

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Implementing the Recommendations of the Standards Advisory Panel on the Profile
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Overview

The 1998 legislature established a standards advisory panel to make recommendations to the 1999 legislature on issues related to implementing the state's profile of learning. On December 10, 1998, the panel used a draft document prepared by the department of children, families and learning to make recommendations in five areas: record keeping; number of learning areas and content standards; process versus results; improvement of clarity and rigor; and other recommendations. The panel recommended, among other things, that the number of required learning areas be reduced from 10 to 5, that students be required to successfully complete one locally-selected performance assessment in 10 content standards, and that 11th grade students be tested using an existing testing instrument that allows students' scores to be compared with those of students in other states and nations.

- 1 Results-oriented graduation rule; basic skills requirements; profile of learning.** Requires students to successfully complete one content standard in each of the five core learning areas: (1) read listen, and view; (2) write and speak; (3) mathematical applications; (4) scientific applications; and (5) people and cultures. To the extent a district elects to require students to complete additional learning areas, limits to one the number of required content standards for each additional learning area.
- 2 District implementation of the profile of learning.** (b) As one alternative for implementing the profile of learning, requires a school district to implement the five core learning areas of (1) read listen, and view, (2) write and speak, (3) mathematical applications, (4) scientific applications, and (5) people and cultures, and permits the district to implement the other learning areas of the profile for the 1999-2000 school year and later.
(c) (1) As a second, phased-in alternative for implementing the profile of learning, requires a school district for the 1999-2000 school year and later to implement the five core learning areas and at least one required content standard at the preparatory level and implement for ninth grade students a minimum of three core learning areas. Allows the district to implement any of the

other learning areas of (6) literature and the arts, (7) inquiry, (8) decision making, (9) resource management, and (10) world language.

(c) (2) Requires the school district for the 2000-2001 school year and later to implement for ninth and tenth grade students the remaining two core learning areas if they were not implemented during the preceding school year. Allows the district to implement any of the other learning areas not already implemented.

(d) As a third, phased-in alternative for implementing the profile of learning, requires a school district to develop a commissioner-approved local plan to implement the profile of learning and implement all five core learning areas by the 2000-2001 school year.

(e) Requires school districts to notify the commissioner by July 1, 1999 under which alternative - paragraph (b), (c) or (d) - the district will implement the profile of learning.

Strikes language establishing an advisory committee to make recommendations on implementing the profile of learning.

- 3 Performance packages.** States that students are not required to complete state performance packages as a condition of successfully completing a content standard in any core or other learning area.
- 4 Statewide testing.** (b) Requires school districts to assess the performance of 11th grade students in all five core learning areas and at least one required content standard within each core learning area. Requires the testing instruments to permit valid and reliable comparisons with other states and nations. Requires the test to be administered beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.
(d) Provides for uniform testing of all 11th grade students, with limited exemptions.
- 5 Advisory group.** Directs the commissioner of the department of children, families and learning to convene an advisory group to make recommendations on strategies to meet the educational needs of high school students who fail to meet state or local graduation requirements. Lists advisory group participants. Requires the commissioner to submit advisory group recommendations by February 15, 2000, to the education committees of the legislature.
- 6 Effective date.** Makes sections 1 to 5 immediately effective.