

House File 428 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 428

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to establishment of an attendance center
2 performance scoring system by the department of education.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.34 Attendance center
2 performance scoring system.

3 1. For the purpose of this section, "*achievement growth*"
4 means a valid and reliable measurement of academic progress
5 over an academic year that exceeds the normative peer reference
6 group's rate of academic progress during the same academic
7 year.

8 2. The department shall develop an attendance center
9 performance scoring system that calculates aggregate growth as
10 well as aggregate proficiency of students which when combined
11 with other academic indicators results in an overall school
12 performance score for each attendance center and for the entire
13 school district. This information must be posted on the
14 department's internet site with information for each attendance
15 center listed separately.

16 3. The department shall develop criteria and a process
17 for school districts to use to establish specific performance
18 goals and to evaluate the performance of each attendance
19 center operated by the school district in order to arrive at
20 an overall school performance score for each attendance center
21 as well as for the entire school district. The criteria shall
22 include but not be limited to student achievement growth,
23 parent involvement, student attendance, employee turnover, and
24 community activities and involvement.

25 4. The department shall develop a student achievement
26 growth indicator that acknowledges attendance centers whose
27 annual rates of student achievement growth are higher than the
28 statewide average annual rate of student achievement growth.
29 The criteria for student achievement growth shall recognize
30 an attendance center or school district whose students,
31 in one academic year, achieve two or more academic years
32 of academic progress in comparison with the normative peer
33 reference group. Additionally, a closing gap score shall be
34 calculated as another measure to determine subgroup performance
35 and to rank and classify attendance centers. Other academic

1 indicators shall be defined as criterion-referenced variables
2 and shall include but not be limited to graduation rates and
3 college-readiness rates. Additional indicators of achievement
4 and progress may include post-graduation data, suspension
5 and expulsion rates, levels of student engagement, parent
6 satisfaction, parent engagement, and staff working conditions.

7 5. The overall school performance score may be used to do
8 the following:

9 a. Determine the level of support and specialized assistance
10 which must be provided to schools scoring at the lowest
11 performance levels statewide.

12 b. Recognize and share the best practices of schools scoring
13 at the highest performance levels statewide.

14 6. By June 30, 2015, the department shall provide technical
15 support and services to school districts for purposes of
16 aligning the attendance center performance scoring system
17 outcomes with the accreditation standards and process
18 established under section 256.11. The department shall release
19 the attendance center performance scoring system's scores and
20 ranking data to the school districts beginning September 1,
21 2016, and annually by September 1 thereafter. The department
22 shall release the attendance center performance scoring
23 system's scores and ranking data to the public no sooner than
24 October 1, 2016, and annually by October 1 thereafter.

25 Sec. 2. 2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 121, section 73, is amended
26 by striking the section.

27 Sec. 3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
28 BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. From July 1, 2015, through
29 August 31, 2016, the department shall provide professional
30 development to school district instructional staff relating
31 to Iowa's differentiated accountability model. At a minimum,
32 the professional development opportunities shall include
33 definitions of the metrics included in the attendance center
34 performance scoring system's rankings, resources and suggested
35 best instructional practices for school districts in the

1 lower half of the rankings, and assistance with communication
2 templates and strategies school districts may use to explain to
3 the community in clear and concise terms for a diverse audience
4 the rankings and their significance in identifying areas for
5 improvement at attendance centers and in school districts.

6 EXPLANATION

7 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 This bill directs the department of education to develop an
10 attendance center performance scoring system that calculates
11 aggregate growth as well as aggregate proficiency of students
12 which when combined with other academic indicators results in
13 an overall school performance score for each attendance center
14 and for the entire school district, to publish the results
15 on the department's internet site, and by June 30, 2015, to
16 provide technical support and services to school districts for
17 purposes of aligning the attendance center performance scoring
18 system outcomes with the accreditation standards and process
19 established under Code section 256.11.

20 The department shall develop criteria and a process for
21 school districts to use to establish specific performance
22 goals and to evaluate the performance of each attendance
23 center operated by the school district in order to arrive at
24 an overall school performance score for each attendance center
25 as well as for the entire school district. The criteria shall
26 include but not be limited to student achievement growth,
27 parent involvement, student attendance, employee turnover, and
28 community activities and involvement.

29 The department shall develop a student achievement growth
30 indicator and criteria that acknowledge attendance centers
31 whose annual rates of student achievement growth are higher
32 than the statewide average annual rate of student achievement
33 growth, and a closing gap score shall be calculated as another
34 measure to determine subgroup performance and to rank and
35 classify attendance centers. Other academic indicators shall

1 be defined as criterion-referenced variables and shall include
2 but not be limited to graduation rates and college-readiness
3 rates. Additional indicators of achievement and progress may
4 include post-graduation data, suspension and expulsion rates,
5 levels of student engagement, parent satisfaction, parent
6 engagement, and staff working conditions.

7 The overall school performance score may be used to
8 determine the level of support and specialized assistance which
9 must be provided to schools scoring at the lowest performance
10 levels statewide, and to recognize and share the best practices
11 of schools scoring at the highest performance levels statewide.

12 The department shall release the attendance center scores
13 and ranking data to districts beginning September 1, 2016,
14 and annually by September 1 thereafter. The department shall
15 release the attendance center scores and ranking data to the
16 public annually no sooner than October 1, 2016, and annually
17 by October 1 thereafter.

18 The department is directed to provide, from July 1, 2015,
19 through August 31, 2016, professional development to school
20 district instructional staff relating to Iowa's differentiated
21 accountability model. At a minimum, the professional
22 development opportunities shall include definitions of the
23 metrics included in the attendance center rankings resources
24 and suggested best instructional practices for districts in the
25 lower half of the rankings, and assistance with communication
26 templates and strategies school districts may use to explain to
27 the community in clear and concise terms for a diverse audience
28 the rankings and their significance in identifying areas for
29 improvement at attendance centers and in school districts.

30 The bill strikes a provision established in session law
31 in 2013 directing the department to develop and establish
32 attendance center performance rankings and to submit its
33 findings and recommendations in a report to the state board of
34 education, the governor, and the general assembly by July 1,
35 2014.