

HB 626 -- School District Accreditation

Sponsor: McNeil

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and implement a grant program for unaccredited and provisionally accredited school districts that commit to extended school time to improve academic achievement. The grants will be for a two-year term and will be renewable for two additional terms. An applicant must demonstrate that it has analyzed its current use of instructional time, including the effects on student achievement and personnel assignments, and provide a rationale for the method of adding time. Grant awards will be proportional to the amount of additional time over the minimum instruction time required by law and the average daily attendance rate of the affected students with priority given to unaccredited districts. The Extended Instructional Time Fund is created to be administered by the department for the deposit of moneys appropriated to it by the General Assembly and any gifts, contributions, or bequests.