

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 273
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 5, 2011

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Subject: Enrollment options for students in low-performing schools

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Overview

Allows students enrolled in persistently low performing public schools 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 schools.**

Subd. 1. Student enrollment options. (a) Makes a student who attends a persistently low-performing school 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 where, for at least the past three school years, more than 25 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. Requires an eligible nonpublic school under this section to: comply with gender equity requirements in athletic programs and the state human rights act; accept students on a random basis except for sibling preference; notify the commissioner of its intent to participate; and comply with statewide student testing requirements. 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 and their enrollment policies.

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