

HB 2048 -- UNACCREDITED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Terry

This bill allows the State Board of Education, when a school is classified unaccredited, to suspend the governing or managing authority of the elected school board members of the unaccredited district, and take additional actions relating to special administrative boards as specified in the bill.

Currently, a special administrative board for a school district must have at least five members. As specified in this bill, a special administrative board will have seven members, four of whom must be residents of the district. Each member of the board will serve for three years, the qualifications of the members are specified in the bill. The special administrative board must meet at least once per month and each member will receive a salary of \$500 a month. Within 30 days after the vote to appoint a member to the special administrative board, if a member of the Missouri House of Representatives whose district touches the school district, in whole or in part, submits a request to the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the appointment will be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The members of the district's elected school board will be ex-officio non-voting members of the special administrative board.

Upon failure of the school district to be classified as provisionally or fully accredited for at least two successive academic years, the State Board of Education will require the special administrative board to establish a specific plan and timeline for achieving accreditation, including appointing a new superintendent of the school district every three years.

A special administrative board may be extended for no more than three years after its expiration date by the State Board of Education. Governance of the school district will be returned to the elected school board upon the expiration of the authority of the special administrative board. The bill repeals a provision of law that allows the State Board of Education to appoint additional members to any special administrative board and sets final terms of office for members of such a board.

This bill is similar to HB 387 (2025) and HB 1646 (2024).