

HB 331 -- GED+ Program

Sponsor: Faith

This bill establishes the GED+ Program within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that students achieve a certificate of general educational development (GED) and continue to either a college or post-secondary education or to a high-wage job. The program, which will be administered by the Commissioner of Education, incorporates adult education and literacy programs that provide measurable goals and specify the skills and knowledge that students must attain for successful completion of the program, including rigorous course work and competency standards in academic subjects, as provided by rule. A partnership plan with local business and labor leaders, among others, will be updated each year and will specify procedures for identifying students who may need additional services. Transition and mentoring services must also be included in the plan.

The State Board of Education, with the advice and consent of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, must establish a tuition reimbursement procedure for public community colleges or vocational or technical schools that serve GED+ students who have been enrolled in an adult literacy program for at least 75 hours before passing the GED exam, made a good faith effort to secure federal student assistance, earned specified scores on the GED exam, and completed 50 hours of volunteer tutoring in the program. The Commissioner of Education must develop an annual effectiveness evaluation procedure for the program with the results provided to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tem of the Senate.