

HB 1876 -- A+ Schools Program

Sponsor: Long

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish, with the advice of the Commissioner of Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education, a process by which a student who is enrolled in an unaccredited district in a public high school that is not an A+ designated school who otherwise qualifies for an A+ award may apply for and receive reimbursement under the A+ Schools Program. In addition to other qualifications, a student must attain a score of at least 18 on the English portion of the ACT test. The Commissioner of Education must designate school officers, such as guidance counselors, who will be authorized to validate a student's eligibility. The commissioner must monitor the accuracy of the validations and may revoke an individual's authority to certify eligibility if a disproportionate number of ineligible students is validated. A school district may be required to repay reimbursements made for ineligible students.