

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1151
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 11, 2013

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Subject: MDE E-12 education policy proposals

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Overview

Contains the Minnesota department of education's E-12 education policy proposals.

Article 1 – General Education

Section

- 1 Length of school year; hours of instruction.** Requires at least 165 days of instruction in school.
- 2 PSEO pupils.** Allows school districts to use general education funds to transport PSEO students.
- 3 Uses of total operating capital revenue.** Allows school districts to use total operating capital revenue for computer hardware and software but not for annual licensing fees.
- 4 Continuing truant.** Clarifies state truancy laws as applied to charter schools.
- 5 Notice to parent or guardian when child is a continuing truant.** Clarifies state truancy laws as applied to charter schools.
- 6 Establishment.** Clarifies state truancy laws as applied to charter schools.
- 7 Establishment; referrals.** Clarifies state truancy laws as applied to charter schools.

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Article 2 – Education Excellence

- 1 **Definitions.** Defines academic standard, benchmark, credit, elective standard, required standard, and school site to clarify educational expectations for Minnesota students.
- 2 **Educational expectations and graduation requirements for Minnesota’s students.**
 - Subd. 1. **Educational expectations.** Strikes language to conform with the proposed definitions.
 - Subd. 2. **Graduation requirements.** Requires students to complete state and locally-required credits and academic standards and pass the GRAD tests in order to graduate from high school.

Makes this section effective August 1, 2013 and applicable to students entering 9th grade in the 2013-2014 school year and later.
- 3 **Required academic standards.** Strikes specific social studies subject areas. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 4 **Benchmarks.** Makes technical and conforming changes regarding high school graduation requirements.
- 5 **Credits.** Makes technical and conforming changes regarding high school graduation requirements. Strikes specific social studies subject areas.

Makes this section effective August 1, 2013 and applicable to students entering 9th grade in the 2013-2014 school year and later.
- 6 **Gifted and talented students program.** (a) Allows school districts to address the instructional and affective needs of gifted and talented students and provide appropriate educational programs.

(b) Directs school districts to adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying eligible students that include assessments and procedures sensitive to underrepresented student groups.

(d) Directs school districts to adopt procedures for early admission to kindergarten or first grade, including children younger than 5 for kindergarten or younger than 6 for first grade.
- 7 **Statewide testing.** Strikes obsolete language regarding the reading and math basic skills tests.
- 8 **Educational accountability and public reporting.** Makes a conforming change.
- 9 **Charter schools.**
 - Subd. 1. **Purposes.** Makes improving learning and student achievement the primary purpose of a charter school.

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Subd. 3. Authorizer. Makes technical changes.

Subd. 4. Formation of school. Clarifies and makes technical changes.

Subd. 4a. Conflict of interest. Exempts teachers employed at a charter school who serve on the charter school board of directors from conflict of interest provisions related to teachers' compensation.

Subd. 6. Charter contract. Clarifies and makes technical and conforming changes.

Subd. 6a. Audit report. (b) Requires charter schools to include supplemental information in the charter school audit report.

(c) Requires a charter school independent audit to include audited financial data of an affiliated building corporation.

Subd. 8. Federal, state, and local requirements. (j) Makes a technical change.

(s) Makes charter schools subject to state truancy laws.

Subd. 9. Admission requirements. (b) Requires a charter school to publish its lottery admissions process on its Web site.

(d) Limits kindergarten enrollment to students who are at least 5 years old on September 1 in that calendar year and limits first grade enrollment to students who are at least 6 years old on September 1 in that calendar year or have completed kindergarten. Allows a charter school to enroll students earlier according to prescribed enrollment procedures if notice is published on the charter school Web site.

(e) Makes a conforming change.

Subd. 11. Employment and other operating matters. Makes a conforming change.

Subd. 14. Annual public reports. Requires a charter school to post its annual report on the charter school Web site. Strikes a requirement that a charter school submit its annual report to the education commissioner.

Subd. 15. Review and comment. (b) Clarifies what annual fees an authorizer may assess. Makes technical and conforming changes.

(f) Requires a charter school to annually submit to the commissioner a statement of income as well as expenditures.

Subd. 17. Leased space. Allows a charter school to lease space from a school board without regard to whether the school board is eligible to be a charter school authorizer.

Subd. 17a. Affiliated nonprofit building corporation. (a) Requires an authorizer to submit an affidavit to the commissioner before a charter school may organize an

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affiliated nonprofit building corporation to expand an existing building.

Subd. 17b. Positive review and comment. Makes a technical change; adds a subdivision.

Subd. 19. Disseminate information. Strikes a requirement for charter school operators to disseminate information about forming and operating a charter school.

Subd. 23. Causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter school contracts.
(b) Allows a charter school contract to be terminated or not renewed for failing to demonstrate satisfactory academic achievement for all groups of students.

Subd. 25. Extent of specific legal authority. Strikes a requirement that a charter school submit a copy of its insurance policy or changes to that policy to the commissioner.

- 10 Establishment of flexible learning year program.** Allows a consortium of school districts to jointly apply to the commissioner to operate a flexible learning year program.
- 11 Community involvement.** Directs the commissioner annually to gather information on the status of American Indian education in Minnesota. Requires the commissioner to submit the information to Minnesota's American Indian tribes for review and comment.
- 12 Consultation with the tribal nations education committee.** (a) Directs the commissioner to consult with the tribal nations education committee on all issues relating to American Indian education.
(b) Declares that membership in the tribal nations education committee is solely at the committee's discretion.
- 13 Indian education director.** Requires the commissioner to appoint an Indian education director to serve as a liaison, evaluate American Indian education in Minnesota, engage the American Indian community, advise the commissioner on American Indian education issues, and keep the American Indian community informed by reporting to the committee.
- 14 Revisor's instruction.** Directs the revisor to make certain technical changes.
- 15 Repealer.** Repeals rules governing K-12 English language arts standards made obsolete by the English language arts standards revised and adopted in 2012.

Article 3 - Special Program

- 1 Continuation dependent on federal law.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 2 Eligibility for Part C.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.

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- 3 **Interagency child find systems.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 4 **Parent.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 5 **State interagency coordinating council.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 6 **Responsibilities of county boards and school boards.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 7 **Interagency early intervention committees.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C. Strikes a requirement that local early intervention committees review and comment upon the early intervention section of a district's total special education system.
- 8 **Individualized family services plan (IFSP).** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 9 **Service coordination.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 10 **Lead agency; allocation of resources.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 11 **Payment for services.** Makes technical changes to conform Minnesota Statutes with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 12 **Mediation procedure.** Requires a parent and the district to sign a parent's written request for mediation. requires the mediation to be completed within 30 days of when the education department, instead of the office of dispute resolution, receives the mediation request. Makes the resolution of the mediation binding on both parties.
- 13 **Rulemaking authority.** Directs the education commissioner to amend special education rules using the expedited rule making process to conform the rules with federal law governing IDEA, Part C.
- 14 **Repealer.** Repeals obsolete language on 1993 base year expenditures and costs.

Article 4 - Libraries

- 1 **Revisor's instruction.** Directs the revisor to change statutory references to state library services and to make corresponding technical changes.

Section

Article 5 - Childhood Education

- 1** **Early childhood education scholarships.** Precludes counting early childhood scholarships as earned income for purposes of medical assistance, MinnesotaCare, child care assistance, or Head Start programs.