

ASSESSMENTS AND ACCREDITATION

By June 30, 2006, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will align assessment performance standards to create four levels, correlated with grade level expectations established by the department. The "at-grade level" standard will align with the "proficient" standard used in the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The department will make other changes necessary to meet federal requirements; and by July 1, 2006, the department will revise its accreditation standards to permit process and resource standard waivers consistent with academic performance profiles. The accreditation scoring rubric must not require points for the Parents as Teachers Program, although deficiencies may be noted as an area of concern and must reward districts that use instructional technology to accomplish their advanced placement goals.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Beginning with school year 2004-2005, summer school attendance must be counted for the year in which it occurs; attendance from previous years' summer school will not count. This substitute clarifies that the nepotism provisions of the Missouri Constitution apply to school districts. Districts serving the same students, such as K-8 districts and the districts that provide high schools to those districts, must make a good-faith effort to coordinate their school calendars. Districts and their bus contractors must consult the sex offender registration list before deciding upon the location of bus stops, and buses must carry passenger manifests. Districts must provide the results of bus safety inspections and any corporate safety information to parents each year.

STUDENTS

Students who are suspended for acts of violence or drug-related activity cannot be within 1,000 feet of any public school under certain conditions outlined in the substitute. The City of St. Louis school district is permitted to raise its compulsory school attendance age to 17 by action of the school board. The substitute permits districts to develop incentives or supplementary work as a consequence of a student's performance on the statewide assessments.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The department must seek feedback on its rules and regulations and give priority to the review of existing regulations that

could be relaxed in hard economic times, as defined in the substitute, without affecting student achievement. The department will audit district transportation contracts annually. The Division of Family Services cannot meet with a child in the same school or child care facility where abuse is alleged to have occurred. Currently, the division cannot meet with a child at any school or child care facility. This provision contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Total Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2005, \$527,188 to \$741,410 in FY 2006, and \$532,460 to \$748,834 in FY 2007. Total Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds of \$0 in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.