

2011 Missouri Legislative Session Summary

Bills that passed

HB 2 – DESE Appropriations

All special education line items are level funded with the exception of ECSE which is funded at \$144,660,376 an increase of \$9,450,000 from last year.

HB 15 – Supplemental Appropriations of Federal Stabilization Funds for DESE

This bill appropriates \$189.7 million to keep the foundation formula funded.

HB 18 – Federal Appropriations for ARRA funding

This bill authorizes reimbursement of ARRA IDEA and ESEA expenditures for schools.

HB 300 – Rep Calloway

This bill requires school boards to work with the Missouri State High School Activities Association to develop guidelines, information, and forms to address the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including information on continuing to play after a concussion or head injury. An athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury must be removed from competition until evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives a written clearance to return to play.

SB 81 – Senator Pearce

This bill allows DESE to support fine arts professional development activities in each Regional Professional Development Center. It also eliminates the 1.25% multiplier for summer school that would have gone into effect with the current summer school attendance numbers and allows books of a religious nature to be used in the classroom in elective courses in literature and history.

HB 648 – Rep Montecillo

This bill changes the references in state law from “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability or developmental disability”.

HB 604 – Rep Long

This bill prohibits removing a child from parent custody or terminating parental rights based on the fact the parent has a disability and prohibits using disability as a reason for denying adoption rights or allowing a person to serve as a foster parent.

HB 555 – Rep Grisamore

This bill designates October as Disability History and Awareness month in public schools and allows public schools to provide instruction to expand student knowledge, understanding and awareness of individuals with disabilities, the history of disability and the disability rights movement. It also allows DESE to identify and adopt curriculum guidelines and encourages higher education to include similar awareness activities.

Bills that did not pass

SB 13 – Senator Pearce

This bill establishes a task force on teacher compensation charged with making recommendations on educator evaluations which must include and consider academic growth of their students. A report must be provided by December 31, 2011.

HB 677 – Rep Wells

This bill repeals the sunset clause on the mandated vision examination for children entering Kindergarten or first grade. This bill does not reauthorize the other provisions of the original act including the required vision screening provisions.

HB 473 – Rep Jones

The HCS expands charter schools to those districts that are unaccredited or provisionally accredited with the existing list of potential sponsors along with additional sponsor options. It also allows local boards of education in any district that is accredited to establish a charter school. The HCS also adds accountability measures and included language to clearly require non-discrimination in enrollment and compliance with IDEA and Section 504 special education provisions.

HB 556 – Rep Grisamore

This bill requires K-12 schools to provide instruction on disability history and awareness in October of each year. The instruction is to expand knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities, the history of disability, and the disability rights movement.

HB 513 - Rep Newman

This bill expands the current state law that addresses the use of service dogs to include individuals with intellectual disabilities and adds the activity of "search and rescue" to the tasks a service dog may perform.

HB 139 – Rep Smith

This bill requires DESE to collect and OA to publish on the Missouri Accountability Portal salary information for all public school system employees.

SBC/SB 242 – Senator Cunningham

A student whose residence is located closer to a school in an adjoining district than to his or her assigned school may enroll in an adjoining district upon receiving approval from the adjoining district. Parents are responsible for transportation and if a receiving district denies enrollment, a family can appeal to the State Board of Education. This bill is a form of open enrollment and it does not address any of the special education concerns identified.

SB 370 – Senator Cunningham

This bill allows students in an unaccredited district to transfer to districts in the same or adjoining county with local tax effort paid by the unaccredited district into a scholarship fund administered by DESE and all state aid that would go to the unaccredited district paid directly to the receiving district. The student may use the scholarship at an accredited nonpublic school, virtual school, charter school, or accredited school district that accepts him or her. An accredited district is not required to accept the student unless the student is able to demonstrate that he or she has already been rejected by 7 other schools.

HB 628 – Rep Dieckhaus

There have been a number of HCS versions for this bill and the most recent would repeal the teacher tenure laws and establishes a system with single or multi-year contracts in place of the current probationary and tenured teacher contracts. An annual performance evaluation would be required for teachers and administrators that would be developed and adopted by local school boards along with associated pay scales.

HB 639 – Rep McNary & HB 511 Rep Nasheed

These bills require retention when students are not proficient in reading by the 3rd grade. Interventions must be provided for struggling readers before and after a mandatory retention. Students with disabilities are only exempt if they are exempted from statewide assessments

(1%) or have already been retained one year and are continuing to receive intensive intervention in reading.

HB 393 – Rep Jones

This bill allows parents to invoke interventions for a struggling school when more than 50% of the parents whose children attend the school sign a petition, the school district or charter school must implement the intervention requested within 180 days. The interventions can be restart where the school closes and reopens under a charter school operator or a charter or educational management organization; or a closure where the students are enrolled in a higher achieving district school in reasonable proximity. If no such school exists, the district must implement an educational choice or voucher program.

HB 463 - Rep Mc Nary & SB 329 – Senator Nieves

These bills would expand the current virtual program language to allow establishment of virtual charter schools statewide.

HB 455 – Rep Hodges

This bill requires, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, every public school district to screen its students for Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) before the end of first grade and again before the end of third grade.

HB 559 - Rep Grisamore

This bill amends existing statute language related to accessible instructional materials requiring schools to procure from vendors who provide accessible electronic text (such as the NIMAS file sets required by IDEA) for purchase. In addition, it gives schools the right to transcribe, reproduce and distribute materials in alternative format needed by IDEA and 504 eligible students.