

**HB 1568 - DIGEST**

Creates the dropout prevention through farm engagement pilot project for the purpose of measuring the effectiveness and cost-benefit of a particular alternative high school program on improving outcomes for at-risk youth.

Requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction to: (1) Select five pilot projects from school districts that agree to partner with community-based organizations, food banks, and farms or gardens to establish an alternative high school program targeted primarily to at-risk youth; and

(2) Conduct a rigorous evaluation after the pilot projects have been operating for two years, including analysis of a statistical comparison group of students who did not participate in the project.

Expires August 31, 2018.