

CCS HCS SS SCS SB 68 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

This bill creates and modifies several provisions relating to Elementary and Secondary Education.

LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER (Sections 160.077 & 701.200)

This language modifies the "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act" and the definitions of "drinking water outlet" and "remediation". A "drinking water outlet" now includes outlets that are used for cleaning cooking or eating utensils and "remediation" now excludes flushing and adds filtering the water.

The language requires that lead filters meet the standards set by the Department of Natural Resources and allow for the removal of a water outlet from service as an option if lead contamination is discovered. This language specifies that if all drinking water outlets in a school have test results of less than five parts per billion for lead, the school is only required to be tested every five years.

The bill repeals provisions regarding school districts serving students under first grade that were constructed before 1996.

These provisions are similar to HB 995 (2025).

SUSPENSIONS (Section 160.265)

This bill provides that students who are suspended or expelled would not count against a district for purposes of any Missouri school improvement plan calculation for any student attendance metric or for calculations of an local education agency's weighted average daily attendance for calculation of the formula for State aid.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (Section 160.480)

This bill requires school districts and charter schools to adopt a comprehensive emergency operations plan to address school safety, crises, and emergency operations. The plan will be shared with local law enforcement, fire protection services and emergency management. Schools must ensure a physical security site assessment annually and the Department of Education and Secondary Education (DESE) will develop standards for the emergency operation plans.

CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (Section 160.482)

Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, and all subsequent school years, this bill requires every public school to develop and implement a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on a school campus. Members of public school's administration must coordinate directly with local emergency services providers to integrate the plan into the local emergency services providers' protocols and the core elements of the plan are detailed in the bill.

A public school with an athletic department or organized school athletic program must develop and implement a plan specific to life-threatening emergencies that may occur at an extracurricular event or school-sponsored event on campus.

Districts and charter schools must attempt to ensure that an automated external defibrillator (AED), is within 3 minutes of any athletic event or practice. Public schools are not required to purchase AEDs unless the state provides funding.

The bill requires the registration of placed AEDs to the Missouri 911 service board registry.

These provisions are similar to HB 416 (2025).

STOP THE BLEED ACT (Section 160.485)

The bill establishes the "Stop the Bleed Act", which defines "bleeding control kit", and requires DESE to develop a traumatic blood loss protocol for school personnel by January 1, 2026.

The bill specifies the requirements for the blood loss protocol, which must include a bleeding control kit to be placed in areas where there is likely to be high traffic or congregation and areas where the risk of injury may be elevated, appropriate annual training in the use of the bleeding control kit for designated personnel, annual inspection of the inventory of the bleeding control kit, and the requirement that materials be replaced as necessary after use.

These provisions are similar to HB 416 (2025).

GRADE LEVEL EQUIVALENCE (Sections 160.518 & 160.522)

The bill defines "Grade-level equivalence", as a metric developed and used by DESE or a nonprofit third-party chosen by DED, to show a student's proximity to doing grade-level work for grades three to eight.

This bill identifies and describes the performance level descriptors as: advanced, proficient, grade level, basic, and below basic, with specified characteristics for each level. The school accountability report card must provide each student's grade-level equivalence as measured on the Statewide assessment. Data relating to the grade-level equivalence must be searchable on a building-by-building, school-by-school, district-by-district, and statewide level. The data must display a percentage of students at grade level or above for each level, provided that no data will disclose personal identification of any student except to a student's parent.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 712 (2025).

MISSOURI SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Section 160.660)

Beginning July 1, 2026, the State Board of Education (SBE) must modify school safety criteria in the Missouri School Improvement Program to require a primary and secondary school safety coordinator to complete the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Incident Command System training courses or any successor course created by FEMA to replace the Incident Command System course or the Incident Command System for Schools course provided by the Missouri School Boards' Association's Center for Education Safety (CES) or its successor course created by CES, within one year of being designated a coordinator.

These provisions are similar to HB 416 (2025).

SCHOOL SAFETY (Section 160.663)

The bill requires that school districts and charter schools equip each interior door with an anti-intruder door lock. This requirement is subject to appropriations to cover all costs; however, a school may receive donations, as specified in the bill.

The bill requires that only interior doors installed after 2029 must include the anti-intruder door locks and allows schools to use a master key box, as defined in the bill, to contain necessary keys and tools for fire protection and law enforcement to gain access to the school.

These provisions are similar to HB 416 (2025).

SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENT REPORTS (Section 160.664)

This bill requires local educational agencies to report to DESE all school safety incidents and credible school safety threats that

occur at each attendance center of the local educational agency. DESE will establish procedures for local educational agencies to follow when reporting a school safety incident or credible threat and maintain and regularly update a database of all school safety incidents and credible school safety threats.

The bill requires that the database not contain personally identifiable information of a student and must be a closed record under the Missouri Sunshine Law and data received must be shared with the Department of Public Safety.

ACTIVE-DUTY STUDENT REQUIREMENTS (Section 160.701)

This bill prohibits a statewide activities association from requiring an active-duty member of the U.S. uniformed services, National Guard, or Reserves to attend a minimum number of practices in order for such individual to be a member of a team or group.

ADULT HIGH SCHOOL AGE AND TRANSFER STUDENTS (Sections 160.2700-160.2710)

The bill changes the age for enrollment for adult high schools in the State from 21 to 18 years of age. A student who transfers from a local education agency to an adult high school will be considered a transfer student and not a dropout student by the State for the purposes of compiling and tracking dropout rates.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 32 (2025).

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Section 161.026)

This bill modifies the appointment of teacher representatives to the State Board of Education by providing that, for the second and succeeding appointments, the newly appointed teacher representative must not be appointed from the same congressional district as the two immediately preceding teacher representatives, rather than requiring all appointments to be made in rotation from each congressional district.

Finally, the bill removes the expiration date of these provisions.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 1413 (2025).

STEM CAREER AWARENESS ACTIVITY PROGRAM (Section 161.264)

Subject to appropriations, this bill requires DESE to establish the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Program" for grades nine-12. The DESE will begin promoting the Program in the 2026-27 school year

and solicit proposal to provide the Program by January 1, 2026. By March 1, 2026, DESE must select a provider. Alternatively, the bill authorizes DESE to choose a third-party nonprofit entity to implement the Program, solicit proposals, and select a provider.

The bill requires prospective providers to present data demonstrating effectiveness in the following areas:

- (1) Teacher instruction on STEM-related subjects;
- (2) Increased student enrollment in four year STEM related fields;
or
- (3) Increased participation in STEM related workforce upon graduation.

The bill further outlines criteria for selecting Program providers.

This bill also creates the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Fund".

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 33 (2025).

MISSOURI COURSE ACCESS AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM (Sections 161.670 & 163.044)

Currently, school districts with an average daily attendance of 350 or less students qualify for additional funding. This bill removes from the average daily attendance count any nonresident students enrolled in the virtual school program in the school districts.

The bill specifies that any virtual school or program that is part of the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program can administer any statewide assessment virtually. This bill outlines requirements for virtual assessments, including the monitoring of students via a camera and making a reasonable effort to maintain a student-to-proctor ratio that is targeted at 10 to one or lower.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 220 (2025).

STUDENT ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE (Section 162.207)

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year school, districts and charter schools must have a policy governing the use of a student's electronic personal communications device in school. Policies must promote educational interests and safe working environments. Students can not use electronic personal communications devices during instructional activities, passing periods, and meal times.

District policies must provide disciplinary procedures and exceptions, as defined in the bill.

Districts and charter schools must publish the policy on the school website and the bill specifies liability protections for acting in accordance with the policy.

These provisions expire August 28, 2032.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 408, 306, and 854 (2025).

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES - DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY (Section 162.700)

This bill specifies that children whose age makes them eligible for kindergarten or first grade can continue their eligibility as a young child with a developmental delay if the child had been categorized as such before attaining eligibility for kindergarten or grade one. The bill additionally provides that the category of "young child with a developmental delay" will not be used to determine continuing eligibility for special education services for a student who is seven years of age before August first of a given school year.

These provisions are similar to HB 305 (2025).

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE CONTRACTING (Section 162.705)

Currently, if a school district cannot provide special education services they can contract for services or if the district fails to contract, the SBE can contract with an instate organization. This language allows the SBE or the school district to contract with eligible organizations in an adjacent state.

STATE AID FOR SCHOOLS WITH 169 CALENDAR DAYS (163.045)

This bill clarifies language relating to additional funding for teacher salaries that districts receive if the district has a school calendar with 169 school days. The clarification provided allows for the reduction in days necessary to qualify due to inclement weather or authorized reductions by the Commissioner of Education allowed by law.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 368 (2025).

SALARIES FOR TEACHERS' MASTER'S DEGREES (Section 163.172)

The bill modifies the minimum teacher salary to remove the requirement that a teacher's master's degree must be in an academic teaching field directly related to the teacher's assignment.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 607 (2025).

BEHAVIOR RISK ASSESSMENTS (Sections 167.020 & 167.022)

The bill requires behavioral threat assessments to be included in the records to be requested by school officials when enrolling a pupil. The language provides a definition for "personal safety plan" and "behavioral threat assessment".

These provisions are similar to HB 416 (2025).

JUVENILE COURT (Section 167.115)

Currently, school districts must be notified if a petition is filed in juvenile court with specific allegations. This bill expands the current requirements to also include when a charge or indictment is filed, adds the prosecutor to the list of required notifiers, requires the notice to be within 24 hours, and reduces the requirement for a summary of facts from five days to two business days following the case disposition. The bill allows school districts to request an injunction to exclude students from educational services if there is a likelihood of danger to the safety of pupils or employees in the school district. The information can be used to provide an alternative environment for the student's educational services.

These provisions are similar to HB 416 (2025).

AGREEMENTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT (Section 167.117)

The bill authorizes districts and charter schools to enter into written agreements with law enforcement on procedures for reporting criminal offenses, specified in the bill, and allows for certain offenses for students under 11 years of age to be reported to the Children's Division, within the Department of Social Services.

These provisions are similar to HB 416 (2025).

SCHOOL TUITION (Section 167.151)

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, this bill expands who can qualify for a tuition waiver and State aid qualification and allows any child whose parent is a contractor or regular employee of a nonresident school district or charter school to attend the school district or charter school without paying tuition if approved by a majority vote of the members of the school board of the school district or the governing board of the charter school.

Qualified students attending school districts will count as a resident pupil for the purpose of State aid or for a charter school student, for State aid payments calculated by a multiplication of the charter school's weighted average daily attendance for the student by the State adequacy target and the dollar-value modifier for the district the charter school is located in.

The bill requires the parent of the nondistrict student to provide certain information and the contractor or employee must have worked a minimum number of days, not to exceed 60, for the student to be eligible. The resident district or the nonresident district is not responsible for providing transportation and if the parent of the student no longer works at the school, the student is allowed to complete the school year.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 1238 (2025).

ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES (Section 167.167)

This bill requires school districts to prohibit any zero-tolerance disciplinary policy. Zero-tolerance discipline that results in an automatic disciplinary consequence without reviewing each pupil in a case-by-case manner is prohibited.

This provision is similar to HB 454.

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (Section 167.624)

The bill requires that cardiopulmonary resuscitation training be required for school district and charter school employees and repeals language that authorizes the school board to make the completion of the program a requirement for graduation.

This provision is similar to HB 416 (2025).

RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS (Section 167.850)

Currently, only public high schools can establish a recovery high school for students diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency.

This bill defines "sponsoring entity" and includes the DESE, magnet schools, charter schools, and public and private schools as entities that can establish a recovery high school.

The bill modifies the funding mechanism for a recovery high school from the State adequacy target plus the average local effort for a student above the State adequacy target to a calculation by DESE

based on average daily attendance and the sending district annual secretary of the board report.

The bill provides for costs for special education students with an individualized education program that exceed three times the current expenditure for average daily attendance to be reimbursed for such excess and paid to the recovery high school.

These provisions are similar to HB 1386 (2025).

TEACHERS OF TOMORROW (Section 168.021)

The bill authorizes the SBE to issue a Missouri teaching certificate for individuals certified by Teachers of Tomorrow with verification of their ability to work with children, with 60 contact hours in the classroom.

The bill adds gifted education to the list of areas that the ABCTE and Teachers of Tomorrow certification will not be authorized to teach.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 1153 (2025).

TEACHER EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Section 168.025)

The bill repeals the sunset provision for the teacher externship program that expired August 28th, 2024.

These provisions are similar to HB 267 (2025).

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING RETIREMENT AUTHORIZATION (Section 168.036)

Currently, the authorization for teachers that are retired to substitute teach without a discontinuance of the teacher's retirement benefit is set to expire in 2025. This bill extends the authorization until 2030.

This provision is similar to HB 1039 (2025).

PRINCIPAL-ADMINISTRATOR ACADEMY (168.407, 168.409 & 168.500)

Currently, the Principal-Administrator Academy is housed under DESE. This bill allows DESE to work in conjunction with Statewide entities that support principal and superintendent development. The bill adds programming requirements including a review of all preparation programs, a mentor program, and early career coaching.

The bill provides for funding for the program to come from Federal sources, the excellence in education fund, up to 5% from career

ladder funds, or can require a match from participating individuals or school districts employing participants.

THREE-CUEING SYSTEM (Section 170.014)

The bill prohibits school districts from using a "three-cueing system" to primarily teach students to read. A three-cueing system is defined as any model of teaching students to read based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues, also known as "MSV". MSV can be included to improve knowledge, add context, and increase oral language and vocabulary to support comprehension as long as the strategies are not used to teach word reading.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 941 (2025).

ACTIVE SHOOTER AND INTRUDER RESPONSE TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM (Section 170.315)

The bill requires that, beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the Active Shooter and Intruder Response Training for Schools Program components be modified to include situations when an active shooter is present, how to identify potential threats, and protocols for emergencies be required for teachers and school employees.

The bill provides districts an option to elect to provide such training, with school personnel having the option to participate in a simulated active shooter drill.

Currently, public schools are required to foster an environment where students feel comfortable reporting a potentially threatening or dangerous situation to an adult.

This bill adds the requirement that schools must annually provide age-appropriate information on the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Courage2ReportMO reporting mechanism. Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, schools must annually hold age appropriate active shooter exercises in which students, teachers, and school employees participate in and practice the procedures for safety and protection to be implemented when an active shooter is present.

This provision is similar to HB 416 (2025).

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION SCHOLARSHIPS (Section 173.232)

The bill modifies the current Teacher Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program to allow for scholarships to cover education costs related to teacher preparation in addition to tuition. If the maximum amount of scholarships or appropriated funds are not distributed, DESE will use any remaining moneys to

award additional scholarships for tuition costs and educational costs related to teacher preparation.

The bill also removes a requirement that school districts pay 25% of the cost for any scholarship recipient that was hired by the district.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 712 (2025).

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATIONS (Sections 173.1352)

This bill requires public community colleges, colleges, and universities to adopt a policy for undergraduate course credit for any student that receives a score of four or higher on an international baccalaureate exam.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 1017 & 291 (2025).

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER LICENSURE (Sections 302.177, 302.272 & 302.735)

Currently, the license for individuals 70 years and older, who have school bus endorsements on their drivers license, is issued or renewed for only one year at a time; the renewal fee is waived, the school bus portion of the drivers license examination must be taken annually, and a commercial driver's license with a school bus endorsement must be issued annually.

The bill changes the age for these specific provisions to the age of 75 or older and changes the license examination requirement to every two years.

These provisions are similar to HCS HB 538 (2025).