

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE**

January 2015

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 161.092, RSMo

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

DEPARTMENT GOAL NOS. 1 AND 4:

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will improve departmental efficiency and operational effectiveness.

SUMMARY:

The following material contains filed bills relating to education for the 2015 legislative session. The reports relating to the filed bills will be distributed at the meeting.

PRESENTER(S):

Mark Allan Van Zandt, General Counsel, and Constance Rush, Director of Legislative Outreach, will participate in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Date: 1-12-2014

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 1	Pearce	<p>Modifies the definition of “graduation rate” to be aligned with MSIP standards.</p> <p>Permits accredited school districts and a combination of school boards of accredited districts to sponsor charter schools in unaccredited school districts.</p> <p>Requires the Department to withhold funds once a sponsor notifies a charter school of closure. Relieves state from outstanding liability and obligations of the charter school during closure. Requires the court to determine distribution of assets.</p> <p>Extends the deadline for approving charter schools until Jan. 31st prior to the school year of the proposed opening date.</p> <p>Creates an automatic approval for charter applications the State Board receives, but does act on within 60 days. Requires written disapprovals identifying the specific failures of the application within 10 business days.</p> <p>Requires an APR be calculated and published for charter schools. Defines high quality charter schools as: ≥ 90% APR for 3 of last 4 school years; 80% graduation rate, compliant, and fiscally viable. Grants high quality charter schools the ability to expand with expedition in unaccredited/metropolitan/urban school districts.</p> <p>Limits the financial stress determination of a charter school to those operating ≥ 3 school years.</p> <p>Identifies 4 designations of accreditation for school districts. Mandates that the State Board, when assigning classification designations to school districts, use one of the four identified accreditation designations. Requires the State Board to adopt a system of classification that accredits individual attendance centers within a district separately from the district as a whole. Provides exemptions for special education schools and schools outside of the range of numbers assigned by grade-level school.</p> <p>Requires the State Board to develop an intervention process to provide assistance teams to low performing, unaccredited and provisionally accredited school districts. Mandates the team’s improvement plan unless the district proposes an alternative which the State Board approves.</p> <p>Creates the “School Transfer and Improvement Task Force” to explore the means to address failing school districts, the creation of a school improvement district, school transfer finance formulas, public virtual and blended schools, and pilot projects to assist transient students. Sunsets in 2016.</p>	First Read; 01-07-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 1 cont.	Pearce	<p>If a special administrative board is appointed to operate a part of a school district, the State Board must determine an equitable apportionment of state and federal aid for the part of the district, and the school district shall provide local revenue in proportion to the weighted average daily attendance of the part.</p> <p>Mandates that when the State Board of Education determines an alternative governing structure for an unaccredited district, that alternative form of governance will be subject to the following provisions of law: it will retain the authority granted to a board of education; it will expire at the end of the third year of its appointment unless reauthorized; it will not be deemed to be the state or a state agency; and it will not be considered a successor entity for purposes of employment contracts, unemployment compensation or any other purpose.</p> <p>If the State Board of Education reasonably believes that a school district is unlikely to provide for the minimum school term required by section 163.021 because of financial difficulty, the State Board may, prior to the start of the school term, allow continued governance by the existing district school board under terms and conditions established by the state board of education. As an alternative, the State Board may lapse the corporate organization of the district and implement one of the options available to the State Board to intervene in an unaccredited district. However, this provision will not apply to any district solely on the basis of financial difficulty resulting from paying tuition and providing transportation for transfer students.</p> <p>Mandates that when a student is a candidate for A+ tuition reimbursements, the school must attribute no less than ninety-five percent of attendance to the student's completion of the virtual course.</p> <p>Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to annually calculate a transient student ratio for each public school attendance center and each school district. The transient student ratio must be published on the Department's website and in the school accountability report card for each district and attendance center. The Department must also publish on its website an aggregate transient student ratio for the state.</p> <p>The transient student ratio will use data, including the number of students enrolled in the district or school, the number of students who withdraw from the district or school, and the number of students who are enrolled, withdrew, and later reentered the district or school. Each school district must report annually to the Department any information and data necessary for the Department to calculate transient student ratios.</p>	

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 1 cont.	Pearce	<p>In a transient student's first year of attendance in a district, the student's score on the statewide assessments will not be included when calculating the status or progress scores on the district's annual performance report scores. The scores will be counted for growth scores from the previous year's assessment for the purpose of the district's annual performance report score and to serve as the baseline for growth in the next year's assessment. In the second year of attendance, a transient student's score on the statewide assessments will be weighted at fifty percent, with growth counting for fifty percent. In the third year of attendance and any subsequent year of attendance, a transient student's status, progress and growth score will be weighted at one hundred percent when calculating the district's performance for purposes of the district's annual performance report score.</p> <p>Prohibits all underperforming districts in St. Louis County from promoting any student from the fifth grade to the sixth grade or from the eighth grade to the ninth grade who has not scored at the proficient level or above on the statewide assessments in the areas of English language arts and mathematics. However, this provision does not apply to any student with an individualized education program or any student with a Section 504 Plan.</p> <p>Requires any unaccredited district to offer free tutoring and supplemental education services to underperforming and struggling students. Requires, beginning July 1, 2016, all public schools in the St. Louis City School District and Kansas City School District, including charter schools, to use a response-to-intervention tiered approach to reading instruction for students determined by their school to be struggling readers.</p> <p>Repeals the statutory provision which requires the school board of a school district that does not maintain an accredited school to pay the transportation costs of resident students who attend an accredited school in another district of the same or adjoining county.</p> <p>Permits any student enrolled in and attending an unaccredited school in an unaccredited district for at least one semester to transfer to another accredited school in his or her district of residence that offers the student's grade level of enrollment, to transfer to an accredited school in an accredited district in the same or an adjoining county or, if applicable, to a nonsectarian private school in the district of residence. As a condition of receiving state aid, an unaccredited district must use funds from the operating levy for school purposes to pay tuition for students attending nonsectarian private schools.</p> <p>Permits the school board of a receiving district to charge a rate of tuition less than the amount that would otherwise be calculated under the statutory calculation. If any receiving district chooses to charge a rate of tuition that is 70% or less of the per-pupil cost that would otherwise be charged under the statutory calculation, then no statewide assessment scores and no other performance data for those students whom the district received shall be used for 5 school years when calculating the district's APR.</p>	

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 1 cont.	Pearce	<p>Allows any district that received transfer students in the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years to adjust the tuition paid by the sending district to seventy percent of the per-pupil cost of maintaining the sending district's grade level grouping. If a district adjusts its tuition rate, the statewide assessment scores and performance data for the transfer students will not be used for five school years when calculating the receiving district's performance for purposes of the Missouri School Improvement Program.</p> <p>Permits any resident student who transferred to an accredited district or to a nonsectarian private school will be permitted to continue his or her educational program through the completion of middle school, junior high, or high school, if an unaccredited district becomes provisionally accredited or accredited.</p> <p>When costs associated with the provision of special education and related services to a student with a disability exceed the tuition amount, the unaccredited district is responsible for paying the excess costs to the receiving district including transportation.</p> <p>Allows a school district to enter into a contract with a public library to provide online tutoring services through a third party vendor or a non-profit organization for the district's students.</p> <p>The school board of any unaccredited district, provisionally accredited district, or district with a three year average annual performance report score consistent with a classification of unaccredited or provisionally accredited, may, by a majority vote, increase the length of the school day and also increase the number of instruction hours above the statutory minimum. This act creates the Extended Learning Time Fund in the state treasury. Moneys in the fund will be used for schools that extend the length of the school day or hours of instruction.</p> <p>Creates three separate education authorities, throughout the state, to coordinate student transfers.</p>	

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 6	Keaveny	<p>Provides that when the state adequacy target is recalculated, any increase in state funding attributable to an individual district will be capped at two hundred percent of the aggregate percentage increase in state funding for all of the performance districts.</p> <p>Provides that when the State Board of Education has classified a district as unaccredited, lapses the district's corporate organization, and intervenes in the district, the district will be eligible to receive state funding for early childhood in the 2015-2016 school year or immediately upon the lapse of the district's corporate organization, whichever occurs later, regardless of the district's official classification designation. This provision will also apply to any successor district or districts.</p> <p>Specifies that charter schools become eligible receive state funding for early childhood at the same time as the district in which they are located becomes eligible.</p>	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 7	Keaveny	Repeals the separate calculation used for hold-harmless school districts with an average daily attendance of 350 or less. State funding for all hold-harmless districts will be calculated using the same calculation.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 13	Munzlinger	Modifies the composition and the appointment process of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 14	Munzlinger	Requires all departments and divisions of the state, including statewide offices, to post copies of contracts entered into for the provision of legal services from outside firms on the Missouri Accountability Portal.	First Read; 01-07-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 22	Chappelle-Nadal	<p>Changes the definition of "graduation rate" to be the graduation rate determined by the annual performance report required by the Missouri School Improvement Program.</p> <p>Requires the State Board of Education to classify the school districts as unaccredited, provisionally accredited, accredited, or accredited with distinction.</p> <p>Provides that any student who is enrolled in and has attended an unaccredited school in an unaccredited district for at least one semester may transfer to another public school in the student's district of residence that offers the student's grade level of enrollment and that is accredited without provisions by the state board of education.</p> <p>Provides that if any receiving district chooses to charge a rate of tuition that is 70% or less of the per-pupil cost of maintaining the sending district's grade level grouping as calculated under the statute, then no statewide assessment scores and no other performance data for those students whom the district received shall be used for five school years when calculating the performance of the receiving district for purposes of the Missouri school improvement program.</p> <p>Does not require the student's district of residence to provide transportation for him or her to attend another accredited district but shall not be required to do so.</p> <p>In St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Jackson County only, the school board of an unaccredited district that operates an unaccredited school must pay tuition for students who enroll in a nonsectarian private school located in the district using funds from the district's operating levy for school purposes.</p> <p>A nonsectarian private school will only be eligible to receive tuition payments under this section if it satisfies certain conditions. A nonsectarian private school must be accredited by the North Central Association Commission On Accreditation and School Improvement or demonstrate similar academic quality credentials to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It must administer for transfer students, or allow for the administration of, the statewide assessments in English language arts and mathematics or equivalent assessments.</p> <p>A nonsectarian private school must comply with all health and safety laws or codes that apply to nonpublic schools, hold a valid occupancy permit if required by its municipality, and file a statement of intent to accept transfer students with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Private nonsectarian schools that choose to receive transfer students must adhere to multiple provisions of Missouri state school law, as described in the act. Any participating nonsectarian private school must provide data to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the production of an annual performance report. In addition, when the total enrollment of a nonsectarian private school consists of twenty-five percent transfer students, the school must conform to the standards of the Missouri School Improvement Program. The district of residence may provide transportation but is not required to do so.</p>	First Read; 01-07-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 22 cont.	Chappelle-Nadal	<p>As a condition of receiving state aid, an unaccredited district must use funds from the operating levy for school purposes to pay tuition remission for students who attend a nonsectarian private school. In addition, such tuition must be paid only using funds from the operating levy for school purposes.</p> <p>The option for students to enroll in and attend a nonsectarian private school must be authorized by the school district's voters at a general election, as described in the act. A majority vote is required for authorization. However, regardless of whether the voters authorize the private school option, students may transfer to a private school after three years of the district being unaccredited. The unaccredited district is not required to pay transportation costs to nonsectarian private schools.</p> <p>Creates the "School Transfer and Improvement Task Force."</p> <p>Permits the school board of any district in this state that has been declared unaccredited or provisionally accredited or that is accredited but has a three-year average annual performance report score consistent with a classification of unaccredited or provisionally accredited to increase the length of the school day upon adoption of a resolution by a majority vote to authorize such action funded through appropriations from the Extending Learning Fund.</p>	
SB 23	Chappelle-Nadal	Requires a parent or guardian to notify a school district, or the governing body of a private or charter school, that he or she owns a firearm within 30 days of enrolling the child in school or becoming the owner of a firearm.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 27	Emery	Requires the State Board of Education to develop a simplified annual school report card for each school attendance center. Limits teacher tenure to teachers first hired by a district before August 28, 2015. Requires performance-based evaluations be done annually for each teacher and administrator. Requires each school district to develop and adopt a performance salary schedule.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 28	Emery	<p>Requires the State Board of education to develop a simplified annual school report card, separately from the information 160.522 requires, that produces an annual letter grade of A through F for each school attendance center, including charter schools.</p> <p>Exempts alternative schools and schools with fewer students than the minimum sample size necessary based on professional practices for statistical reliability from receiving a letter grade.</p>	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 29	Emery	Repeals the criteria that a school board uses when placing teachers on leave of absence because of a decrease in student enrollment, district reorganization, or financial condition. Repeals a provision governing the St. Louis City School District that requires when particular subjects or courses of instruction are eliminated, the teachers of those subjects or courses not be placed on leave of absence if they are qualified to teach other subjects or courses and a position is available.	First Read; 01-07-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 49	Sifton	<p>Requires the State Board of Education to classify the school districts as either unaccredited, provisionally accredited, accredited, or accredited with distinction. Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a system of classification that accredits individual school buildings within a district separately from the district as a whole.</p> <p>Creates the Missouri Parent/Teacher Involvement Program for the purpose of providing grant awards to schools in which a majority of school staff, including administrators, teachers, counselors, and other support staff agree to develop and build trusting relationships between families and school staff, thereby increasing communication and accountability, with the goal of improving the academic and social success of pupils.</p> <p>Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to identify at least one accredited district to which an unaccredited district must provide transportation. Creates three separate regional education authorities to coordinate student transfers from unaccredited districts to accredited districts.</p>	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 49 cont.	Sifton	<p>Permits any student who is enrolled in and attends a public school that is classified as unaccredited by the state board of education under the system of classification enacted under section 161.238 to transfer to another public school in the student's district of residence that offers the student's grade level of enrollment and that is accredited without provisions by the state board of education.</p> <p>If a student residing in an unaccredited district and living within the attendance boundaries of an unaccredited school is unable to transfer to another accredited school within his or her district of residence under section 167.825, the student may transfer to an accredited school within an accredited district located in the same or an adjoining county.</p> <p>The school board of a receiving district, upon a majority vote of the board, may choose to charge a rate of tuition less than the amount that would otherwise be calculated under this subsection. If any receiving district chooses to charge a rate of tuition that is at least thirty percent less than the rate of tuition that would otherwise be calculated under this subsection, then the statewide assessment scores and all other performance data for those students whom the district received shall not be used for five school years when calculating the performance of the receiving district for purposes of the Missouri school improvement program.</p>	

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 61	Chappelle-Nadal	Permits school districts or charter schools to provide teen dating violence prevention education as part of the sexual health and health education program it provides to students in grades seven through twelve. Permits school districts and charter schools to establish and implement an age-appropriate curriculum to educate students about domestic violence.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 64	Emery	Requires the State Board of Education to classify the school districts as either unaccredited, provisionally accredited, accredited, or accredited with distinction.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 65	Emery	Creates the Equal Opportunity Scholarship Program to grant scholarships to students from unaccredited school districts for certain educational costs.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 70	LeVota	Prohibits the State Board of Education from classifying a school district as unaccredited or reclassifying an accredited district as provisionally accredited when there is no State Board of Education member who is a resident of the congressional district in which the school district is located. Modifies other provisions relating to school accreditation.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 84	Chappelle-Nadal	Establishes term limits for the State Board of Education.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 114	Kraus	Entitle school districts and library districts, for tax increment financing projects approved after August 28, 2015, to a 50% reimbursement of their tax increments.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 116	Kraus	Creates an exemption from the proof of residency and domicile for purposes of school registration when the family of a student living in Missouri co-locates to live with other family members or in a military family support community because one or both of the student's parents is stationed out of state under certain military orders.	First Read; 01-07-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 161	Nasheed	<p>Modifies the definition of bullying to include intimidation or harassment that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception, or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Prohibits bullying by students on school property, at school functions, or on school buses. Requires antibullying policies treat all students equally.</p> <p>Requires, beginning July 1, 2016, all public schools in the St. Louis City School District and Kansas City School District, including charter schools, to use a response-to-intervention tiered approach to reading instruction for students determined by their school to be struggling readers.</p> <p>Any student who is not reading at the second grade level in the St. Louis City School District and the Kansas City School District by the end of second grade may be promoted to third grade only if one of three conditions is satisfied. First, a student may be promoted if the school provides additional reading instruction during the summer and demonstrates the student has the abilities and the knowledge to successfully learn in third grade at the end of summer school. Second, a student may be promoted if the school provides a "looping" classroom in which the student remains with the same teacher for multiple years. If the student is in a looping classroom but is not reading at the third grade level by the end of third grade, the student must be retained. Third, a student may be promoted if the student's parents or guardians may sign a notice that they prefer to have the student promoted. However, the school will have final determination to retain the student.</p>	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 171	Romine	<p>Requires the Department to ensure that any high school equivalency test be administered in a manner that does not discriminate against students with a diagnosis of a mental health condition that affects learning or students with learning disabilities, as described in the act. If an applicant possesses such a condition or disability, the Department must administer an individualized test to accommodate the applicant.</p> <p>Requires, beginning January 1, 2016, the Department to offer applicants at least one additional high school equivalency testing option selected by the State Board of Education as an alternative to the HiSET testing program and the Iowa Testing Program. When selecting the additional test option, the State Board must consider the following factors: substantial equivalency of test scope and rigor with a comprehensive high school course of study leading to a diploma; the recognition of the test by other states; the test's portability; the cost to test takers, with priority given to achieving the lowest cost; and other criteria that meet the needs of individual test takers.</p> <p>Requires the State Board to adopt rules for a waiver of the fees for the high school equivalency examination. The Department must establish a sliding-fee scale. To be eligible for a financial hardship fee waiver, the applicant must demonstrate that he or she has achieved a minimum passing score on a high school equivalency practice test.</p>	First Read; 01-07-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
SB 172	Romine	Requires the State Board of Education to establish minimum graduation requirements for a career and technical education high school diploma. Students entering high school in the 2016-2017 school year and beyond will be eligible to receive a CTE diploma. A CTE diploma will confer the same benefits for students that are conferred by any other high school diploma that meets the State Board of Education's graduation requirements.	First Read; 01-07-15
SB 173	Romine	Provides that for any seven-director school district, most or all of which is located in Washington County, whose average daily attendance from 350 or less increases to greater than 350, the school district's state aid will be calculated using the calculation for hold harmless districts with an average daily attendance of 350 or less. In addition, any qualifying district will also receive the same amount of funds it received in the previous year from the annual \$15 million appropriation under section 163.044.	First Read; 01-07-15
HB 41	Wood	Removes portions of the school funding formula, pertaining to previous school years, that are no longer relevant due to the passage of time.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 42	Wood	Establishes a system of school accreditation by building rather than by district. Sets forth a tuition calculation for student assigned to unaccredited schools within an unaccredited school district transferring to public schools in an accredited school district. If there is disagreement as to the amount of tuition to be paid, the facts shall be submitted to the state board, and its decision in the matter shall be final. If an unaccredited district becomes classified as provisionally accredited or accredited without provisions by the state board of education, resident students of the unaccredited districts who are enrolled in an accredited district in the same or an adjoining county under this section shall be permitted to continue their educational program in the accredited district through the highest grade level offered at the school building currently attended; however, such students shall be required to return to their resident district at the time they would normally matriculate to a building offering higher grade levels.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 43	Wood	Requires all business relating to the development and implementation of a statewide assessment to be conducted at a university in the state of Missouri that has an education department and the capacity to administer a statewide assessment for public schools, after June 30, 2017. Requires the department shall form a committee to study the feasibility of implementing competency-based instruction and promotion.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 54	Walton Gray	Allows schools to incorporate criminal justice instruction into the curriculum.	Second Read; 01-08-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
HB 71	Walton Gray	Establishes the Task Force on Police Officer Presence in Schools and Communities. The task force will focus its efforts on establishing programs, projects, activities, and events in the communities of St. Louis County that contain school districts with a total minority student population that exceeds 50%. The Task Force will advise the Commissioner of Education and the Department of Education on issues relating to the establishment of community relations programs in communities	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 72	Walton Gray	Establishes a program on police officer presence in schools and communities within the Department of Public Safety.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 87	Walton Gray	Establishes a community schools grant program in St. Louis County, Jackson County, and Kansas City.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 89	Walton Gray	Establishes a Council for Community Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 135	Rowland	Permits a school district to use a calendar based on hours of attendance, rather than hours and days of attendance, if the minimum number of hours is at least 1,080 hours of actual pupil attendance.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 175	Schmitt	Removes a reference to Section 165.191, which was repealed in 1977. Before it was repealed, Section 165.191 provided budget procedures for school districts managed by a county superintendent. School districts under the authority of county superintendents no longer exist.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 232	Haahr	Permits home school students to participate in Missouri State High School Activities Association activities for the public school district in which they reside.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 242	Lauer	Adds making a terrorist threat to the list of offenses that school administrators must report.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 257	Dugger	Establishes the School Construction Act which exempts construction and maintenance work done for certain school districts from the prevailing wage requirement upon the school board's approval.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 266	Sommer	Requires school boards in provisionally accredited and unaccredited school districts, and those with buildings performing at unaccredited levels, to enter into a contract with the state board of education to commit to certain interventions for each school building. Prohibits, when a contract is executed, the state board of education from accrediting such district at a level below provisionally accredited for the term of the contract.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 267	Sommer	Requires continuing education training for school board members, with additional training required for members serving districts with provisional accreditation.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 297	Kelley	Specifies that public school students must not be subject to penalties or discipline for simulating a weapon while playing if it does not cause bodily harm, disrupt learning, or constitute a serious threat which reasonably places another person in fear of bodily harm.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 311	McNeil	Establishes the High Performance Energy Benchmarking Act that requires, beginning September 1, 2015, each school district to establish an energy star benchmark for each permanent building owned by the district and allows for the use a free on-line system provided by the federal Energy Star Program.	Second Read; 01-08-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
HB 312	McNeil	Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a grant program to extend instructional time in underperforming school districts.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 320	Barnes	Requires department of social services shall develop incentive programs, submit state plan amendments, and apply for necessary waivers to permit rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, or other primary care practices to co-locate on the property of public elementary and secondary schools with fifty percent or more students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 353	Newman	Specifies that any sex education in schools be based peer-reviewed projects that have been demonstrated to influence healthy behavior, be age appropriate. Establishes the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act, the Birth Control Protection Act, and a women's health services program.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 365	Spencer	Repeals the provision that prohibits the establishment of a test as a condition for high school graduation or a state approved high school diploma, and establishes the Student Accountability Act. The Act requires that: A student must score proficient or higher on at least one assessment after eighth grade in each core area of mathematics, communication arts, social sciences, and science in order to receive a high school academic diploma from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, except that the parent or guardian of the student, or the student if he or she is an emancipated minor or no longer a minor, may choose the ACT, COMPASS, ASVAB, or GED instead of the statewide assessments; (2) A student receiving special education services whose education plan specifies that the student scores at least one standard deviation below average on a generally accepted intelligence test may be awarded a diploma of local achievement; and (3) A student who does not qualify under either of the above options must not be awarded any high school diploma.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 377	Swan	Requires school districts to develop a system for identifying students who are at risk of not being ready for college-level work or entry-level career positions. Requires the district policy to require academic and career counseling to take place sufficiently prior to graduation for any student found to be at risk to ensure the ability of the school to provide sufficient opportunities to the student to graduate college- or career-ready and on time.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 380	Swan	Requires the State Board of Education to establish minimum graduation requirements for a career and technical education high school diploma. Students entering high school in the 2016-2017 school year and beyond will be eligible to receive a CTE diploma. A CTE diploma will confer the same benefits for students that are conferred by any other high school diploma that meets the State Board of Education's graduation requirements.	Second Read; 01-08-15

BILL	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	BILL STATUS
HB 381	Swan	<p>Requires the Department to ensure that any high school equivalency test be administered in a manner that does not discriminate against students with a diagnosis of a mental health condition that affects learning or students with learning disabilities, as described in the act. If an applicant possesses such a condition or disability, the Department must administer an individualized test to accommodate the applicant.</p> <p>Requires, beginning January 1, 2016, the Department to offer applicants at least one additional high school equivalency testing option selected by the State Board of Education as an alternative to the HiSET testing program and the Iowa Testing Program. When selecting the additional test option, the State Board must consider the following factors: substantial equivalency of test scope and rigor with a comprehensive high school course of study leading to a diploma; the recognition of the test by other states; the test's portability; the cost to test takers, with priority given to achieving the lowest cost; and other criteria that meet the needs of individual test takers.</p> <p>Requires the State Board to adopt rules for a waiver of the fees for the high school equivalency examination. The Department must establish a sliding-fee scale. To be eligible for a financial hardship fee waiver, the applicant must demonstrate that he or she has achieved a minimum passing score on a high school equivalency practice test.</p>	Second Read; 01-08-15
HB 382	Swan	Requires the board of education of each school district to establish a comprehensive guidance and counseling program for students attending school in the district. The program shall include grade-level expectations for students in three areas: academic development; career development; and social and personal development.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HJR 6	Lauer	Proposes a constitutional amendment regarding when and the amount that a school district in a first classification charter county can become indebted.	Second Read; 01-08-15
HJR 14	Gardner	Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing appropriations from the Lottery Proceeds Fund to be used for early childhood programs.	Second Read; 01-08-15