

SB 701 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

This bill changes the laws regarding elementary and secondary education.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS (Section 160.522, RSMo)

Each school district may include the data from a charter school located within the district in its annual accountability report card if the school board of the district and the charter school reach a mutual agreement for the inclusion of the data and the terms of the agreement are approved by the State Board of Education. The charter school cannot be required to be a part of the local education agency of the school district and may maintain a separate local educational agency status.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (Section 168.205)

Two or more school districts may share a superintendent who possesses a valid Missouri superintendent's license without seeking approval from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM (Sections 262.960 - 348.407)

The Farm-to-School Program is established within the Department of Agriculture to connect Missouri farmers and schools to provide schools with locally grown agricultural products for inclusion in school meals and snacks and to strengthen local farming economies. The department must designate an employee to administer the program and to serve as liaison between farmers and schools. The departments of Health and Senior Services and Elementary and Secondary Education and the Office of Administration must provide staff support. The duties of the department employee coordinating the program must include establishing and maintaining a website database, providing leadership to encourage schools to procure and use locally grown agricultural products, conducting workshops and training sessions and providing technical assistance regarding the program, and seeking additional financial sources to support the program.

The bill establishes the Farm-to-School Taskforce under the AgriMissouri Program, which must include at least one representative from each of the following agencies: the University of Missouri extension service, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Office of Administration. The Director of the Department of Agriculture must appoint two persons actively engaged in the practice of small agribusiness. The Director of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must appoint two persons from schools who

direct a food service program. The taskforce's mission is to provide recommendations for strategies that allow schools to more easily incorporate locally grown agricultural products into their food service and allow schools to work with food service providers to ensure greater use of locally grown agricultural products by developing standardized language for food service contracts. The taskforce must review various food service contracts to identify standardized language that could be included in contracts to allow schools to more easily procure and use locally grown agricultural products. The taskforce must prepare a report with its findings and recommendations and submit it to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the director of each agency on the taskforce by December 31, 2015. These provisions will expire on December 31, 2015.

The Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority may make grants, loans, or loan guarantees to Missouri businesses to access resources for accessing and processing locally grown agricultural products for use in schools.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Section 1)

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is prohibited from penalizing any school district under the Missouri School Improvement Program if students who complete approved career and technical education programs are not placed in occupations directly relating to their training within six months of graduation. The department must revise its scoring guide under the program to provide additional points to districts that partner with area career centers, comprehensive high schools, industry, and business to develop and implement a pathway for students to enroll in a program of career and technical education while in high school, participate in and complete an internship or apprenticeship in their senior year, and obtain the applicable industry certification or credentials. The department must permit student scores from a nationally recognized examination that demonstrates achievement of workplace employability skills to count toward credit for college and career readiness standards on the program.