

HB 849 -- VIRTUAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill changes the laws regarding virtual education by:

(1) Changing the definition of "full-time equivalent student" from a student who has successfully completed the instructional equivalent of six credits per regular term to the equivalent of six credits or more per regular term;

(2) Allowing students to be eligible to take virtual courses that extend the full-time instructional equivalent;

(3) Specifying that in no case can more than eight credits or hours of blended or full on-line coursework be considered full-time equivalency of a regular term of attendance for a single student when used to claim state aid;

(4) Changing the required disbursement from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for students enrolled in virtual coursework to be up to 100%, instead of the current 15%, of specified state aid attributable to each student and requiring the disbursement to be allocated to any virtual coursework for either individual credits or a fully-online program;

(5) Specifying that when a Missouri resident student is enrolled in an unaccredited or provisionally accredited district, the funding may be distributed by the department directly to the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program or an approved fully-online virtual school in the name of the attending student; and

(6) Specifying that, subject to appropriations, the department must disburse an amount corresponding to 100% of the state adequacy target attributable to a student to the virtual public school, instead of the current 85%.