
Education Committee

HB 1151

Brief Description: Modifying education reporting requirements.

Sponsors: Representatives Volz and Pollet; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes the date by which school districts must annually submit a report on the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).
- Delays a specific annual data compilation and reporting requirement of the OSPI related to the LAP until January 1, 2020.
- Changes the date by which the OSPI must annually submit a report to the Legislature on the number of schools implementing a specific meal reimbursement program.
- Modifies requirements governing the annual submission of school district budgets and related documents to the OSPI.

Hearing Date: 1/24/19

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In addition to its constitutional charge of supervising all matter pertaining to public schools, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) and its office has numerous and broad responsibilities prescribed in statute, including:

- making rules and regulations necessary for the administration of public education requirements;
- preparing courses of study and other materials and books for the discharge of education duties;

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- fulfilling financial responsibilities, including distributing legislatively allocated funds to districts for the operation of the public school system, and awarding numerous state and federally funded grants;
- maintaining and revising, in consultation with the State Board of Education, a statewide academic assessment system to measure student knowledge and skills on state learning standards and for purposes of state and federal accountability; and
- satisfying numerous reporting and other duties assigned by the Legislature.

Learning Assistance Program Report.

The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) is part of the state's program of basic education. The LAP focuses on addressing the needs of students in grades kindergarten through four who are deficient in reading or reading readiness skills. The LAP is designed to: promote the use of data when developing programs to assist students who are not meeting academic standards and to reduce disruptive behaviors in the classroom; and guide school districts in providing the most effective and efficient practices when implementing supplemental instruction and services.

School districts must provide a report to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) each August 1 that indicates:

- the amount of academic growth gained by students participating in the LAP;
- the number of students in the LAP who gain at least one year of academic growth; and
- the specific practices, activities, and programs used by each school building that received funding for the LAP.

The OSPI is required to compile the school district data and report annual and longitudinal gains for the specific practices, activities, and programs used by districts to show which are the most effective.

Community Eligibility Provision Report.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act provides an alternative to household applications for free or reduced price meals by allowing schools with high numbers of low-income students to serve free meals to all enrolled students.

Legislation adopted in 2018 requires the OSPI to develop and implement a plan to increase the number of schools participating in the CEP for the 2018-19 school year and in subsequent years. In addition to the plan implementation duties, each September 1 the OSPI is required to annually report to the Legislature the number of schools that have implemented the CEP.

School District Budgets.

School districts must prepare their budgets for the ensuing fiscal year annually by July 10. The budget development process must include the development or update of a four-year budget plan with a four-year enrollment projection. The four-year budget plan must include an estimate of funding necessary to maintain the continuing costs of program and service levels and any existing supplemental contract obligations.

The completed budget must include a summary of the four-year budget plan and the complete financial plan of the district for the ensuing fiscal year. School districts are required to submit a copy of their budget and the four-year budget plan summary to their educational service district (ESD) and the OSPI for review and comment by July 10.

Copies of the budgets for all school districts must be filed with the SPI by September 10, with one copy retained by the ESD.

Summary of Bill:

The date by which school districts must annually submit a report on the LAP to the OSPI is changed from August 1 to September 30. The requirement that the OSPI compile the school district data and report annual and longitudinal gains for the specific practices, activities, and programs of districts is modified to specify that the first report is due January 1, 2020, and that subsequent reports are due each January 1.

The date by which the OSPI must annually submit a report to the Legislature on the number of schools implementing the CEP is changed from September 1 to December 1.

Procedural requirements governing the submission of school district budgets and related documents each year are modified. School districts must submit one copy of their proposed budget and their four-year budget plan summary to the applicable ESD for review and comment by July 10. A provision requiring that copies of school district budgets and four-year budget plan summaries also be submitted to the OSPI is removed.

Copies of the budgets for all school districts that must be filed with the SPI each year by September 10 must also include the four-year budget plan prepared by the district.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.