

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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May 18, 2011

Listed below are two different legislative updates. The first one is an update on legislation passed. The second is the status of the bills that were distributed in March.

SB 228 Code of Conduct sponsored by Siplin: Requires the district school board to include in the code of student conduct adopted by the board an explanation of the responsibilities of each student with regard to appropriate dress and respect for self and others. Requires a student be banned from participating in extracurricular activities for five days on second offense of the rules and up to thirty days on third offense.

Implications: Students in violation will be banned from participating in extracurricular activities.

SB 736 Education Personnel by Budget and Education Pre-K-12 Wise Co-sponsors Lynn Gaetz, Hays Titled the “Student Success Act” Revises provisions relating to the evaluation of instructional personnel and school administrators. Requires the DOE to approve each school district’s instructional personnel and school administrator evaluation systems. Requires school districts to administer assessments for each course offered in the district.

Implications: Assessment of student learning in fine arts courses will need to be developed and implemented. Evaluation of fine arts teachers will be revised in the district.

HB 1255 Education Accountability by Education Committee and K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee and Adkins. “Catch-all Bill” Revises numerous provisions relating to K-12 education systems. virtual instruction courses... In addition, allows for a student in grades 6-8 and 9-12 that score a level 1 or 2 in reading that have had a level 3 or above for the previous 3 years to be exempt from the requirement of intensive reading if they have an academic improvement plan in place. This bill also added middle school career academies.

Implications: Students who in the past were required to take intensive reading may be exempt. An insurgence of middle school career courses may arise.

HB 1329 John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program by Bileca Expands the scholarship vouchers to approximately 50,000 additional students without IEPs who qualify for accommodations under 504.

Implications: Allows for more students to leave the public school setting.

SB 2120 Class size: Language in the PreK12 budget conforming bill redefines the term “core curricula courses” for the purpose of designating classes subject to the

maximum class size requirements. The bill also provides flexibility for school districts to implement class size requirements when additional students enroll in a school after the October survey.

Implications: Allows more flexibility for classes not identified as “core”

HB 7197 Digital Learning by K-20 Innovation and Stargel Mandates that every student take at least one online course prior to graduation and that statewide assessments be administered online by the 2014-2015 school year.

Implications: The bill allows a massive expansion of the use of online education.

UPDATE FROM MARCH

Legislative Session –There are a couple of bills that we tracked closely. This is an update of the information distributed earlier through our legislative alert.

SB1320 Physical Education in Public Schools sponsored by Wise, co-sponsored by Sobel and Storms: This bill provides a waiver for middle school students requirement for physical education under specified circumstances. It had the first hearing by the PreK-12 Education committee in the senate on April 5.

ACTION: Died in Budget Monday, May 9, 2011

HB349 Physical Education in Public Schools sponsored by Kiar: This bill deletes the parent requested waiver for physical education. While troubling at first glance, since this bill is not moving and was last addressed on March 8th, we are not too concerned. Of course, we will continue to monitor it closely. There is no need for action on your part at this time. In addition, we have met with Representative Kiar on this particular bill.

ACTION: Died in K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee, Saturday, May 7, 2011

HB 289 Sponsored by McBurney

SB 988 Sponsored by Detert

Public School Student Participation in Fine Arts Courses. This bill is a critical bill for fine arts as it provides for the participation of fine arts courses to be calculated in the school grade for elementary, middle and high school. We are in strong favor of this bill and continue to work with the bill sponsors to move it forward. Currently the last movement was March 8.

ACTION: Did not move to committee

HB1249 Career Education Sponsored by Nelson: This bill revises career and education planning course for middle grades promotion. Currently in K-20 Innovation Subcommittee last movement for the bill was March 14. Closely monitoring this bill.

ACTION: Did not move to Committee

SB1830 High School Career Diploma sponsored by Wise: This bill requires a student and a student’s parent to agree in writing to the requirements for a career

diploma track. Specifies the 24 credits needed for this diploma. This bill lessens the requirement of fine arts credit for students seeking this diploma. Currently the last movement on this bill was March 14. Closely monitoring this bill.

ACTION: Died in Education Pre K-12 Monday May 9, 2011

SB 1620 K-12 Educational Instruction sponsored by Flores: Adds statewide virtual providers to the list of public school choices. Authorizes the creation of a virtual charter school with funding. In addition it provides that home education students may enroll in certain virtual education courses or courses offered in the school district in which they reside. This bill may have an impact on school enrollment that indirectly has an impact on school fine arts programs.

ACTION: Laid on Table refer to HB 7197

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ACTION: Ordered Enrolled

By now we would hope that you have your established network in place and you too are poised to move into action if necessary. Hopefully, you have already been in contact with your legislators and/or their aides to ask them to be diligent in their bills to ensure that there are no unintended consequences that would impede the students' participation in fine arts course work.

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