shall establish
62 an advisory panel consisting of a majority of active special education teachers residing in
63 Missouri and other education professionals as appropriate to research available assessment
64 options.

65 **(c)** The advisory panel shall attempt to identify preexisting developmentally
66 appropriate alternate assessments but shall, if necessary, develop alternate assessments and
67 recommend one or more alternate assessments for adoption by the state board.

68 **(d)** The state board shall consider the recommendations of the advisory council in
69 establishing such alternate assessment or assessments.

70 **(2)** Any student who receives special educational services, as that term is defined
71 pursuant to section 162.675, shall be assessed by an alternate assessment established pursuant
72 to this subsection upon a determination by the student's individualized education program
73 team that such alternate assessment is more appropriate to assess the student's knowledge,
74 skills and competencies than the assessment developed pursuant to subsection 1 of this
75 section.

76 **(3)** The alternate assessment shall evaluate the student's independent living skills,
77 which include how effectively the student addresses common life demands and how well the
78 student meets standards for personal independence expected for someone in the student's age
79 group, sociocultural background, and community setting.

80 7. The state board of education shall also develop recommendations regarding
81 alternate assessments for any military dependent who relocates to Missouri after the
82 commencement of a school term, in order to accommodate such student while ensuring that

83 he or she is proficient in the knowledge, skills, and competencies adopted under section
84 160.514.

85 **8. (1) As used in this subsection, the following terms mean:**

86 **(a) "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education;**

87 **(b) "Grade-level equivalence", a metric developed for grades three to eight and**
88 **used by the department to show a student's proximity to doing grade-level work;**

89 **(c) "Parent", a parent, guardian, custodian, or other person with authority to**
90 **act on behalf of a student.**

91 **(2) Grade-level equivalence, as developed and used under this subsection, shall**
92 **consist of a student's knowledge of academic subjects by grade level and performance-**
93 **level descriptors indicating whether such student is ready for the next grade or level of**
94 **education. Such performance-level descriptors shall consist of the following:**

95 **(a) Advanced, which shall indicate that such student:**

96 **a. Demonstrates superior performance on challenging grade-level subject**
97 **matter;**

98 **b. Is above such student's current grade or level of education; and**

99 **c. Is ready for, at a minimum, the next grade or level of education;**

100 **(b) Proficient, which shall indicate that such student:**

101 **a. Demonstrates mastery over all appropriate grade-level standards and has**
102 **introductory-level knowledge for the next grade or level of education;**

103 **b. May be above such student's current grade or level of education in some**
104 **areas; and**

105 **c. Is ready for the next grade or level of education;**

106 **(c) Grade level, which shall indicate that such student:**

107 **a. Demonstrates mastery over appropriate grade-level subject matter;**

108 **b. Is at such student's current grade or level of education; and**

109 **c. May be ready, with appropriate reinforcement, for the next grade or level of**
110 **education;**

111 **(d) Basic, which shall indicate that such student:**

112 **a. Demonstrates partial mastery of the essential knowledge and skills**
113 **appropriate to such student's grade or level of education;**

114 **b. May not be at such student's current grade or level of education; and**

115 **c. May not be ready, without appropriate remediation, for the next grade or level**
116 **of education; and**

117 **(e) Below basic, which shall indicate that such student:**

118 **a. Has failed to perform, at a minimum, at the limited knowledge level necessary**
119 **for such student's grade or level of education;**

120 **b. Is not at such student's current grade or level of education; and**
121 **c. Has been determined to be at the specific lower grade or level of education**
122 **measured by and listed in such student's statewide assessment score.**

123 **(3) (a) Such grade-level equivalence shall be determined at the same time each**
124 **student's academic performance is measured by the statewide assessment system**
125 **developed under this section; and**

126 **(b) Such grade-level equivalence shall be provided at the same time such**
127 **student's statewide assessment score is reported to such student or such student's**
128 **parent.**

129 **(4) (a) Data related to grade-level equivalence shall be searchable on a building-**
130 **by-building, school-by-school, district-by-district, and statewide basis on the**
131 **department's school accountability report card developed under section 160.522;**

132 **(b) Data related to grade-level equivalence shall display the percentage of**
133 **students whose performance-level descriptor is grade level or above on a building-by-**
134 **building, school-by-school, district-by-district, and statewide basis; and**

135 **(c) No data related to grade-level equivalence shall be disclosed in any form that**
136 **allows the personal identification of any student to any individual or entity except such**
137 **student or such student's parent.**

138 **(5) The provisions of subsection 2 of 160.514 shall not apply to the development**
139 **of the grade-level equivalence metric.**

140 **(6) The department may choose a third-party nonprofit entity to develop the**
141 **grade-level equivalence metric.**

160.522. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall produce or
2 cause to be produced, at least annually, a school accountability report card for each public
3 school district, each public school building in a school district, and each charter school in the
4 state. The report card shall be designed to satisfy state and federal requirements for the
5 disclosure of statistics about students, staff, finances, academic achievement, and other
6 indicators. The purpose of the report card shall be to provide educational statistics and
7 accountability information for parents, taxpayers, school personnel, legislators, and the print
8 and broadcast news media in a standardized, easily accessible form.

9 2. **(1)** The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop a
10 standard form for the school accountability report card.

11 **(2)** The information reported shall include, but not be limited to, the ~~[district's]~~
12 **following information reported by each school district or charter school:**

13 **(a) The most recent accreditation rating[5];**

14 **(b) Enrollment[5];**

15 **(c) Rates of pupil attendance[5];**

- 16 (d) High school dropout rate and graduation rate[~~5~~];
- 17 (e) The number and rate of suspensions of ten days or longer and expulsions of pupils
- 18 [~~5~~];
- 19 (f) The district **or charter school** ratio of students to administrators and students to
- 20 classroom teachers[~~5~~];
- 21 (g) The average years of experience of professional staff and advanced degrees
- 22 earned[~~5~~];
- 23 (h) Student achievement **and grade-level equivalence data** as measured through the
- 24 **statewide** assessment system developed pursuant to section 160.518[~~5~~];
- 25 (i) Student scores on the ACT, along with the percentage of graduates taking the test
- 26 [~~5~~];
- 27 (j) Average teachers' and administrators' salaries compared to the state averages[~~5~~];
- 28 (k) Average per-pupil current expenditures for the district **or charter school** as a
- 29 whole and by attendance center as reported to the department of elementary and secondary
- 30 education[~~5~~];
- 31 (l) The adjusted tax rate of the district[~~5~~] **or charter school**;
- 32 (m) **The** assessed valuation of the district[~~5~~;~~percent~~];
- 33 (n) **The percentage** of the district **or charter school** operating budget received from
- 34 state, federal, and local sources[~~5~~];
- 35 (o) The [~~percent~~] **percentage** of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch[~~5~~];
- 36 (p) Data on the [~~percent~~] **percentage** of students continuing their education in
- 37 postsecondary programs[~~5~~];
- 38 (q) Information about the job placement rate for students who complete district **or**
- 39 **charter school** vocational education programs[~~5~~];
- 40 (r) Whether the school district **or charter school** currently has a state-approved
- 41 gifted education program[~~5~~]; and
- 42 (s) The percentage and number of students who are currently being served in the
- 43 district's **or charter school's** state-approved gifted education program.
- 44 3. The report card shall permit the disclosure of data on a school-by-school basis, but
- 45 the reporting shall not be personally identifiable to any student or education professional in
- 46 the state.
- 47 4. The report card shall identify each school or attendance center that has been
- 48 identified as a priority school under sections 160.720 and 161.092. The report also shall
- 49 identify attendance centers that have been categorized under federal law as needing
- 50 improvement or requiring specific school improvement strategies.
- 51 5. The report card shall not limit or discourage other methods of public reporting and
- 52 accountability by local school districts. Districts shall provide information included in the

53 report card to parents, community members, the print and broadcast news media, and
54 legislators by December first annually or as soon thereafter as the information is available to
55 the district, giving preference to methods that incorporate the reporting into substantive
56 official communications such as student report cards. The school district shall provide a
57 printed copy of the district-level or school-level report card to any patron upon request and
58 shall make reasonable efforts to supply businesses such as, but not limited to, real estate and
59 employment firms with copies or other information about the reports so that parents and
60 businesses from outside the district who may be contemplating relocation have access.

61 6. For purposes of completing and distributing the annual report card as prescribed in
62 this section, a school district may include the data from a charter school located within such
63 school district, provided the local board of education or special administrative board for such
64 district and the charter school reach mutual agreement for the inclusion of the data from the
65 charter ~~[schools]~~ **school** and the terms of such agreement are approved by the state board of
66 education. The charter school shall not be required to be a part of the local educational agency
67 of such school district and may maintain a separate local educational agency status.

160.2700. For purposes of sections 160.2700 to 160.2725, "adult high school" means
2 a school that:

3 (1) Is for individuals who do not have a high school diploma and who are ~~[twenty-~~
4 ~~one]~~ **eighteen** years of age or older;

5 (2) Offers an industry certification program or programs and a high school diploma in
6 a manner that allows students to earn a diploma at the same time that they earn an industry
7 certification;

8 (3) Offers child care for children of enrolled students attending the school; and

9 (4) Is not eligible to receive funding under section 160.415 or 163.031.

160.2705. 1. The department of social services shall authorize Missouri-based
2 nonprofit organizations meeting the criteria of this section to establish and operate up to five
3 adult high schools, with:

4 (1) One adult high school to be located in a city not within a county;

5 (2) One adult high school to be located in a county of the third classification without a
6 township form of government and with more than forty-one thousand but fewer than forty-
7 five thousand inhabitants or a county contiguous to that county;

8 (3) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with
9 more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer than three hundred thousand inhabitants or a
10 county contiguous to that county;

11 (4) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with
12 more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand inhabitants; and

13 (5) One adult high school to be located in a county with more than seven hundred
14 thousand but fewer than eight hundred thousand inhabitants, or a contiguous county.

15 2. The department of social services shall administer funding to adult high schools
16 subject to appropriations. The department shall be responsible for granting and maintaining
17 authorization for adult high schools. For adult high schools in operation prior to January 1,
18 2023, the department shall maintain authorization for the nonprofit organization to operate the
19 schools, subject to compliance with this section. No more than one organization shall be
20 authorized to operate an adult high school at each location described in subsection 1 of this
21 section. An organization may establish satellite campuses for any adult high school it is
22 authorized to operate. The department shall administer funding for satellite campuses subject
23 to appropriations.

24 3. On or before January 1, 2024, the department of social services shall select an
25 eligible Missouri-based nonprofit organization to operate in a location described in
26 subdivision (5) of subsection 1 of this section. An eligible organization shall:

27 (1) Demonstrate the ability to establish, within twenty-one months of the receipt of
28 the authorization, an adult high school offering high school diplomas, an industry certification
29 program or programs, and child care for children of the students attending the high schools;

30 (2) Demonstrate the ability to commit at least five hundred thousand dollars for the
31 purpose of establishing the necessary infrastructure at the adult high school;

32 (3) Demonstrate substantial and positive experience in providing services, including
33 industry certifications and job placement services, to adults ~~[twenty-one]~~ **eighteen** years of
34 age or older whose educational and training opportunities have been limited by educational
35 disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or similar circumstances;

36 (4) Establish a partnership with a state-supported postsecondary education institution
37 or more than one such partnership, if a partnership or partnerships are necessary in order to
38 meet the requirements for an adult high school;

39 (5) Establish a comprehensive plan that sets forth how the adult high schools will help
40 address the need for a sufficiently trained workforce in the surrounding region for each adult
41 high school;

42 (6) Establish partnerships and strategies for engaging the community and business
43 leaders in carrying out the goals of each adult high school;

44 (7) Establish the ability to meet quality standards through certified teachers and
45 programs that support each student in such student's goal to find a more rewarding job;

46 (8) Establish a plan for assisting students in overcoming barriers to educational
47 success including, but not limited to, educational disadvantages, homelessness, criminal
48 history, disability, including learning disability such as dyslexia, and similar circumstances;

49 (9) Establish a process for determining outcomes of the adult high school, including
50 outcomes related to a student's ability to find a more rewarding job through the attainment of
51 a high school diploma and job training and certification; and

52 (10) Limit the administrative fee to no more than ten percent.

53 4. (1) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish
54 academic requirements for students to obtain high school diplomas.

55 (2) Requirements for a high school diploma shall be based on an adult student's prior
56 high school achievement and the remaining credits and coursework that would be necessary
57 for the student to receive a high school diploma if such student were in a traditional high
58 school setting. The adult student shall meet the requirements with the same level of academic
59 rigor as would otherwise be necessary to attain such credits.

60 (3) The adult high school authorized under this section shall award high school
61 diplomas to students who successfully meet the established academic requirements. The
62 adult high school authorized under this section shall confer the diploma as though the student
63 earned the diploma at a traditional high school. The diploma shall have no differentiating
64 marks, titles, or other symbols.

65 (4) Students at adult high schools may complete required coursework at their own
66 pace and as available through the adult high school. They shall not be required to satisfy any
67 specific number of class minutes. The adult high school may also make classes available to
68 students online as may be appropriate. However, students shall not complete the majority of
69 instruction of the school's curriculum online or through remote instruction. For the purposes
70 of this subsection, synchronous instruction connecting students to a live class conducted in a
71 Missouri adult high school shall be treated the same as in-person instruction.

72 (5) The department of elementary and secondary education shall not create additional
73 regulations or burdens on the adult high school or the students attending the adult high
74 schools beyond certifying necessary credits and ensuring that students have sufficiently
75 mastered the subject matter to make them eligible for credit.

76 5. An adult high school shall be deemed a secondary school system for the purposes
77 of subdivision ~~[(15)]~~ (16) of subsection 1 of section 210.211.

160.2710. 1. Any person who is ~~[twenty-one]~~ **eighteen** years of age or older may
2 enroll in an adult high school if he or she has not earned a high school diploma.

3 2. An adult high school shall give a preference in admission to those students who
4 receive any local, state, or federal assistance in which a person or family is required not to
5 exceed a certain income level in order to qualify for the assistance.

6 **3. For the purposes of compiling and tracking dropout rates of a local education**
7 **agency by the department of elementary and secondary education, a student**
8 **transferring from a local education agency to an adult high school shall be**

9 **considered a transfer student and not a dropout student from the local education**
10 **agency.**

161.670. 1. Notwithstanding any other law, prior to July 1, 2007, the state board of
2 education shall establish the "Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program" to serve
3 school-age students residing in the state. The Missouri course access and virtual school
4 program shall offer nonclassroom-based instruction in a virtual setting using technology,
5 intranet, or internet methods of communication. Any student under the age of twenty-one in
6 grades kindergarten through twelve who resides in this state shall be eligible to enroll in the
7 Missouri course access and virtual school program pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

8 2. (1) For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school aid, students
9 enrolled in the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall be included in the
10 student enrollment of the school district in which the student is enrolled under the relevant
11 provisions of subsection 3 of this section for such enrollment. Student attendance for full-
12 time virtual program students shall only be included in any district pupil attendance
13 calculation under chapter 163 using current-year pupil attendance for such full-time virtual
14 program pupils. For the purpose of calculating average daily attendance in full-time virtual
15 programs under this section, average daily attendance shall be defined as the quotient or the
16 sum of the quotients obtained by dividing the total number of hours attended in a term by
17 enrolled pupils between the ages of five and twenty-one by the actual number of hours that
18 the program was in session in that term, and the provisions of section 162.1250 shall not
19 apply to such funding calculation. Such calculation shall be generated by the virtual provider
20 and provided to the host district for submission to the department of elementary and
21 secondary education. Such students may complete their instructional activities, as defined in
22 subsection 4 of this section, during any hour of the day and during any day of the week. The
23 hours attended for each enrolled pupil shall be documented by the pupil's weekly progress in
24 the educational program according to a process determined by the virtual program and
25 published annually in the virtual program's enrollment handbook or policy. To the average
26 daily attendance of the following school term shall be added the full-time equivalent average
27 daily attendance of summer school students. In the case of a host school district enrolling one
28 or more full-time virtual school students, such enrolling district shall, as part of its monthly
29 state allocation, receive no less under the state aid calculation for such students than an
30 amount equal to the state adequacy target multiplied by the weighted average daily attendance
31 of such full-time students. Students residing in Missouri and enrolled in a full-time virtual
32 school program operated by a public institution of higher education in this state shall be
33 counted for a state aid calculation by the department, and the department shall pay, from
34 funds dedicated to state school aid payments made under section 163.031, to such institution

35 an amount equal to the state adequacy target multiplied by the weighted average daily
36 attendance of such full-time students.

37 (2) The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall report to the district
38 of residence the following information about each student served by the Missouri course
39 access and virtual school program: name, address, eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch,
40 limited English proficiency status, special education needs, and the number of courses in
41 which the student is enrolled. The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall
42 promptly notify the resident district when a student discontinues enrollment. A "full-time
43 equivalent student" is a student who is enrolled in the instructional equivalent of six credits
44 per regular term. Each Missouri course access and virtual school program course shall count
45 as one class and shall generate that portion of a full-time equivalent that a comparable course
46 offered by the school district would generate.

47 (3) Pursuant to an education services plan and collaborative agreement under
48 subsection 3 of this section, full-time equivalent students may be allowed to use a physical
49 location of the resident school district for all or some portion of ongoing instructional activity,
50 and the enrollment plan shall provide for reimbursement of costs of the resident district for
51 providing such access pursuant to rules promulgated under this section by the department.

52 (4) In no case shall more than the full-time equivalency of a regular term of
53 attendance for a single student be used to claim state aid. Full-time equivalent student credit
54 completed shall be reported to the department of elementary and secondary education in the
55 manner prescribed by the department. Nothing in this section shall prohibit students from
56 enrolling in additional courses under a separate agreement that includes terms for paying
57 tuition or course fees.

58 (5) A full-time virtual school program serving full-time equivalent students shall be
59 considered an attendance center in the host school district and shall participate in the
60 statewide assessment system as defined in section 160.518. The academic performance of
61 students enrolled in a full-time virtual school program shall be assigned to the designated
62 attendance center of the full-time virtual school program and shall be considered in like
63 manner to other attendance centers. The academic performance of any student who disenrolls
64 from a full-time virtual school program and enrolls in a public school or charter school shall
65 not be used in determining the annual performance report score of the attendance center or
66 school district in which the student enrolls for twelve months from the date of enrollment.

67 (6) For the purposes of this section, a public institution of higher education operating
68 a full-time virtual school program shall be subject to all requirements applicable to a host
69 school district with respect to its full-time equivalent students.

70 3. (1) A student who resides in this state may enroll in Missouri course access and
71 virtual school program courses of his or her choice as a part of the student's annual course

72 load each school year, with any costs associated with such course or courses to be paid by the
73 school district or charter school if:

74 (a) The student is enrolled full-time in a public school, including any charter school;
75 and

76 (b) Prior to enrolling in any Missouri course access and virtual school program
77 course, a student has received approval from his or her school district or charter school
78 through the procedure described under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

79 (2) Each school district or charter school shall adopt a policy that delineates the
80 process by which a student may enroll in courses provided by the Missouri course access and
81 virtual school program that is substantially similar to the typical process by which a district
82 student would enroll in courses offered by the school district and a charter school student
83 would enroll in courses offered by the charter school. The policy may include consultation
84 with the school's counselor and may include parental notification or authorization. The policy
85 shall ensure that available opportunities for in-person instruction are considered prior to
86 moving a student to virtual courses. The policy shall allow for continuous enrollment
87 throughout the school year. If the school district or charter school disapproves a student's
88 request to enroll in a course or courses provided by the Missouri course access and virtual
89 school program, the reason shall be provided in writing and it shall be for good cause. Good
90 cause justification to disapprove a student's request for enrollment in a course shall be a
91 determination that doing so is not in the best educational interest of the student, and shall be
92 consistent with the determination that would be made for such course request under the
93 process by which a district student would enroll in a similar course offered by the school
94 district and a charter school student would enroll in a similar course offered by the charter
95 school, except that the determination may consider the suitability of virtual courses for the
96 student based on prior participation in virtual courses by the student. Appeals of any course
97 denials under this subsection shall be considered under a policy that is substantially similar to
98 the typical process by which appeals would be considered for a student seeking to enroll in
99 courses offered by the school district and a charter school student seeking to enroll in courses
100 offered by the charter school.

101 (3) For students enrolled in any Missouri course access and virtual school program
102 course in which costs associated with such course are to be paid by the school district or
103 charter school as described under this subdivision, the school district or charter school shall
104 pay the content provider directly on a pro rata monthly basis based on a student's completion
105 of assignments and assessments. If a student discontinues enrollment, the district or charter
106 school may stop making monthly payments to the content provider. No school district or
107 charter school shall pay, for any one course for a student, more than the market necessary
108 costs but in no case shall pay more than fourteen percent of the state adequacy target, as

109 defined under section 163.011, as calculated at the end of the most recent school year for any
110 single, year-long course and no more than seven percent of the state adequacy target as
111 described above for any single semester equivalent course.

112 (4) (a) A student who lives in this state may enroll in a virtual program of their
113 choice as provided in this subdivision, and the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3) of this
114 subsection shall not apply to such enrollment in a full-time virtual program. Each host school
115 district operating a full-time virtual program under this section shall adopt, operate and
116 implement an enrollment policy as specified by the provisions of this subdivision. The
117 student, the student's parent or guardian if the student is not considered homeless, the virtual
118 program, the host district, and the resident district shall collaborate in good faith to implement
119 the enrollment policy regarding the student's enrollment, and the resident school district and
120 the host school district may mutually agree that the resident district shall offer or continue to
121 offer services for the student under an agreement that includes financial terms for
122 reimbursement by the host school district for the necessary costs of the resident school district
123 providing such services. An enrollment policy specified under this subsection shall:

124 a. Require a student's parent or guardian, if the student is not considered homeless, to
125 apply for enrollment in a full-time virtual program directly with the virtual program;

126 b. Specify timelines for timely participation by the virtual program, the host district,
127 and resident district; provided that the resident district shall provide any relevant information
128 and input on the enrollment within ten business days of notice from the virtual program of the
129 enrollment application;

130 c. Include a survey of the reasons for the student's and parent's interests in
131 participating in the virtual program;

132 d. Include consideration of available opportunities for in-person instruction prior to
133 enrolling a student in a virtual program;

134 e. Evaluate requests for enrollment based on meeting the needs for a student to be
135 successful considering all relevant factors;

136 f. Ensure that, for any enrolling student with a covered disability, an individualized
137 education program and a related services agreement, in cases where such agreement is
138 needed, are created to provide all services required to ensure a free and appropriate public
139 education, including financial terms for reimbursement by the host district for the necessary
140 costs of any virtual program, school district, or public or private entity providing all or a
141 portion of such services;

142 g. Require the virtual program to determine whether an enrolling student will be
143 admitted, based on the enrollment policy, in consideration of all relevant factors and provide
144 the basis for its determination and any service plan for the student, in writing, to the student,
145 the student's parent or guardian, the host district, and the resident district; and

146 h. Provide a process for reviewing appeals of decisions made under this subdivision.

147 (b) The department shall publish an annual report based on the enrollments and
148 enrollment surveys conducted under this subdivision that provides data at the statewide and
149 district levels of sufficient detail to allow analysis of trends regarding the reasons for
150 participation in the virtual program at the statewide and district levels; provided that no such
151 survey results will be published in a manner that reveals individual student information. The
152 department shall also include, in the annual report, data at the statewide and district levels of
153 sufficient detail to allow detection and analysis of the racial, ethnic, and socio-economic
154 balance of virtual program participation among schools and districts at the statewide and
155 district levels, provided that no such survey results will be published in a manner that reveals
156 individual student information.

157 (5) In the case of a student who is a candidate for A+ tuition reimbursement and
158 taking a virtual course under this section, the school shall attribute no less than ninety-five
159 percent attendance to any such student who has completed such virtual course.

160 (6) The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall ensure that
161 individual learning plans designed by certified teachers and professional staff are developed
162 for all students enrolled in more than two full-time course access program courses or a full-
163 time virtual school.

164 (7) Virtual school programs shall monitor individual student success and engagement
165 of students enrolled in their program and, for students enrolled in virtual courses on a part-
166 time basis, the virtual school program shall provide regular student progress reports for each
167 student at least four times per school year to the school district or charter school, provide the
168 host school district and the resident school district ongoing access to academic and other
169 relevant information on student success and engagement, and shall terminate or alter the
170 course offering if it is found the course is not meeting the educational needs of the students
171 enrolled in the course.

172 (8) The department of elementary and secondary education shall monitor the
173 aggregate performance of providers and make such information available to the public under
174 subsection 11 of this section.

175 (9) Pursuant to rules to be promulgated by the department of elementary and
176 secondary education, when a student transfers into a school district or charter school, credits
177 previously gained through successful passage of approved courses under the Missouri course
178 access and virtual school program shall be accepted by the school district or charter school.

179 (10) Pursuant to rules to be promulgated by the department of elementary and
180 secondary education, if a student transfers into a school district or charter school while
181 enrolled in a Missouri course access and virtual school program course or full-time virtual
182 school, the student shall continue to be enrolled in such course or school.

183 (11) Nothing in this section shall prohibit home school or FPE school students,
184 private school students, or students wishing to take additional courses beyond their regular
185 course load from enrolling in Missouri course access and virtual school program courses
186 under an agreement that includes terms for paying tuition or course fees.

187 (12) Nothing in this subsection shall require any school district, charter school, virtual
188 program, or the state to provide computers, equipment, or internet access to any student
189 unless required under the education services plan created for an eligible student under
190 subdivision (4) of this subsection or for an eligible student with a disability to comply with
191 federal law. An education services plan may require an eligible student to have access to
192 school facilities of the resident school district during regular school hours for participation
193 and instructional activities of a virtual program under this section, and the education services
194 plan shall provide for reimbursement of the resident school district for such access pursuant to
195 rules adopted by the department under this section.

196 (13) The authorization process shall provide for continuous monitoring of approved
197 providers and courses. The department shall revoke or suspend or take other corrective action
198 regarding the authorization of any course or provider no longer meeting the requirements of
199 the program. Unless immediate action is necessary, prior to revocation or suspension, the
200 department shall notify the provider and give the provider a reasonable time period to take
201 corrective action to avoid revocation or suspension. The process shall provide for periodic
202 renewal of authorization no less frequently than once every three years.

203 (14) Courses approved as of August 28, 2018, by the department to participate in the
204 Missouri virtual instruction program shall be automatically approved to participate in the
205 Missouri course access and virtual school program, but shall be subject to periodic renewal.

206 (15) Any online course or virtual program offered by a school district or charter
207 school, including those offered prior to August 28, 2018, which meets the requirements of
208 section 162.1250 shall be automatically approved to participate in the Missouri course access
209 and virtual school program. Such course or program shall be subject to periodic renewal. A
210 school district or charter school offering such a course or virtual school program shall be
211 deemed an approved provider.

212 (16) A host district may contract with a provider to perform any required services
213 involved with delivering a full-time virtual education.

214 4. (1) As used in this subsection, the term "instructional activities" means classroom-
215 based or nonclassroom-based activities that a student shall be expected to complete,
216 participate in, or attend during any given school day, such as:

217 (a) Online logins to curricula or programs;

218 (b) Offline activities;

219 (c) Completed assignments within a particular program, curriculum, or class;

- 220 (d) Testing;
- 221 (e) Face-to-face communications or meetings with school staff;
- 222 (f) Telephone or video conferences with school staff;
- 223 (g) School-sanctioned field trips; or
- 224 (h) Orientation.
- 225 (2) A full-time virtual school shall submit a notification to the parent or guardian of
- 226 any student who is not consistently engaged in instructional activities and shall provide
- 227 regular student progress reports for each student at least four times per school year.
- 228 (3) Each full-time virtual school shall develop, adopt, and post on the school's website
- 229 a policy setting forth the consequences for a student who fails to complete the required
- 230 instructional activities. Such policy shall state, at a minimum, that if a student fails to
- 231 complete the instructional activities after receiving a notification under subdivision (2) of this
- 232 subsection, and after reasonable intervention strategies have been implemented, that the
- 233 student shall be subject to certain consequences which may include disenrollment from the
- 234 school. Prior to any disenrollment, the parent or guardian shall have the opportunity to
- 235 present any information that the parent deems relevant, and such information shall be
- 236 considered prior to any final decision.
- 237 (4) If a full-time virtual school disenrolls a student under subdivision (3) of this
- 238 subsection, the school shall immediately provide written notification to such student's school
- 239 district of residence. The student's school district of residence shall then provide to the
- 240 parents or guardian of the student a written list of available educational options and promptly
- 241 enroll the student in the selected option. Any student disenrolled from a full-time virtual
- 242 school shall be prohibited from reenrolling in the same virtual school for the remainder of the
- 243 school year.
- 244 5. School districts or charter schools shall inform parents of their child's right to
- 245 participate in the program. Availability of the program shall be made clear in the parent
- 246 handbook, registration documents, and featured on the home page of the school district or
- 247 charter school's website.
- 248 6. The department shall:
- 249 (1) Establish an authorization process for course or full-time virtual school providers
- 250 that includes multiple opportunities for submission each year;
- 251 (2) Pursuant to the time line established by the department, authorize course or full-
- 252 time virtual school providers that:
- 253 (a) Submit all necessary information pursuant to the requirements of the process; and
- 254 (b) Meet the criteria described in subdivision (3) of this subsection;
- 255 (3) Review, pursuant to the authorization process, proposals from providers to
- 256 provide a comprehensive, full-time equivalent course of study for students through the

257 Missouri course access and virtual school program. The department shall ensure that these
258 comprehensive courses of study align to state academic standards and that there is
259 consistency and compatibility in the curriculum used by all providers from one grade level to
260 the next grade level;

261 (4) Within thirty days of any denial, provide a written explanation to any course or
262 full-time virtual school providers that are denied authorization;

263 (5) Allow a course or full-time virtual school provider denied authorization to reapply
264 at any point in the future.

265 7. The department shall publish the process established under this section, including
266 any deadlines and any guidelines applicable to the submission and authorization process for
267 course or full-time virtual school providers on its website.

268 8. If the department determines that there are insufficient funds available for
269 evaluating and authorizing course or full-time virtual school providers, the department may
270 charge applicant course or full-time virtual school providers a fee up to, but no greater than,
271 the amount of the costs in order to ensure that evaluation occurs. The department shall
272 establish and publish a fee schedule for purposes of this subsection.

273 9. Except as specified in this section and as may be specified by rule of the state board
274 of education, the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall comply with all
275 state laws and regulations applicable to school districts, including but not limited to the
276 Missouri school improvement program (MSIP), annual performance report (APR), teacher
277 certification, curriculum standards, audit requirements under chapter 165, access to public
278 records under chapter 610, and school accountability report cards under section 160.522.
279 Teachers and administrators employed by a virtual provider shall be considered to be
280 employed in a public school for all certification purposes under chapter 168.

281 10. The department shall submit and publicly publish an annual report on the
282 Missouri course access and virtual school program and the participation of entities to the
283 governor, the chair and ranking member of the senate education committee, and the chair and
284 ranking member of the house of representatives elementary and secondary education
285 committee. The report shall at a minimum include the following information:

286 (1) The annual number of unique students participating in courses authorized under
287 this section and the total number of courses in which students are enrolled in;

288 (2) The number of authorized providers;

289 (3) The number of authorized courses and the number of students enrolled in each
290 course;

291 (4) The number of courses available by subject and grade level;

292 (5) The number of students enrolled in courses broken down by subject and grade
293 level;

294 (6) Student outcome data, including completion rates, student learning gains, student
295 performance on state or nationally accepted assessments, by subject and grade level per
296 provider. This outcome data shall be published in a manner that protects student privacy;

297 (7) The costs per course;

298 (8) Evaluation of in-school course availability compared to course access availability
299 to ensure gaps in course access are being addressed statewide.

300 11. (1) The department shall be responsible for creating the Missouri course access
301 and virtual school program catalog providing a listing of all courses authorized and available
302 to students in the state, detailed information, including costs per course, about the courses to
303 inform student enrollment decisions, and the ability for students to submit their course
304 enrollments.

305 (2) On or before January 1, 2023, the department shall publish on its website, and
306 distribute to all school districts and charter schools in this state, a guidance document that
307 details the options for virtual course access and full-time virtual course access for all students
308 in the state. The guidance document shall include a complete and readily understood
309 description of the applicable enrollment processes including the opportunity for students to
310 enroll and the roles and responsibilities of the student, parent, virtual provider, school district
311 or districts, and charter schools, as appropriate. The guidance document shall be distributed
312 in written and electronic form to all school districts, charter schools, and virtual providers.
313 School districts and charter schools shall provide a copy of the guidance document to every
314 pupil and parent or legal guardian of every pupil enrolled in the district or charter school at
315 the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment for every pupil enrolling at a different
316 time of the school year. School districts and charter schools shall provide a readily viewable
317 link to the electronic version of the guidance document on the main page of the district's or
318 charter school's website.

319 12. **Any virtual school or program may administer any statewide assessment**
320 **required pursuant to the provisions of section 160.518 except for college readiness or**
321 **workforce readiness assessments provided by a national college and career readiness**
322 **assessment provider in a virtual setting that aligns with the student's regular academic**
323 **instruction. Any administration of a virtual statewide assessment shall meet the**
324 **following conditions:**

325 (1) **The assessment shall be administered to the student at an assigned date and**
326 **time;**

327 (2) **The assessment shall be administered during a synchronous assessment**
328 **session initiated and managed by an employee of the virtual school or program;**

329 (3) **The student shall be monitored by an assessment proctor via a camera for the**
330 **duration of the assessment. If the assessment platform does not allow for integrated**

331 camera proctoring, the student shall use two devices during the assessment. The first
332 device shall be used to take the assessment and the second device shall have a
333 functioning camera and be used to monitor the student during the assessment.
334 However, if the assessment platform allows for the proctor to view the student and
335 background, a second device shall not be required;

336 (4) The virtual school or program shall maintain a student-assessment-taker-to-
337 assessment-proctor ratio of ten to one or lower;

338 (5) The student shall not exit the assessment platform until instructed to do so by
339 the assigned assessment proctor; and

340 (6) The student's submission of the completed assessment shall be verified by the
341 assessment administrator.

342 13. The state board of education through the rulemaking process and the department
343 of elementary and secondary education in its policies and procedures shall ensure that
344 multiple content providers and learning management systems are allowed, ensure digital
345 content conforms to accessibility requirements, provide an easily accessible link for providers
346 to submit courses or full-time virtual schools on the Missouri course access and virtual school
347 program website, and allow any person, organization, or entity to submit courses or full-time
348 virtual schools for approval. No content provider shall be allowed that is unwilling to accept
349 payments in the amount and manner as described under subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this
350 section or does not meet performance or quality standards adopted by the state board of
351 education.

352 ~~[13.]~~ 14. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that
353 is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
354 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
355 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with
356 the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to
357 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
358 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2006, shall be invalid
359 and void.

163.044. 1. Beginning with the 2007 fiscal year and each subsequent fiscal year, the
2 general assembly shall appropriate thirty million dollars to be directed in the following
3 manner to school districts with an average daily attendance of three hundred fifty students or
4 less in the school year preceding the payment year, **provided that nonresident students**
5 **enrolled in such school districts through section 161.670 shall not be included in the total**
6 **for purposes of this section:**

7 (1) Twenty million dollars shall be distributed to the eligible districts in proportion to
8 their average daily attendance; and

9 (2) Ten million dollars shall be directed to the eligible districts that have an operating
10 levy for school purposes in the current year equal to or greater than the performance levy and
11 any school districts which have an operating levy for school purposes in the current year less
12 than the performance levy solely due to a modification of such district's levy required under
13 subdivision (4) of subsection 5 of section 137.073. A tax-rate-weighted average daily
14 attendance shall be calculated for each eligible district in proportion to its operating levy for
15 school purposes for the current year divided by the performance levy with that result
16 multiplied by the district's average daily attendance in the school year preceding the payment
17 year. The total appropriation pursuant to this subdivision shall then be divided by the sum of
18 the tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance of the eligible districts, and the resulting
19 amount per tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance shall be multiplied by each eligible
20 district's tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance to determine the amount to be paid to
21 each eligible district.

22 2. The payment under this section shall not be transferred to the capital projects fund.

23 3. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, districts receiving payments
24 under this section may use the moneys for, including but not limited to, the following:

25 (1) Distance learning;

26 (2) Extraordinary transportation costs;

27 (3) Rural teacher recruitment; and

28 (4) Student learning opportunities not available within the district.

163.045. 1. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in addition to
2 all funds distributed to school districts pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031, the
3 department of elementary and secondary education shall, after rendering all calculations
4 required pursuant to the provisions of such section, remit an amount equal to one percent for
5 fiscal years 2026 and 2027, or two percent for fiscal year 2028 and all subsequent fiscal years,
6 of each district's preceding year's annual state aid entitlement as calculated in June in
7 accordance with the provisions of such section for any district with a preceding year school
8 ~~[term]~~ **board-approved school calendar** that provided for one hundred sixty-nine school
9 days or more **of planned attendance**. For districts in which one or more charter schools
10 operate, and for all charter schools located therein, the department shall, after rendering all
11 calculations required pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031 and section 160.415, remit
12 an amount equal to one percent for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, or two percent for fiscal year
13 2028 and all subsequent fiscal years, of each district's and charter school's preceding year's
14 annual state aid entitlement as calculated in June, prior to any required adjustment pursuant to
15 subsections 4 and 15 of section 160.415, for any district or charter school with a preceding
16 year ~~[school-term]~~ **board-approved school calendar** that provided for one hundred sixty-
17 nine school days or more **of planned attendance**.

18 **(2) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the distribution of**
19 **additional moneys under subdivision (1) of this subsection to a school district or charter**
20 **school that:**

21 **(a) Prepares an annual calendar for the district's or charter school's school term**
22 **under section 171.031 that establishes a school term of at least one hundred sixty-nine**
23 **school days; and**

24 **(b) Is in session for fewer than one hundred sixty-nine school days in such school**
25 **term because of:**

26 **a. Exceptional or emergency circumstances, as provided under section 171.033;**
27 **or**

28 **b. An authorized reduction of the required number of hours or days under**
29 **subsection 2 of section 160.041.**

30 2. Any funds received as provided in this section shall be used by school districts and
31 charter schools exclusively to increase teacher salaries. Any school district or charter school
32 that receives funds as provided in this section but fails to utilize such funds solely to increase
33 teacher salaries shall have an amount equal to the amount of such funds received withheld
34 from such district's or charter school's state aid payments pursuant to the provisions of section
35 163.031 or 160.415.

163.172. 1. (1) In school year 1994-95 and thereafter until school year 2006-07, the
2 minimum teacher's salary shall be eighteen thousand dollars. Beginning in school year 2006-
3 07, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-two thousand dollars; in school year 2007-
4 08, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-three thousand dollars; in school year 2008-
5 09, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-four thousand dollars; in school year 2009-
6 10 and in each subsequent school year through the 2024-25 school year, the minimum
7 teacher's salary shall be twenty-five thousand dollars.

8 (2) For the 2025-26 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum
9 teacher's salary shall be forty thousand dollars.

10 (3) Beginning in the school year 1996-97 until school year 2006-07, for any full-time
11 teacher with a master's degree and at least ten years' teaching experience in a public school or
12 combination of public schools, the minimum salary shall be twenty-four thousand dollars.
13 Beginning in the school year 2006-07, for any full-time teacher with a master's degree in an
14 academic teaching field and at least ten years' teaching experience in a public school or
15 combination of public schools, the minimum salary shall be thirty thousand dollars; in the
16 2007-08 school year such minimum salary shall be thirty-one thousand dollars; in the 2008-
17 09 school year such minimum salary shall be thirty-two thousand dollars; and in the 2009-10
18 school year and in each subsequent school year through the 2024-25 school year, such
19 minimum salary shall be thirty-three thousand dollars.

20 (4) For the 2025-26 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum
21 teacher's salary for any full-time teacher with a master's degree ~~[in an academic teaching field~~
22 ~~directly related to the teacher's assignment]~~ and at least ten years' teaching experience in a
23 public school or combination of public schools shall be as follows:

24 (a) In the 2025-26 school year, forty-six thousand dollars;

25 (b) In the 2026-27 school year, forty-seven thousand dollars; and

26 (c) In the 2027-28 school year, forty-eight thousand dollars.

27 2. (1) As used in this subsection, "CPI" means the Consumer Price Index for All
28 Urban Consumers for the United States as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its
29 successor index.

30 (2) In the 2028-29 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum
31 salaries identified in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section and in paragraph (c) of
32 subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section shall be adjusted annually by the percentage
33 increase in inflation as described in subdivision (3) of this subsection.

34 (3) If the CPI report for January of a given year indicates that inflation increased over
35 the previous twelve months by at least one percent, the department of elementary and
36 secondary education shall increase the minimum salaries described in subdivision (2) of this
37 subsection by the same percentage increase in inflation, except that no minimum salary
38 increase shall exceed three percent.

39 (4) The state board of education shall publish such minimum salaries annually in
40 February beginning in calendar year 2026. Modifications to the minimum salaries shall take
41 effect on July first of each calendar year.

42 3. The commissioner of education shall present to the appropriate committees of the
43 general assembly information on the average Missouri teacher's salary, regional average
44 salary data, and national average salary data.

45 4. All school salary information shall be public information.

46 5. As used in this section, the term "salary" shall be defined as the salary figure which
47 appears on the teacher's contract and as determined by the local school district's basic salary
48 schedule and does not include supplements for extra duties.

49 6. The minimum salary for any fully certificated teacher employed on a less than full-
50 time basis by a school district, state school for the severely handicapped, the Missouri School
51 for the Deaf, or the Missouri School for the Blind shall be prorated to reflect the amounts
52 provided in subsection 1 of this section.

53 7. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant
54 Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated under subsection 8 of this section. The
55 state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180,
56 the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon

57 appropriation, moneys in this fund shall be used solely to increase minimum teacher's salaries
58 as provided in this section.

59 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
60 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general
61 revenue fund.

62 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
63 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to
64 the fund.

65 8. (1) There is hereby created the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant" program. The
66 general assembly may appropriate amounts to the teacher baseline salary grant fund created in
67 subsection 7 of this section. The total amount appropriated to such fund shall not exceed the
68 amount necessary to assist each school district in increasing minimum teacher's salaries to the
69 minimum amount as required under this section.

70 (2) Subject to the appropriation of moneys to the teacher baseline salary grant fund,
71 each school district may apply to the department of elementary and secondary education for a
72 grant of moneys from the teacher baseline salary grant fund to assist such district in
73 increasing minimum teacher's salaries as required under this section.

167.151. 1. The school board of any district~~[5]~~:

2 (1) In its discretion, may admit to the school pupils not entitled to free instruction;
3 and

4 (2) **Shall** prescribe the tuition fee to be paid by them, except as provided in:

5 (a) Subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section;

6 (b) **Subsection 6 of this section;** and ~~[(a)]~~

7 (c) Sections 167.121, 167.131, 167.132, ~~[and]~~ 167.895, **and 168.151.**

8 2. Orphan children, children with only one parent living, and children whose parents
9 do not contribute to their support-if the children are between the ages of six and twenty years
10 and are unable to pay tuition-may attend the schools of any district in the state in which they
11 have a permanent or temporary home without paying a tuition fee.

12 3. (1) For all school years ending on or before June 30, 2023, any individual who
13 pays a school tax in any other district than that in which such individual resides may send
14 such individual's children to any public school in the district in which the tax is paid and
15 receive as a credit on the amount charged for tuition the amount of the school tax paid to the
16 district; except that any individual who owns real estate of which eighty acres or more are
17 used for agricultural purposes and upon which such individual's residence is situated may
18 send such individual's children to public school in any school district in which a part of such
19 real estate, contiguous to that upon which such individual's residence is situated, lies and shall
20 not be charged tuition therefor; so long as thirty-five percent of the real estate is located in the

21 school district of choice. The school district of choice shall count the children in its average
22 daily attendance for the purpose of distribution of state aid through the foundation formula.

23 (2) For all school years beginning on or after July 1, 2023, any current owner of
24 residential real property or agricultural real property or a named beneficiary of a trust that
25 currently owns residential real property or agricultural real property and that pays a school tax
26 in a district or districts other than the district in which such current owner or current
27 beneficiary resides may send up to four of such owner's or beneficiary's children to a public
28 school, excluding a charter school, in any district in which such owner or trust pays such
29 school tax. For purposes of this subdivision, "residential real property" shall not include any
30 multifamily residential property which exceeds four units. An owner or a named beneficiary
31 of a trust that currently owns residential real property shall not be permitted under this
32 subdivision to send their child to a district outside of the county in which they currently
33 reside. Such owner or beneficiary shall send thirty days' written notice to all school districts
34 involved specifying which school district each child will attend. Such owner or beneficiary
35 shall also present proof of the owner's or trust's annual payment of at least two thousand
36 dollars of school taxes levied on the real property specified in this subdivision within such
37 school district and ownership of the specified real property for not less than the immediately
38 preceding four consecutive years. Neither the resident nor nonresident districts shall be
39 responsible for providing transportation services under this subdivision. The school district
40 attended shall count a child attending under this subdivision in its average daily attendance
41 for the purpose of distribution of state aid under chapter 163, except that such nonresident
42 students shall not be counted in the district's average daily attendance for the purposes of
43 determining eligibility for aid payments under section 163.044.

44 4. For any school year ending on or before June 30, 2023, any owner of agricultural
45 land who, pursuant to subsection 3 of this section, has the option of sending ~~[his]~~ **such**
46 **individual's** children to the public schools of more than one district shall exercise such option
47 as provided in this subsection. Such person shall send written notice to all school districts
48 involved specifying to which school district ~~[his]~~ **such** children will attend by June thirtieth in
49 which such a school year begins. If notification is not received, such children shall attend the
50 school in which the majority of ~~[his]~~ **such individual's** property lies. Such person shall not
51 send any of ~~[his]~~ **such individual's** children to the public schools of any district other than the
52 one to which ~~[he]~~ **such individual** has sent notice pursuant to this subsection in that school
53 year or in which the majority of ~~[his]~~ **such individual's** property lies without paying tuition to
54 such school district.

55 5. If a pupil is attending school in a district other than the district of residence and the
56 pupil's parent is teaching in the school district or is a regular employee of the school district
57 which the pupil is attending, then the district in which the pupil attends school shall allow the

58 pupil to attend school upon payment of tuition in the same manner in which the district allows
59 other pupils not entitled to free instruction to attend school in the district. The provisions of
60 this subsection shall apply only to pupils attending school in a district which has an
61 enrollment in excess of thirteen thousand pupils and not in excess of fifteen thousand pupils
62 and which district is located in a county with a charter form of government which has a
63 population in excess of six hundred thousand persons and not in excess of nine hundred
64 thousand persons.

65 **6. (1) As used in this subsection, the following terms mean:**

66 **(a) "Contractor", an individual who devotes at least twenty paid hours per week**
67 **fulfilling employment requirements or providing services to or for the benefit of a school**
68 **district or public school employer in such district in any job title or position that is**
69 **covered for an employee with such job title or in such position by a retirement system**
70 **created under chapter 169 under a contract between such individual or such**
71 **individual's employer and such school district or public school;**

72 **(b) "Regular employee", an individual who devotes at least twenty paid hours**
73 **per week fulfilling employment requirements or providing services to or for the benefit**
74 **of a school district or public school in such district in any position that is covered by a**
75 **retirement system created under chapter 169.**

76 **(2) (a) For the 2025-26 school year and all subsequent school years, a school**
77 **district may admit a child whose parent is a contractor or regular employee of a school**
78 **district other than the child's school district of residence or a public school in such**
79 **district, and such child may attend school in such nonresident school district.**

80 **(b) Such nonresident school district shall allow the child to attend school in the**
81 **same manner in which the district allows other pupils who are entitled to free**
82 **instruction to attend school in the district and without paying a tuition fee.**

83 **(c) Such child shall be considered a resident pupil of such nonresident district**
84 **under the definition of average daily attendance in section 163.011.**

85 **(d) If such child wishes to attend a school within the nonresident district that is a**
86 **magnet school, an academically selective school, or a school with a competitive entrance**
87 **process that has admissions requirements, the child's parent shall furnish proof that the**
88 **child meets the admissions requirements for such school in order to attend.**

89 **(3) The school district or public school may require:**

90 **(a) A contractor to provide documentation showing that such contractor meets**
91 **the requirements of this subsection; and**

92 **(b) A contractor or regular employee to have worked a minimum number of**
93 **days, not to exceed sixty, for such contractor's or regular employee's child to be eligible**
94 **to attend school in such nonresident school district under this subsection.**

95 **(4) Neither the resident district nor nonresident district shall be responsible for**
96 **providing transportation services under this subsection.**

97 **(5) If the parent of a nonresident child attending school under this subsection**
98 **ceases to be a contractor or regular employee of a school district, the child may complete**
99 **the school year as provided under the provisions of this subsection.**

167.167. Each school district shall prohibit, in name and practice, any zero-
2 **tolerance disciplinary policy or practice of discipline that results in an automatic**
3 **disciplinary consequence against a pupil without the discretion to modify such**
4 **disciplinary consequence on a case-by-case basis, such as automatic detention,**
5 **suspension, or expulsion or the automatic imposition of other disciplinary measures.**

 168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be
2 granted as follows:

3 (1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it:

4 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

5 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

6 (2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state board with
7 advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any individual who
8 presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher
9 education accredited by a regional accrediting association such as North Central Association.
10 Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be
11 issued only after successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant
12 to rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those certificates
13 established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section;

14 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate classification in
15 both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current areas of
16 certification approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience
17 of the applicant, and based upon the following criteria:

18 (a) a. Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation
19 program;

20 b. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and maintain
21 an eighteen-hour (one thousand eighty minutes) online teacher preparation program related to
22 subjects appropriate for elementary and secondary education settings. Any charitable
23 organization registered in Missouri that is exempt from federal taxation under the Internal
24 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, may submit a teacher preparation program to the
25 department of elementary and secondary education for approval. Once approved, the
26 charitable organization shall be certified to develop and maintain a teacher preparedness
27 program. Approved teacher preparedness programs created by a charitable organization shall

28 be made available by the department of elementary and secondary education. An individual
29 with a bachelor's degree may complete an eighteen-hour online training program, either
30 created by the department or by a charitable organization, and receive a teacher certificate.
31 Such certificate shall not be accepted by Missouri public schools, and nonpublic schools shall
32 not be required to accept the certificate, but shall be accepted by private schools and private
33 school accrediting agencies;

34 (b) a. Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment
35 for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education;

36 b. (i) Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on the
37 designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate;

38 (ii) During the two-year nonrenewable provisional certification, an individual teacher
39 may gain full professional certification by:

40 i. Achieving a qualifying score on the designated exam; or

41 ii. Successfully achieving an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher
42 evaluation system from seven walk-through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one
43 summative evaluation for each of the two probationary years and being offered a third
44 contract by the employing district. For any applicant who has a change in job status because
45 of a reduction in the workforce or a change in life circumstances, the scores required under
46 this item may be scores achieved in any school district during the two-year nonrenewable
47 provisional certification period; and

48 (iii) The employing school district shall recommend to the department of elementary
49 and secondary education that the individual teacher be awarded a full professional
50 certification by the state board under rules prescribed by the state board; and

51 (c) Upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133 and
52 possession of a valid teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher
53 preparation program was completed;

54 (4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis of a relevant
55 bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit examination,
56 for individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a
57 basis for instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the
58 discretion of the state board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the
59 holder and shall be restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (2) of
60 subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall be
61 exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district
62 shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates;

63 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis of
64 certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) **or**

65 **Teachers of Tomorrow** and verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by
66 sixty contact hours in any one of the following areas as validated by the school principal:
67 sixty contact hours in the classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty
68 contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same
69 classroom; sixty contact hours of teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of
70 teaching as a paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE **or Teachers of Tomorrow**
71 certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of
72 early childhood education, or special education. For certification in the area of elementary
73 education, ninety contact hours in the classroom shall be required, of which at least thirty
74 shall be in an elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the following requirements, an
75 applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate under
76 subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section:

77 (a) Completion of thirty contact hours of professional development within four years,
78 which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum;

79 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the American
80 Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, **Teachers of Tomorrow**, or a district
81 mentoring program approved by the state board of education;

82 (c) Attainment of a successful performance-based teacher evaluation; and

83 (d) Participation in a beginning teacher assistance program;

84 (6) (a) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, which
85 shall issue an initial visiting scholars certificate at the discretion of the board, based on the
86 following criteria:

87 a. Verification from the hiring school district that the applicant will be employed as
88 part of a business-education partnership initiative designed to build career pathways systems
89 or employed as part of an initiative designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-staff public
90 schools or hard-to-fill subject areas for students in a grade or grades not lower than the ninth
91 grade for which the applicant's academic degree or professional experience qualifies the
92 applicant;

93 b. Appropriate and relevant bachelor's degree or higher, occupational license, or
94 industry-recognized credential;

95 c. Completion of the application for a one-year visiting scholars certificate; and

96 d. Completion of a background check as prescribed under section 168.133.

97 (b) The initial visiting scholars certificate shall certify the holder of such certificate to
98 teach for one year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew an initial visiting scholars
99 certificate a maximum of two times, based upon the completion of the requirements listed
100 under subparagraphs a., b., and d. of paragraph (a) of this subdivision; completion of

101 professional development required by the school district and school; and attainment of a
102 satisfactory performance-based teacher evaluation; or

103 (7) By the state board, which shall issue an additional professional subject-area
104 certification for specific content knowledge or for a specialty area to a certificate holder who:

105 (a) Applies for an additional professional subject-area certification;

106 (b) Successfully achieves an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher
107 evaluation system from seven walk-through evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one
108 summative evaluation of the applicant teaching specific content knowledge or the specialty
109 area for which the additional professional subject-area certification is sought;

110 (c) Receives a recommendation from the applicant's employing school district that the
111 applicant be awarded an additional professional subject-area certification by the state board
112 under rules prescribed by the state board; and

113 (d) Completes a background check as prescribed in section 168.133.

114 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and
115 regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development
116 requirements of this section and shall continue in effect until they expire, are revoked or
117 suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state
118 board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly
119 equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II,
120 or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of such person's current
121 certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification system
122 established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

123 3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based
124 upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education which shall include
125 completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall
126 provide for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate
127 and a career continuous professional certificate.

128 (2) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of
129 requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon
130 verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of
131 education. The state board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate
132 to:

133 (a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the district for a
134 minimum of two years;

135 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may include
136 hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum, or for holders of a certificate under
137 subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, an amount of professional development in

138 proportion to the certificate holder's hours in the classroom, if the certificate holder is
139 employed less than full time; and

140 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.

141 (3) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon
142 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate
143 and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a) to
144 (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or paragraphs (a) to (d) of subdivision (5) of
145 subsection 1 of this section.

146 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon
147 verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board
148 guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year
149 which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the
150 possessor of a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet
151 the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years,
152 make up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first
153 complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess
154 of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the
155 missing hours within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate
156 the certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional
157 development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college
158 curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating the possessor's certificate. The
159 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school district
160 which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

161 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt from the
162 professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of this subdivision if
163 such teacher has a local professional development plan in place within such teacher's school
164 district and meets two of the three following criteria:

165 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;

166 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

167 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of
168 education.

169 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not
170 retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall
171 also be established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in
172 an educational position for three years or more to reactivate the teacher's last level of
173 certification by completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which

174 may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six
175 months prior to or after reactivating the teacher's certificate.

176 5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in
177 section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely
178 aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of
179 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in
180 this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification
181 under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, provided that the certificate holder shall
182 annually complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall
183 establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed
184 a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in
185 an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of
186 license to teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional
187 certificate of license, which shall be valid for three years and shall allow the holder to assume
188 classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background check under section
189 168.133, for any applicant who:

- 190 (1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Missouri;
191 (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of application;
192 (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a teaching
193 certificate of license from another state; and
194 (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

195 6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to
196 be deposited into the excellence in education fund established pursuant to section 160.268, for
197 the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee shall not
198 exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a
199 condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for
200 any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing in
201 this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

202 7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered
203 covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or
204 states and held a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school
205 district covered by the public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who
206 later became certificated in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to the member's
207 original date of employment in a Missouri public school.

208 8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active duty
209 member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to
210 be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be

211 transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has
212 moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully
213 completed the background check described under subsection 5 of this section and section
214 168.133, the state board shall issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach,
215 provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements
216 to be issued such a certificate.

168.025. 1. For purposes of this section, "teacher externship" means an experience in
2 which a teacher, supervised by his or her school or school district, gains practical experience
3 at a business located in Missouri through observation and interaction with employers and
4 employees.

5 2. The department of economic development and the department of elementary and
6 secondary education shall develop and recommend:

7 (1) Requirements for teacher externships that can be considered the equivalent of the
8 completion of credit hours in graduate-level courses for purposes of salary schedules; and

9 (2) An equivalency schedule that sets forth the number of credit hours in graduate-
10 level courses that shall be considered equivalent to and awarded for each type of teacher
11 externship. To classify teacher externships and determine the number of credit hours that
12 would be appropriate for each type, the length of the teacher externship, the practical
13 experience gained, or any other factor deemed relevant may be considered.

14 3. The department of economic development and the department of elementary and
15 secondary education shall adopt and publish on their websites, before July 1, 2020,
16 requirements for teacher externships that can be considered the equivalent of the completion
17 of credit hours in graduate-level courses for purposes of salary schedules and an equivalency
18 schedule as described in subsection 2 of this section. Any teacher externship that meets the
19 published requirements shall be known as and considered a certified teacher externship for
20 purposes of this section.

21 4. If a school district or charter school uses a salary schedule in which a teacher
22 receives a higher salary if he or she has earned credit hours in graduate-level courses, the
23 school district or charter school shall consider any teacher who has completed a certified
24 teacher externship to have completed credit hours in graduate-level courses on its salary
25 schedule in the manner prescribed by the equivalency schedule developed under this section
26 and compensate the teacher accordingly.

27 5. The department of elementary and secondary education and the department of
28 economic development may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.
29 Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under
30 the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is
31 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section

32 and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
33 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a
34 rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any
35 rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.

36 ~~[6. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:~~

37 ~~(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall~~
38 ~~automatically sunset five years after August 28, 2019, unless reauthorized by an act of the~~
39 ~~general assembly;—~~

40 ~~(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section shall~~
41 ~~automatically sunset ten years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this section;~~
42 ~~and—~~

43 ~~(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately~~
44 ~~following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.]~~

168.036. 1. In addition to granting certificates of license to teach in public schools of
2 the state under section 168.021, the state board of education shall grant substitute teacher
3 certificates as provided in this section to any individual seeking to substitute teach in any
4 public school in this state.

5 2. (1) The state board shall not grant a certificate of license to teach under this section
6 to any individual who has not completed a background check as required under section
7 168.021.

8 (2) The state board may refuse to issue or renew, suspend, or revoke any certificate
9 sought or issued under this section in the same manner and for the same reasons as under
10 section 168.071.

11 3. The state board may grant a certificate under this section to any individual who has
12 completed:

13 (1) At least thirty-six semester hours at an accredited institution of higher education;
14 or

15 (2) The twenty-hour online training program required in this section and who
16 possesses a high school diploma or the equivalent thereof.

17 4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and maintain
18 an online training program for individuals, which shall consist of twenty hours of training
19 related to subjects appropriate for substitute teachers as determined by the department.

20 5. The state board may grant a certificate under this section to any highly qualified
21 individual with expertise in a technical or business field or with experience in the Armed
22 Forces of the United States who has completed the background check required in this section
23 but does not meet any of the qualifications under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection 3 of this
24 section if the superintendent of the school district in which the individual seeks to substitute

25 teach sponsors such individual and the school board of the school district in which the
26 individual seeks to substitute teach votes to approve such individual to substitute teach.

27 6. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions to contrary, beginning on June 30, 2022,
28 and ending on June 30, [2025] **2030**, any person who is retired and currently receiving a
29 retirement allowance under sections 169.010 to 169.141 or sections 169.600 to 169.715, other
30 than for disability, may be employed to substitute teach on a part-time or temporary substitute
31 basis by an employer included in the retirement system without a discontinuance of the
32 person's retirement allowance. Such a person shall not contribute to the retirement system, or
33 to the public school retirement system established by sections 169.010 to 169.141 or to the
34 public education employee retirement system established by sections 169.600 to 169.715,
35 because of earnings during such period of employment.

36 (2) In addition to the conditions set forth in subdivision 1 of this subsection, any
37 person retired and currently receiving a retirement allowance under sections 169.010 to
38 169.141, other than for disability, who is employed by a third party or is performing work as
39 an independent contractor may be employed to substitute teach on a part-time or temporary
40 substitute basis, if such person is performing work for an employer included in the retirement
41 system without a discontinuance of the person's retirement allowance.

42 (3) If a person is employed pursuant to this subsection on a regular, full-time basis the
43 person shall not be entitled to receive the person's retirement allowance for any month during
44 which the person is so employed. The retirement system may require the employer, the third-
45 party employer, the independent contractor, and the retiree subject to this subsection to
46 provide documentation showing compliance with this subsection. If such documentation is
47 not provided, the retirement system may deem the retiree to have exceeded the limitations
48 provided in this subsection.

49 7. A certificate granted under this section shall be valid for four years. A certificate
50 granted under this section shall expire at the end of any calendar year in which the individual
51 fails to substitute teach for at least five days or forty hours of in-seat instruction.

52 8. (1) An individual to whom the state board grants a certificate under this section
53 may be a substitute teacher in a public school in the state if the school district agrees to
54 employ the individual as a substitute teacher and such individual has completed a background
55 check as required in subsection 10 of this section.

56 (2) No individual to whom the state board grants a certificate under this section and
57 who is under twenty years of age shall be a substitute teacher in grades nine to twelve.

58 9. Each school district may develop an orientation for individuals to whom the state
59 board grants a certificate under this section for such individuals employed by the school
60 district and may require such individuals to complete such orientation. Such orientation shall

61 contain at least two hours of subjects appropriate for substitute teachers and shall contain
62 instruction on the school district's best practices for classroom management.

63 10. Beginning January 1, 2023, any substitute teacher may, at the time such substitute
64 teacher submits the fingerprints and information required for the background check required
65 under section 168.021, designate up to five school districts to which such substitute teacher
66 has submitted an application for substitute teaching to receive the results of the substitute
67 teacher's criminal history background check and fingerprint collection. The total amount of
68 any fees for disseminating such results to up to five school districts under this subsection shall
69 not exceed fifty dollars.

70 11. The state board may exercise the board's authority under chapter 161 to
71 promulgate all necessary rules and regulations necessary for the administration of this section.

170.014. 1. This section shall be known as the "Reading Instruction Act" and is
2 enacted to ensure that all public schools including charter schools establish reading programs
3 in kindergarten through grade five based in scientific research. "Evidence-based reading
4 instruction" includes practices that have been proven effective through evaluation of the
5 outcomes for large numbers of students and are highly likely to be effective in improving
6 reading if implemented with fidelity. Such programs shall include the essential components
7 of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, and all new
8 teachers who teach reading in kindergarten through grade three shall receive adequate training
9 in these areas.

10 2. (1) **For purposes of this subsection, "three-cueing system" means any model**
11 **of teaching students to read based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues,**
12 **which may also be known as "MSV".**

13 (2) **A public school district or charter school shall provide reading instruction in**
14 **accordance with the following requirements:**

15 (a) **Phonics instruction for decoding and encoding shall be the primary**
16 **instructional strategy for teaching word reading;**

17 (b) **Instruction in word reading may not include strategies based on the three-**
18 **cueing system model of reading or visual memory; and**

19 (c) **Reading instruction may include visual information and strategies that**
20 **improve background and experiential knowledge, add context, and increase oral**
21 **language and vocabulary to support comprehension, but such visual information and**
22 **strategies shall not be used to teach word reading.**

23 3. Every public school in the state shall offer a reading program as described in
24 subsection 1 of this section for kindergarten through grade five.

173.232. 1. There is hereby established the "Teacher Recruitment and Retention
2 State Scholarship Program", which shall be administered by the department of elementary

3 and secondary education. The program shall, upon appropriation, provide scholarships,
4 subject to the eligibility criteria enumerated in this section, for eligible students who enter a
5 teacher education program and make a commitment to teach as a condition of receiving such
6 scholarship.

7 2. **(1)** Subject to appropriation, each year the department of elementary and
8 secondary education shall make available to eligible students scholarships for up to two years
9 in an amount that encompasses up to one hundred percent of the total cost of eligible students'
10 tuition costs **and educational costs** related to teacher preparation at a four-year college or
11 university located in Missouri, except that no amount granted for tuition shall exceed the
12 amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri-Columbia for
13 attendance. Such amount shall be paid by funds appropriated to the department.

14 **(2)** The maximum number of scholarships made available or the maximum amount
15 awarded annually under this section shall be as follows:

16 ~~[(1)]~~ **(a)** For academic years ending before July 1, 2025, two hundred scholarships or
17 a maximum awarded amount of one million two hundred thousand dollars;

18 ~~[(2)]~~ **(b)** For the 2025-26 academic year, four hundred scholarships or a maximum
19 awarded amount of two million four hundred thousand dollars;

20 ~~[(3)]~~ **(c)** For the 2026-27 academic year, four hundred forty scholarships or a
21 maximum awarded amount of two million six hundred thousand dollars;

22 ~~[(4)]~~ **(d)** For the 2027-28 academic year, four hundred eighty scholarships or a
23 maximum awarded amount of two million eight hundred thousand dollars;

24 ~~[(5)]~~ **(e)** For the 2028-29 academic year, five hundred twenty scholarships or a
25 maximum awarded amount of three million dollars;

26 ~~[(6)]~~ **(f)** For the 2029-30 academic year, five hundred sixty scholarships or a
27 maximum awarded amount of three million two hundred thousand dollars; and

28 ~~[(7)]~~ **(g)** For the 2030-31 academic year and all subsequent academic years, six
29 hundred scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of three million four hundred thousand
30 dollars.

31 **(3) (a)** If the number of scholarships or the maximum awarded amount in a
32 given academic year does not meet or exceed the limits listed in subdivision (2) of this
33 subsection, the department shall use such remaining moneys to award additional
34 scholarships for tuition costs and educational costs related to teacher preparation at a
35 four-year college or university located in Missouri to students who are in such students'
36 final semester of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation program and
37 are student teaching.

38 **(b) The department shall determine the amount of each scholarship awarded**
39 **under this subdivision based on an equal distribution of such remaining moneys among**
40 **all students eligible under this subdivision.**

41 **(c) No amount granted for tuition and under this subdivision shall exceed the**
42 **amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri-Columbia**
43 **for attendance for one semester.**

44 3. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

45 (1) "Eligible student", an individual who:

46 (a) Is a United States citizen and a Missouri resident;

47 (b) Enters and makes a commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved
48 by the department of elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-year college
49 or university located in Missouri;

50 (c) Signs an agreement with the department of elementary and secondary education in
51 which the recipient agrees to teach in a Missouri public school that is a hard-to-staff school or
52 to teach at least one hard-to-staff subject area in a Missouri public school that offers classes in
53 hard-to-staff subject areas, or both, for two years for every one year the recipient received the
54 scholarship;

55 (d) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-
56 point scale or equivalent; and

57 (e) For scholarships awarded for any academic year beginning after June 30, 2025,
58 has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of grant funding that
59 could be applied to the total cost of such student's eligible tuition and fees as described in
60 subsection 2 of this section;

61 (2) "Hard-to-staff schools", attendance centers where the percentage of certificated
62 positions in the attendance center that were left vacant or were filled with a teacher not fully
63 qualified in the prior academic year exceeds ten percent as reported to the department of
64 elementary and secondary education;

65 (3) "Hard-to-staff subject areas", content areas for which positions were left vacant or
66 were filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year as reported to the
67 department of elementary and secondary education.

68 4. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of scholarships or revenues
69 available, the department of elementary and secondary education may consider the financial
70 needs of the applicant.

71 5. The scholarships provided in this section shall be available to eligible students who
72 meet at least one of the following:

73 (1) Have successfully completed two years at a community college with a minimum
74 of forty-eight credit hours and a grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-
75 point scale or the equivalent;

76 (2) Have been awarded an associate degree or the equivalent;

77 (3) Have successfully completed five semesters at a four-year college or university
78 with a minimum of sixty credit hours and a grade point average of at least two and one-half
79 on a four-point scale or the equivalent; or

80 (4) Have completed their baccalaureate degree.

81 6. (1) Every eligible student receiving scholarships under this section shall teach in
82 an elementary or secondary public school in Missouri as provided in paragraph (c) of
83 subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section. The student shall teach for a period of two
84 years for every one year such student received a scholarship under this section; otherwise, the
85 scholarship shall be treated as a loan to the eligible student. Interest shall be charged on the
86 unpaid balance of the amount received from the date the eligible student ceases to teach until
87 the amount received is paid back to the state. The interest rate shall be adjusted annually and
88 shall be equal to one percentage point over the prevailing United States prime rate in effect on
89 January first of such year.

90 (2) In order to provide for the servicing of such loans, the department of elementary
91 and secondary education ~~[may]~~ **shall** sell such loans to the higher education loan authority of
92 the state of Missouri created pursuant to sections 173.350 to 173.445. For each year the
93 student teaches, up to eight years, one-eighth of the amount received pursuant to this section
94 shall be applied against the total amount received and shall not be subject to the repayment
95 requirement of this section~~[-; provided that twenty-five percent of such amount, not subject to~~
96 ~~repayment, shall be repaid by the local school district to the department].~~

97 (3) The department of elementary and secondary education shall have the power to
98 and shall defer interest and principal payments under certain circumstances, which shall
99 include, but need not be limited to, the enrollment in a graduate program or service in any
100 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States.

101 7. There is hereby established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "Teacher
102 Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program Fund", which shall consist of all
103 moneys that may be appropriated to it by the general assembly, and in addition may include
104 any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal, state, private, or other
105 sources. The fund shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary
106 education. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, moneys in the
107 fund shall not be transferred to the credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the
108 biennium. Interest and moneys earned on the fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in

109 the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of awarding scholarships under the provisions of
110 this section.

111 8. An individual who has qualified as an eligible student under this section shall
112 continue to qualify as an eligible student for purposes of paragraph (c) of subdivision (1) of
113 subsection 3 of this section as long as such individual remains employed by the school district
114 in which such individual agrees to teach regardless of whether such individual's employing
115 school no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff school, such class taught by such individual no
116 longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff subject area, or such individual's position within the school
117 district changes.

177.086. 1. Any school district authorizing the construction of facilities which may
2 exceed an expenditure of fifty thousand dollars shall publicly advertise, once a week for two
3 consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation, qualified pursuant to chapter 493,
4 located within the city in which the school district is located, or if there be no such newspaper,
5 in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the county, or if there be no such newspaper,
6 in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in an adjoining county, and may advertise in
7 business, trade, or minority newspapers, for bids on said construction.

8 2. No bids shall be entertained by the school district which are not made in
9 accordance with the specifications furnished by the district and all contracts shall be let to the
10 lowest responsible bidder complying with the terms of the letting, provided that the district
11 shall have the right to reject any and all bids.

12 3. All bids must be submitted sealed and in writing, to be opened publicly at time and
13 place of the district's choosing.

14 **4. The requirements of this statute are not applicable if the district utilizes a**
15 **cooperative procurement service, state procurement services as authorized in sections**
16 **34.046 and 67.360, services as authorized under section 67.5060, or other purchasing**
17 **processes authorized by state or federal law.**

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