

HB 2571 -- MISSOURI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT

SPONSOR: Dunn

This bill establishes the Missouri Early Childhood Education Act, which allows children who are at least four years of age but no more than five years of age by August 1 and have not attended public school kindergarten, to attend half-day or whole-day early childhood programs where a program is offered. Children attending the program will count for the residence district's calculation of average daily attendance but will not be counted for purposes of determining whether the district has exceeded the 4% cap described in Section 163.018, RSMo. Another district may agree to accept the child if the child's district does not offer a program, but may refuse a child who does not meet the age requirements or whose attendance would strain the physical and staff resources of the district. The child will count in the nonresidence district's calculation of average daily attendance.