

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1945
Version: As introduced

DATE: February 19, 2014

Authors: Bly and others

Subject: Nontraditional instructional program choices

Analyst: Lisa Larson

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Overview

Require school districts to offer interested students nontraditional instructional programs that include a career and college ready curriculum, are aligned with state and local academic standards, and are provided in a nontraditional context such as project or place-based learning, language immersion programs, career and technical programs, open schools, work-based schools, military schools, accelerated learning programs, and Montessori schools.

Section

- 1** **Definitions; World's Best Work Force.** (a) Includes nontraditional instructional programs within the definition of “instruction” for purposes of the World's Best Work Force.

(c) Includes striving to provide students with a choice of nontraditional instructional programs within the definition of the “World's Best Work Force.”

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.
- 2** **Performance measures.** Includes summary information about the effectiveness of nontraditional instructional programs as a measure of district and school progress in striving to create the World's Best Work Force.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.

Section

- 3** **District advisory committee.** Directs district advisory committees to consider nontraditional instructional programs when developing local recommendations for improving instruction and curriculum under the World's Best Work Force initiative.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.

- 4** **Planning for students' successful transition to postsecondary education and employment; personal learning plans.** Adds specific elements to the plans that districts must help student develop and implement in order for the students to become career and college ready and make a successful transition to postsecondary education and employment.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 5** **Individualized learning and instruction; improved student achievement.** Adds nontraditional instructional programs as a means for developing and improving individualized learning, instruction, and assessment under a site-based decision making agreement.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.

- 6** **Achievement contract.** Adds nontraditional instructional programs as a means for improving student performance under a site-based decision making agreement.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.

- 7** **Nontraditional instructional program choice.**

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines nontraditional instructional program to mean comprehensive instruction developed by districts in consultation with regional centers of excellence that includes a career and college ready curriculum aligned with state and local academic standards and provided in a nontraditional context. Provides examples of nontraditional instructional programs.

Subd. 2. Rigorous course of study waiver applies. Allows districts providing a nontraditional instructional program to declare under the statutory rigorous course of study waiver that students meet or exceed academic standards required for high school graduation.

Subd. 3. Program choice. Requires school districts in each K-12 grade and in non-graded programs to provide at least two nontraditional instructional programs that may vary by grade and account for at least 80 percent of an interested student's instructional day. Indicates that alternative learning centers and contract alternative programs do not meet the requirements of this section. Indicates that a charter school, to meet the requirements of this section, must be authorized by the school district and providing a nontraditional instructional program.

Subd. 4. Program compliance. (a) Directs a complying school district to meet the requirements in any paragraph (b) to (g).

Section

- (b) Allows a school district to offer two or more nontraditional instructional programs.
- (c) Allows a school district to offer nontraditional instructional programs at various school sites that combined offer comprehensive K-12 instruction.
- (d) Allows a school district to enter into school site decision making agreements that combined offer comprehensive K-12 instruction.
- (e) Allows a school district to enter into a joint powers agreement where (1) a member school district has fewer than 500 students, (2) a member school district complies with paragraph (b), (c), or (d), (3) a member district offering a nontraditional instructional program gives equal access to all students residing or enrolled in any member school district, and (4) the joint powers agreement provides for transporting students between member school districts.
- (f) A school district offer a K-12 nontraditional instructional program in a charter school authorized by the school district.
- (g) A school district offers a combination of options in paragraphs (b) to (f) to its K-12 students.
- (h) Allows a school district to create a nontraditional instructional program with limited enrollment if it establishes and publishes on its Web site information about the admissions process.
- (i) Requires a school district to annually submit to the education commissioner an electronic statement affirming its compliance with this section.

Subd. 5. Nontraditional instructional programs; adoption and accountability.

- (a) Requires school boards to publicly adopt a plan for implementing nontraditional instructional programs, including a program structure and description, the measures and processes for periodically assessing, evaluating, and reporting on the programs' efficacy, and the data-driven process for modifying a plan.
- (b) Requires school boards, in consultation with parents and community members, to review and revise nontraditional instructional programs using summary data on students' learning styles and outcomes from students' learning plans and input from parents and local and regional businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Subd. 6. Summary data; report. Requires the education commissioner to annually report to the legislature on school district participation in and outcomes for the nontraditional instructional programs they provide.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.