

HB 2246 -- CHARTER SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill changes the law regarding charter schools. The bill requires a charter school to seek to ensure that it meets a performance standard in which the percentage of its students who perform proficient and advanced on the annual statewide system of assessments in English language arts and mathematics is equal to or higher than the average percentage of grade-level-equivalent students in nonselective attendance centers in the school district in which it is located who perform proficient and advanced in English language arts and mathematics (Section 160.405, RSMo).

If a charter school, other than one in which 50% or more of the school's students were previously considered dropouts, receives scores for at least two years demonstrating that the school has not met the performance standard, the charter school's sponsor shall revoke the charter or take other remedial action, which may include a probationary period (Section 160.405).

If a sponsor places a school on probation, the Missouri Charter Public School Commission shall be responsible for oversight of the charter school and shall determine the requirements of the remedial plan, which shall be implemented for three years. The commission shall revoke the charter at the end of the three-year period if the annual performance report score of the charter school is consistent with a classification of unaccredited for two of the three years, or consistent with a classification of provisionally accredited for each of the three years (Section 160.405).

A sponsor's renewal process for a charter school, other than one in which 50% or more of the school's students were previously considered dropouts, shall consider if the school met the performance standard in two of the three consecutive years immediately before the renewal decision is made. If such a charter school did not meet the standard in that period, any renewal granted shall be for only a three-year term. If the school again fails to meet the standard at any time during that three-year term, the school's charter shall not be renewed (Section 160.400).

Any sponsor of a charter school that failed to receive renewal of its charter after the three-year term shall not sponsor any new charter schools until the State Board of Education has determined that the sponsor was in compliance with all laws regarding charter schools for any charter school it sponsored at the time a charter school failed to receive such renewal (Section 160.400).

The bill also requires that any institution of higher education

acting as a sponsor of a charter high school shall ensure that the charter school includes an option for students to receive a training certificate or associate degree upon graduation (Section 160.400).

The bill also provides that if a student transfers from a public or charter school to another public or charter school after the last Wednesday in September but before the administration of the statewide assessments, the student's scores on any statewide assessment taken at the school to which he or she transferred shall count toward the performance of the school from which he or she transferred for purposes of the annual performance report (Section 160.518).