

HB 745 -- Higher Education Scholarships

Sponsor: Thomson

This bill adds identical provisions to the A+ Program, the higher education academic scholarship, commonly known as "Bright Flight," and Access Missouri that require, for those graduating from high school during the 2016-17 academic year and after:

(1) An applicant to achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the algebra I end-of-course assessment or on a higher level of mathematics end-of-course assessment approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or a qualifying score established each year by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education on the ACT COMPASS exam or the math component of the ACT except for a student who is enrolling in a certificate program;

(2) An applicant to achieve a score of proficient or advanced on the English I end-of-course assessment or on a higher level of English end-of-course assessment approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or a qualifying score established each year by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education on the ACT COMPASS exam or the English component of the ACT except for a student who is enrolling in a certificate program; and

(3) A recipient, beginning with the 2014-15 academic year for Access Missouri, to complete 24 semester hours each year in order to renew an award.

The bill also allows an eligible student who is unable to enroll or has stopped attending because of illness or other medical need or to serve a nonprofit organization, government agency, or in the armed forces, to undertake or renew an A+ or Access Missouri award within time periods specified by the bill.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must provide guidance to school districts about allowing a student to retake the end-of-course assessments, including information about practices that have increased a student's chances of successfully achieving a higher score.