

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Allows students enrolled in persistently low performing public schools in a city of the first class to transfer under open enrollment to another school district or program or to enroll in a nonpublic school. Establishes eligibility criteria for participating nonpublic schools.

1 **Enrollment options for students at low-performing public schools.**

Subd. 1. Student enrollment options. (a) Makes a student who attends a persistently low-performing school located in a city of the first class for one school year and whose family income does not exceed 175 percent of poverty eligible to enroll in a nonpublic school under this section or in a nonresident school district or program under the state's open enrollment law.

(b) Defines "persistently low-performing school" to mean a school located in a city of the first class where, for at least the past three school years, more than 40 percent of the students scored at the "does not meet standards" level on the reading or math MCA, more than 50 percent of students demonstrate growth in reading or math that is either not proficient with either low or medium growth or proficient with low growth, or 50 percent or more of secondary school students do not receive a passing score on the first administration of the reading, math, or writing GRAD test.

Subd. 2. Eligible nonpublic schools. (a) Requires an eligible nonpublic school under this section to: comply with gender equity requirements in athletic programs and the state human rights act; accommodate students under the American with Disabilities Act; adopt an antidiscrimination and harassment and violence prevention policy, and an anti-intimidation and bullying policy; submit data to the commissioner for the school report card; accept students on a random basis except for sibling preference; notify the commissioner of its intent to participate; and administer statewide reading and math tests to students enrolled under this section.

(b) Directs the commissioner to ensure that participating nonpublic schools comply with this subdivision.

Subd. 3. Tuition funding for students transferring to nonpublic schools. Directs the commissioner to make quarterly payments to the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a nonpublic school. Directs the commissioner to send the check to the nonpublic school to have

the parent restrictively endorse the check for the nonpublic school to use.

Subd. 4. Student transportation. Makes the resident school district responsible for transportation within the district's borders for a student enrolled in a nonpublic school. Provides the district with transportation funding equal to the actual cost of transportation services in the current school year.

Subd. 5. Funding for student testing. Directs the state to pay the nonpublic school for the costs of administering statewide tests.

Subd. 6. Curriculum review; exemption from instruction. Requires a participating nonpublic school to provide a procedure for parents and adult students to review instructional materials and to exempt students from instructional materials that are objectionable.

Subd. 7. Financial audit. Requires a participating nonpublic school annually by November 15 to submit a financial audit of the preceding school year to the commissioner.

Subd. 8. List of nonpublic schools. Directs the commissioner to publish a list of participating nonpublic schools.

Makes this section effective for the 2011-2012 school year and later.

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Enrollment options for students of low-performing schools; report. Directs the commissioner to report to the legislature by February 1, 2014, on enrollment options for students at low-performing public schools. Requires the report to examine student demographics and academic performance.