

HB 2422 -- 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 proceed to a college or post-secondary vocational or technical school or to a high-wage job. The program, which will be administered by the Commissioner of Education, must incorporate adult education and literacy program standards that establish measurable goals and specify the skills, competencies, and knowledge that students must demonstrate to successfully complete the program, including rigorous course work and competency standards in basic academic subjects as provided by rules of the State Board of Education. The state board must develop a partnership plan in cooperation and with the advice of local business and labor leaders and higher education representatives. The plan must be updated each year and will specify procedures for identifying students who may need intervention services to remain in the GED classes. Transitioning and mentoring services to GED recipients who will enter post-secondary education and the workforce must also be specified in the plan.

The state board, 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 available federal student assistance, earned specified scores on the GED exam, and completed at least 50 hours of volunteer tutoring in the program. The commissioner 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.