

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Sawatzky

Subject: Reducing the paperwork burden of special educators through an online system for reporting due process compliance data

Analyst: Lisa Larson

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Overview

Directs the education commissioner to use federal OSEP model forms to integrate and customize a state-sponsored online case management system for reporting required due process compliance data, consistent with state law. Reallocates for this purpose a 2013 education department appropriation for special education paperwork cost savings.

Section

- 1** **Online reporting of required data.** (a) For compliance and accountability purposes for children with disabilities and to increase the opportunities of educators and service providers to focus on teaching children with disabilities, directs the education commissioner to use federal OSEP model forms to integrate and customize a statewide online system to collect and report required special education due process compliance data, consistent with state law.
- (b) Directs the commissioner to consult with various experts on maintaining the online system. Requires the online system, among other things, to successfully interface with existing state reporting systems and districts' local data systems and to:
- reduce the paperwork burden of special education teachers and increase their opportunity to focus on teaching children,
 - efficiently and effectively transmit transferring students' records to the extent authorized by chapter 13 on data practices or other applicable state or federal data practices law governing access to and dissemination of educational records,

Section

- address language and other barriers preventing parents from communicating information about their children with disabilities,
- facilitate school districts' ability to bill third party payers for health-related services provided to a child with disabilities,
- help improve the interface among the online systems serving children with disabilities,
- have expert technical assistance readily available to work with/on the online system.

(c) Directs the education commissioner to use federal OSEP model forms to integrate and customize a state-sponsored universal special education online case management system, consistent with the requirements of state law and this subdivision. Requires the online system to be made available to school districts without charge beginning in the 2015-2016 school year and later. Allows school districts to use the online system or contract with an outside vendor for the 2015-2016 through 2017-2018 school years and requires school districts to use this system beginning in the 2018-2019 school year for compliance reporting.

(d) Directs the commissioner to establish a public Internet web interface to provide information to educators, parents, and the public about special education reports, respond to special education queries, and use the information garnered from the interface to streamline and revise special education reporting and further adapt/customize the online system. Prohibits the web interface from providing access to the educational records of any individual child.

(e) Directs the commissioner to report annually to the legislature by February 1 on the status, changes, and sustainability of the online system.

- 2 **Special education paperwork cost savings.** Amends a 2013 general fund appropriation of \$1,763,000 to the department of education for education paperwork cost savings to allow the appropriation to be used for contracting for special technology and software needed for the online system under section 1.

Makes this section effective immediately.