

HCS HB 2710 -- ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Diehl

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 6. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2710.

This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop an annual accountability report card for public schools. The report card will provide information about school performance and satisfy federal reporting requirements relating to students, staff, finances, and other data.

The SBE may contract with a private entity or charge the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to generate the annual report. An embargoed version of the report must be provided to schools by September 15th and the SBE will provide an appeals process for information before schools are required to publish the report on the school website by October 31st.

The bill provides that the SBE will assign a rating based on a zero-one-hundred A thru F scale for each public school and district. The criteria of the ratings are specified in the bill and included factors such as student academic achievement and growth-relative-to-grade level in english, math, and science as assessed through the Missouri assessment program. The factors include a value-added growth metric and a "Success Ready Graduate" measure which will be calculated by DESE. Schools that do not test at least 95% of students will have a separately identified participation rate clearly identified.

The bill establishes the "Show Me Success Program" to provide financial awards to public schools with high student academic growth, sustained improvement over time, or success in closing achievement gaps. The criteria for the performance based funding are outlined in bill and such funding shall be used to promote teacher recruitment and retention.

The bill requires the SBE to develop a statewide report card that will report the number of Missouri schools rated A thru F with

the objective being to increase the percentage of students attending higher rated schools, Missouri student performance on national assessments, and an anonymous survey.

The requirement for the annual accountability report card will not be required for special school district or state-operated schools in which all students enrolled are students with disabilities.

This bill is similar to HB 2539 (2026).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

**PROPOSERS:** Supporters say that an A-F simplistic grade will help provide transparency for parents to understand how well a district is performing. Growth aspects in the calculation of a grade A-F is important and having incentives for schools that achieve high ratings has proven successful. States like Louisiana support similar measures and have seen marked growth in academic success. Many of Missouri demographics are similar to Louisiana and making sure that schools are identified and parents have the transparency to see where additional supports should be focused is very important. This bill will put schools on an equal footing so that the public can quickly determine districts that will best meet the needs of the student. The A-F report card will provide a fuller picture of performance and the growth metric in the bill is helpful to show where areas of improvement in a district can occur.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Diehl; Missouri Century Foundation; MO Charter Public School Association; Eric Scroggins, The Opportunity Trust; Aligned; Stacey Melerine, Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; Mauri G. Scott, Missouri Charter Schools; Cory Koedel; Leslie Kohlmeyer, Show Me KC Schools; and Shawntay Vaughn.

**OPPOSERS:** Those who oppose the bill say that a single calculation should not determine a "good" or "bad" school. Having an opportunity to go in-depth on information and compare between districts is more useful. The current model of the annual performance report has a multitude of information that would be lacking if there is just one letter that has to summarize it all. There is not an even playing field for each district in the state and a reward system that only recognizes

higher achievement will only increase the gap between the have and have nots.

Testifying in person against the bill were Missouri State Teachers Association; Arnie C. Dienoff; and Missouri NEA.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the current website at DESE is not very transparent but that is being actively addressed with new customer service friendly approaches that should provide additional transparency. The current Missouri School Improvement Plan has more rigor and aligns with the A-F metrics while still providing additional depth.

Testifying in person on the bill were Perry Gorrell, Department of Elementary & Secondary Education; Kelli Jones, Department of Elementary & Secondary Education; and Missouri Council of School Administrators.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.