

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 266
103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0642H.05C

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.261, 160.263, 160.775, 160.2700, 160.2705, 160.2710, 161.670, 162.065, 162.069, 162.705, 163.044, 163.045, 163.172, 167.950, 168.025, 168.036, 168.410, 170.048, 170.315, and 173.232, RSMo, and section 161.026 as enacted by senate bill no. 743, ninety-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and section 161.026 as enacted by house bill no. 1606, ninety-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and to enact in lieu thereof thirty new sections relating to elementary and secondary education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 160.261, 160.263, 160.775, 160.2700, 160.2705, 160.2710, 2 161.670, 162.065, 162.069, 162.705, 163.044, 163.045, 163.172, 167.950, 168.025, 168.036, 3 168.410, 170.048, 170.315, and 173.232, RSMo, and section 161.026 as enacted by senate 4 bill no. 743, ninety-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and section 161.026 as 5 enacted by house bill no. 1606, ninety-ninth general assembly, second regular session, are 6 repealed and thirty new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.261, 7 160.263, 160.775, 160.1052, 160.1053, 160.1054, 160.1055, 160.2700, 160.2705, 160.2710, 8 161.026, 161.670, 162.065, 162.069, 162.207, 162.705, 163.044, 163.045, 163.172, 167.167, 9 167.950, 168.025, 168.036, 168.331, 168.410, 168.411, 170.048, 170.315, 171.216, and 10 173.232, to read as follows:

160.261. 1. **(1)** The local board of education of each school district shall clearly 2 establish a written policy of discipline, including the district's determination on the use of 3 corporal punishment and the procedures in which punishment will be applied. A written copy 4 of the district's discipline policy and corporal punishment procedures, if applicable, shall be

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

5 provided to the pupil and parent or legal guardian of every pupil enrolled in the district at the
6 beginning of each school year and also made available in the office of the superintendent of
7 such district, during normal business hours, for public inspection. No pupil shall be subject to
8 corporal punishment procedures outlined in the discipline and corporal punishment policy
9 without a parent or guardian being notified and providing written permission for the corporal
10 punishment.

11 (2) All employees of the district shall ~~annually~~ receive instruction related to the
12 specific contents of the policy of discipline and any interpretations necessary to implement
13 the provisions of the policy in the course of their duties, including but not limited to approved
14 methods of dealing with acts of school violence, disciplining students with disabilities and
15 instruction in the necessity and requirements for confidentiality. **Such instruction shall be
16 provided as established in section 168.331.**

17 2. (1) The policy shall require school administrators to report acts of school violence
18 to all teachers at the attendance center and, in addition, to other school district employees with
19 a need to know.

20 (2) For the purposes of this chapter or chapter 167, "need to know" is defined as
21 school personnel who are directly responsible for the student's education or who otherwise
22 interact with the student on a professional basis while acting within the scope of their
23 assigned duties. As used in this section, the phrase "act of school violence" or "violent
24 behavior" means the exertion of physical force by a student with the intent to do serious
25 physical injury as defined in section 556.061 to another person while on school property,
26 including a school bus in service on behalf of the district, or while involved in school
27 activities.

28 (3) The policy shall at a minimum require school administrators to report, as soon as
29 reasonably ~~practical~~ **practicable**, to the appropriate law enforcement agency any of the
30 following crimes, or any act which if committed by an adult would be one of the following
31 crimes, **committed on school property including, but not limited to, actions on any school
32 bus in service on behalf of the district or while involved in school activities:**

33 ~~[(1)]~~ (a) First degree murder under section 565.020;

34 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) Second degree murder under section 565.021;

35 ~~[(3)]~~ (c) Kidnapping under section 565.110 as it existed prior to January 1, 2017, or
36 kidnapping in the first degree under section 565.110;

37 ~~[(4)]~~ (d) First degree assault under section 565.050;

38 ~~[(5)]~~ (e) Rape in the first degree under section 566.030;

39 ~~[(6)]~~ (f) Sodomy in the first degree under section 566.060;

40 ~~[(7)]~~ (g) Burglary in the first degree under section 569.160;

41 ~~[(8)]~~ (h) Burglary in the second degree under section 569.170;

42 ~~[(9)]~~ (i) Robbery in the first degree under section 569.020 as it existed prior to
43 January 1, 2017, or robbery in the first degree under section 570.023;
44 ~~[(10)]~~ (j) Distribution of drugs under section 195.211 as it existed prior to January 1,
45 2017, or manufacture of a controlled substance under section 579.055;
46 ~~[(11)]~~ (k) Distribution of drugs to a minor under section 195.212 as it existed prior to
47 January 1, 2017, or delivery of a controlled substance under section 579.020;
48 ~~[(12)]~~ (l) Arson in the first degree under section 569.040;
49 ~~[(13)]~~ (m) Voluntary manslaughter under section 565.023;
50 ~~[(14)]~~ (n) Involuntary manslaughter under section 565.024 as it existed prior to
51 January 1, 2017, involuntary manslaughter in the first degree under section 565.024, or
52 involuntary manslaughter in the second degree under section 565.027;
53 ~~[(15)]~~ (o) Second degree assault under section 565.060 as it existed prior to January 1,
54 2017, or second degree assault under section 565.052;
55 ~~[(16)]~~ (p) Rape in the second degree under section 566.031;
56 ~~[(17)]~~ (q) Felonious restraint under section 565.120 as it existed prior to January 1,
57 2017, or kidnapping in the second degree under section 565.120;
58 ~~[(18)]~~ (r) Property damage in the first degree under section 569.100;
59 ~~[(19)]~~ (s) The possession of a weapon under chapter 571;
60 ~~[(20)]~~ (t) Child molestation in the first degree pursuant to section 566.067 as it
61 existed prior to January 1, 2017, or child molestation in the first, second, or third degree
62 pursuant to section 566.067, 566.068, or 566.069;
63 ~~[(21)]~~ (u) Sodomy in the second degree pursuant to section 566.061;
64 ~~[(22)]~~ (v) Sexual misconduct involving a child pursuant to section 566.083;
65 ~~[(23)]~~ (w) Sexual abuse in the first degree pursuant to section 566.100;
66 ~~[(24)]~~ (x) Harassment under section 565.090 as it existed prior to January 1, 2017, or
67 harassment in the first degree under section 565.090; or
68 ~~[(25)]~~ (y) Stalking under section 565.225 as it existed prior to January 1, 2017, or
69 stalking in the first degree under section 565.225[;].
70
71 ~~[committed on school property, including but not limited to actions on any school bus in~~
72 ~~service on behalf of the district or while involved in school activities.]~~
73 (4) The policy shall require that any portion of a student's individualized education
74 program that is related to demonstrated or potentially violent behavior shall be provided to
75 any teacher and other school district employees who are directly responsible for the student's
76 education or who otherwise interact with the student on an educational basis while acting
77 within the scope of ~~[their]~~ **such teacher's or employees'** assigned duties.

78 (5) The policy shall also contain the consequences of failure to obey standards of
79 conduct set by the local board of education, and the importance of the standards to the
80 maintenance of an atmosphere where orderly learning is possible and encouraged.

81 3. The policy shall provide that any student who is on suspension for any of the
82 offenses listed in subsection 2 of this section or any act of violence or drug-related activity
83 defined by school district policy as a serious violation of school discipline pursuant to
84 subsection 9 of this section shall have as a condition of his or her suspension the requirement
85 that such student is not allowed, while on such suspension, to be within one thousand feet of
86 any school property in the school district where such student attended school or any activity
87 of that district, regardless of whether or not the activity takes place on district property unless:

88 (1) Such student is under the direct supervision of the student's parent, legal guardian,
89 or custodian and the superintendent or the superintendent's designee has authorized the
90 student to be on school property;

91 (2) Such student is under the direct supervision of another adult designated by the
92 student's parent, legal guardian, or custodian, in advance, in writing, to the principal of the
93 school which suspended the student and the superintendent or the superintendent's designee
94 has authorized the student to be on school property;

95 (3) Such student is enrolled in and attending an alternative school that is located
96 within one thousand feet of a public school in the school district where such student attended
97 school; or

98 (4) Such student resides within one thousand feet of any public school in the school
99 district where such student attended school in which case such student may be on the property
100 of his or her residence without direct adult supervision.

101 4. Any student who violates the condition of suspension required pursuant to
102 subsection 3 of this section may be subject to expulsion or further suspension pursuant to the
103 provisions of sections 167.161, 167.164, and 167.171. In making this determination
104 consideration shall be given to whether the student poses a threat to the safety of any child or
105 school employee and whether such student's unsupervised presence within one thousand feet
106 of the school is disruptive to the educational process or undermines the effectiveness of the
107 school's disciplinary policy. Removal of any pupil who is a student with a disability is subject
108 to state and federal procedural rights. This section shall not limit a school district's ability to:

109 (1) Prohibit all students who are suspended from being on school property or
110 attending an activity while on suspension;

111 (2) Discipline students for off-campus conduct that negatively affects the educational
112 environment to the extent allowed by law.

113 5. The policy shall provide for a suspension for a period of not less than one year, or
114 expulsion, for a student who is determined to have brought a weapon to school, including but

115 not limited to the school playground or the school parking lot, brought a weapon on a school
116 bus or brought a weapon to a school activity whether on or off of the school property in
117 violation of district policy, except that:

118 (1) The superintendent or, in a school district with no high school, the principal of the
119 school which such child attends may modify such suspension on a case-by-case basis; and

120 (2) This section shall not prevent the school district from providing educational
121 services in an alternative setting to a student suspended under the provisions of this section.

122 6. For the purpose of this section, the term "weapon" shall mean a firearm as defined
123 under 18 U.S.C. Section 921 and the following items, as defined in section 571.010: a
124 blackjack, a concealable firearm, an explosive weapon, a firearm, a firearm silencer, a gas
125 gun, a knife, knuckles, a machine gun, a projectile weapon, a rifle, a shotgun, a spring gun or
126 a switchblade knife; except that this section shall not be construed to prohibit a school board
127 from adopting a policy to allow a Civil War reenactor to carry a Civil War era weapon on
128 school property for educational purposes so long as the firearm is unloaded. The local board
129 of education shall define weapon in the discipline policy. Such definition shall include the
130 weapons defined in this subsection but may also include other weapons.

131 7. All school district personnel responsible for the care and supervision of students
132 are authorized to hold every pupil strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or
133 on any property of the school, on any school bus going to or returning from school, during
134 school-sponsored activities, or during intermission or recess periods.

135 8. Teachers and other authorized district personnel in public schools responsible for
136 the care, supervision, and discipline of schoolchildren, including volunteers selected with
137 reasonable care by the school district, shall not be civilly liable when acting in conformity
138 with the established policies developed by each board, including but not limited to policies of
139 student discipline or when reporting to his or her supervisor or other person as mandated by
140 state law acts of school violence or threatened acts of school violence, within the course and
141 scope of the duties of the teacher, authorized district personnel or volunteer, when such
142 individual is acting in conformity with the established policies developed by the board.
143 Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a new cause of action against such school
144 district, or to relieve the school district from liability for the negligent acts of such persons.

145 9. Each school board shall define in its discipline policy acts of violence and any
146 other acts that constitute a serious violation of that policy. "Acts of violence" as defined by
147 school boards shall include but not be limited to exertion of physical force by a student with
148 the intent to do serious bodily harm to another person while on school property, including a
149 school bus in service on behalf of the district, or while involved in school activities. School
150 districts shall for each student enrolled in the school district compile and maintain records of
151 any serious violation of the district's discipline policy. Such records shall be made available

152 to teachers and other school district employees with a need to know while acting within the
153 scope of their assigned duties, and shall be provided as required in section 167.020 to any
154 school district in which the student subsequently attempts to enroll.

155 10. Spanking, when administered by certificated personnel and in the presence of a
156 witness who is an employee of the school district, or the use of reasonable force to protect
157 persons or property, when administered by personnel of a school district in a reasonable
158 manner in accordance with the local board of education's written policy of discipline, is not
159 abuse within the meaning of chapter 210.

160 11. Upon receipt of any reports of child abuse by the children's division pursuant to
161 sections 210.110 to 210.165 which allegedly involve personnel of a school district, the
162 children's division shall notify the superintendent of schools of the district or, if the person
163 named in the alleged incident is the superintendent of schools, the president of the school
164 board of the school district where the alleged incident occurred.

165 12. In order to ensure the safety of all students, should a student be expelled for
166 bringing a weapon to school, violent behavior, or for an act of school violence, that student
167 shall not, for the purposes of the accreditation process of the Missouri school improvement
168 plan, be considered a dropout or be included in the calculation of that district's educational
169 persistence ratio.

160.263. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

2 (1) "Mechanical restraint", the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's
3 freedom of movement. Mechanical restraint shall not include devices implemented by trained
4 personnel or used by a student with a prescription for such devices from an appropriate
5 medical or related services professional and that are used for specific and approved purposes
6 for which such devices were designed, such as the following:

7 (a) Adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position,
8 balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the
9 use of such devices or mechanical supports;

10 (b) Vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in
11 a moving vehicle;

12 (c) Restraints for medical immobilization; or

13 (d) Orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities
14 without risk;

15 (2) "Physical restraint", a personal restriction such as person-to-person physical
16 contact that immobilizes, reduces, or restricts the ability of a student to move the student's
17 torso, arms, legs, or head freely. Physical restraint shall not include:

18 (a) A physical escort, which is a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist,
19 arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of inducing a student to walk to a safe location;

- 20 (b) Comforting or calming a student;
- 21 (c) Holding a student's hand to transport the student for safety purposes;
- 22 (d) Intervening in a fight; or
- 23 (e) Using an assistive or protective device prescribed by an appropriately trained
- 24 professional or professional team;
- 25 (3) "Prone restraint", using mechanical or physical restraint or both to restrict a
- 26 student's movement while the student is lying with the student's front or face downward;
- 27 (4) "Restraint" includes, but is not limited to, mechanical restraint, physical restraint,
- 28 and prone restraint;
- 29 (5) "Seclusion", the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area that
- 30 the student is physically prevented from leaving and that complies with the building code in
- 31 effect in the school district. Seclusion shall not include the following:
- 32 (a) A timeout, which is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved
- 33 program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a nonlocked setting, and is
- 34 implemented for the purpose of calming;
- 35 (b) In-school suspension;
- 36 (c) Detention; or
- 37 (d) Other appropriate disciplinary measures.
- 38 2. The school discipline policy under section 160.261 shall reserve confining a
- 39 student in seclusion for situations or conditions in which there is imminent danger of physical
- 40 harm to self or others.
- 41 3. For all school years beginning on or after July 1, 2022, no school district, charter
- 42 school, or publicly contracted private provider shall use any mechanical, physical, or prone
- 43 restraint technique that:
- 44 (1) Obstructs views of the student's face;
- 45 (2) Obstructs the student's respiratory airway, impairs the student's breathing or
- 46 respiratory capacity, or restricts the movement required for normal breathing to cause
- 47 positional or postural asphyxia;
- 48 (3) Places pressure or weight on or causes the compression of the student's chest,
- 49 lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, abdomen, or genitals;
- 50 (4) Obstructs the student's circulation of blood;
- 51 (5) Involves pushing on or into the student's mouth, nose, eyes, or any part of the face
- 52 or involves covering the face or body with anything including, but not limited to, soft objects
- 53 such as pillows, blankets, or washcloths;
- 54 (6) Endangers the student's life or significantly exacerbates the student's medical
- 55 condition;
- 56 (7) Is purposely designed to inflict pain;

57 (8) Restricts the student from communicating. If an employee physically restrains a
58 student who uses sign language or an augmentative mode of communication as the student's
59 primary mode of communication, the student shall be permitted to have the student's hands
60 free of restraint for brief periods unless an employee determines that such freedom appears
61 likely to result in harm to self or others.

62 4. (1) By July 1, 2011, the local board of education of each school district shall adopt
63 a written policy that comprehensively addresses the use of restrictive behavioral interventions
64 as a form of discipline or behavior management technique. The policy shall be consistent
65 with professionally accepted practices and standards of student discipline, behavior
66 management, health and safety, including the safe schools act. The policy shall include
67 but not be limited to:

68 (a) Definitions of restraint, seclusion, and time-out and any other terminology
69 necessary to describe the continuum of restrictive behavioral interventions available for use
70 or prohibited in the district, consistent with the provisions of this section;

71 (b) Description of circumstances under which a restrictive behavioral intervention is
72 allowed and prohibited, consistent with the provisions of this section, and any unique
73 application requirements for specific groups of students such as differences based on age,
74 disability, or environment in which the educational services are provided;

75 (c) Specific implementation requirements associated with a restrictive behavioral
76 intervention such as time limits, facility specifications, training requirements or supervision
77 requirements; and

78 (d) Documentation, notice and permission requirements associated with use of a
79 restrictive behavioral intervention.

80 (2) Before July 1, 2022, each written policy adopted under this subsection shall be
81 updated to prohibit the school district, charter school, or publicly contracted private provider
82 from using any restraint that employs any technique listed in subsection 3 of this section.

83 (3) Before July 1, 2022, each written policy adopted under this subsection shall be
84 updated to state that the school district, charter school, or publicly contracted private provider
85 will reserve restraint or seclusion for situations or conditions in which there is imminent
86 danger of physical harm to self or others.

87 5. Before July 1, 2022, each school district, charter school, and publicly contracted
88 private provider shall ensure that the policy adopted under subsection 4 of this section
89 requires the following:

90 (1) Any student placed in seclusion or restraint shall be removed from such seclusion
91 or restraint as soon as the school district, charter school, or publicly contracted private
92 provider determines that the student is no longer an imminent danger of physical harm to self
93 or others;

94 (2) All school district, charter school, and publicly contracted private provider
95 personnel shall annually review the policy and procedures involving the use of seclusion and
96 restraint. Personnel who use seclusion or restraint shall [~~annually~~] complete mandatory
97 training in the specific seclusion and restraint techniques the school district, charter school, or
98 publicly contracted private provider uses under this section. **Such training shall be**
99 **provided as established in section 168.331;**

100 (3) (a) Each time seclusion or restraint is used for a student, the incident shall be
101 monitored by a member of the school district, charter school, or publicly contracted private
102 provider personnel, and a report shall be completed by the school district, charter school, or
103 publicly contracted private provider that contains, at a minimum, the following:

104 a. The date, time of day, location, duration, and description of the incident and
105 interventions;

106 b. Any event leading to the incident and the reason for using seclusion or restraint;

107 c. A description of the methods of seclusion or restraint used;

108 d. The nature and extent of any injury to the student;

109 e. The names, roles, and certifications of each employee involved in the use of
110 seclusion or restraint;

111 f. The name, role, and signature of the person who prepared the report;

112 g. The name of an employee whom the parent or guardian can contact regarding the
113 incident and use of seclusion or restraint;

114 h. The name of an employee to contact if the parent or guardian wishes to file a
115 complaint; and

116 i. A statement directing parents and legal guardians to a sociological, emotional, or
117 behavioral support organization and a hotline number to report child abuse and neglect.

118 (b) The school district, charter school, or publicly contracted private provider shall
119 maintain the report as an education record of the student, provide a copy to the parent or legal
120 guardian within five school days, and a copy of each incident report shall be given to the
121 department of elementary and secondary education within thirty days of the incident;

122 (4) The school district, charter school, or publicly contracted private provider shall
123 attempt to notify the parents or legal guardians as soon as possible but no later than one hour
124 after the end of the school day on which the use of seclusion or restraint occurred.
125 Notification shall be oral or electronic and shall include a statement indicating that the school
126 district, charter school, or publicly contracted private provider will provide the parents or
127 legal guardians a copy of the report described in subdivision (3) of this subsection within five
128 school days;

129 (5) An officer, administrator, or employee of a public school district or charter school
130 shall not retaliate against any person for having:

131 (a) Reported a violation of any policy established under this section or failure of a
132 district or charter school to follow any provisions of this section in relation to incidents of
133 seclusion and restraint; or

134 (b) Provided information regarding a violation of this section by a public school
135 district or charter school or a member of the staff of the public school district or charter
136 school.

137 6. The department of elementary and secondary education shall compile and maintain
138 all incidents reported under this section in the department's core data system and make such
139 data available on the Missouri comprehensive data system. No personally identifiable data
140 shall be accessible on the database.

141 7. The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in cooperation with
142 appropriate associations, organizations, agencies and individuals with specialized expertise in
143 behavior management, develop a model policy that satisfies the requirements of subsection 2
144 of this section as it existed on August 28, 2009, by July 1, 2010, and shall update such model
145 policy to include the requirements of subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection 4 and subsection 5
146 of this section by July 1, 2022.

160.775. 1. Every district shall adopt an antibullying policy by September 1, 2007.

2 2. "Bullying" means intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that
3 is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for
4 his or her physical safety or property; substantially interferes with the educational
5 performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception; or substantially
6 disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying may consist of physical actions,
7 including gestures, or oral, cyberbullying, electronic, or written communication, and any
8 threat of retaliation for reporting of such acts. Bullying of students is prohibited on school
9 property, at any school function, or on a school bus. "Cyberbullying" means bullying as
10 defined in this subsection through the transmission of a communication including, but not
11 limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device including, but
12 not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device,
13 computer, or pager.

14 3. Each district's antibullying policy shall be founded on the assumption that all
15 students need a safe learning environment. Policies shall treat all students equally and shall
16 not contain specific lists of protected classes of students who are to receive special treatment.
17 Policies may include age-appropriate differences for schools based on the grade levels at the
18 school. Each such policy shall contain a statement of the consequences of bullying.

19 4. Each district's antibullying policy shall be included in the student handbook and
20 shall require, at a minimum, the following components:

21 (1) A statement prohibiting bullying, defined no less inclusively than in subsection 2
22 of this section;

23 (2) A statement requiring district employees to report any instance of bullying of
24 which the employee has firsthand knowledge. The policy shall require a district employee
25 who witnesses an incident of bullying to report the incident to the district's designated
26 individual at the school within two school days of the employee witnessing the incident;

27 (3) A procedure for reporting an act of bullying. The policy shall also include a
28 statement requiring that the district designate an individual at each school in the district to
29 receive reports of incidents of bullying. Such individual shall be a district employee who is
30 teacher level staff or above;

31 (4) A procedure for prompt investigation of reports of violations and complaints,
32 identifying one or more employees responsible for the investigation including, at a minimum,
33 the following requirements:

34 (a) Within two school days of a report of an incident of bullying being received, the
35 school principal, or his or her designee, shall initiate an investigation of the incident;

36 (b) The school principal may appoint other school staff to assist with the
37 investigation; and

38 (c) The investigation shall be completed within ten school days from the date of the
39 written report unless good cause exists to extend the investigation;

40 (5) A statement that prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an
41 act of bullying and the consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who
42 engages in reprisal or retaliation;

43 (6) A statement of how the policy is to be publicized; and

44 (7) A process for discussing the district's antibullying policy with students and
45 training school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students in the
46 requirements of the policy, including, at a minimum, the following statements:

47 (a) The school district shall provide information and appropriate training to the school
48 district staff who have significant contact with students regarding the policy. **Such training**
49 **shall be provided as established in section 168.331;**

50 (b) The school district shall give annual notice of the policy to students, parents or
51 guardians, and staff;

52 (c) The school district shall provide education and information to students regarding
53 bullying, including information regarding the school district policy prohibiting bullying, the
54 harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to address bullying, including
55 student peer-to-peer initiatives to provide accountability and policy enforcement for those
56 found to have engaged in bullying, reprisal, or retaliation against any person who reports an
57 act of bullying;

58 (d) The administration of the school district shall instruct its school counselors,
59 school social workers, licensed social workers, mental health professionals, and school
60 psychologists to educate students who are victims of bullying on techniques for students to
61 overcome bullying's negative effects. Such techniques shall include, but not be limited to,
62 cultivating the student's self-worth and self-esteem; teaching the student to defend himself or
63 herself assertively and effectively; helping the student develop social skills; or encouraging
64 the student to develop an internal locus of control. The provisions of this paragraph shall not
65 be construed to contradict or limit any other provision of this section; and

66 (e) The administration of the school district shall implement programs and other
67 initiatives to address bullying, to respond to such conduct in a manner that does not stigmatize
68 the victim, and to make resources or referrals available to victims of bullying.

69 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any school district shall
70 have jurisdiction to prohibit cyberbullying that originates on a school's campus or at a district
71 activity if the electronic communication was made using the school's technological resources,
72 if there is a sufficient nexus to the educational environment, or if the electronic
73 communication was made on the school's campus or at a district activity using the
74 student's own personal technological resources. The school district may discipline any
75 student for such cyberbullying to the greatest extent allowed by law.

76 6. Each district shall review its antibullying policy and revise it as needed. The
77 district's school board shall receive input from school personnel, students, and administrators
78 when reviewing and revising the policy.

**160.1052. 1. Sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "Missouri Educators and Parental Empowerment and Rights Act".**

3 2. As used in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055, the following terms mean:

4 (1) "Local educational agency" or "LEA", each:

5 (a) School district as defined in section 160.011;

6 (b) Charter school as described in section 160.400; and

7 (c) Virtual school as described in section 161.670;

**8 (2) "Parent", a child's parent, legal guardian, or other person having charge,
9 control, or custody of the child.**

10 3. The general assembly hereby recognizes that:

**11 (1) The collaboration of both parents and teachers has a profound effect on the
12 educational success of Missouri's children;**

**13 (2) Education is essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the
14 people;**

15 **(3) Considering that parents are the first teacher of their child and are uniquely**
16 **qualified to understand and advocate for their child, the state recognizes their**
17 **importance in the education of their children; and**

18 **(4) Considering the years of education and continuous updating of knowledge**
19 **that teachers undertake and achieve, it is important that teachers be given the respect**
20 **such teachers have earned and deserve.**

160.1053. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Parents' Bill
2 **of Rights".**

3 **2. To foster and maintain collaboration between parents and teachers, parents**
4 **shall have the following rights under this section:**

5 **(1) The right to receive information, upon request, regarding what their minor**
6 **child is being taught in school including, but not limited to, curricula adopted under**
7 **section 160.514;**

8 **(2) The right to review such curricula, upon request, free from any requirement**
9 **to agree to a nondisclosure agreement or other similar form, as allowed by law;**

10 **(3) The right to receive information, upon request, about who is teaching their**
11 **minor child including, but not limited to, guest lecturers and outside presenters;**

12 **(4) The right to receive information, upon request, about individuals and**
13 **organizations receiving LEA contracts and funding in the LEA in which their minor**
14 **child is enrolled, except that no personally identifiable information about any student**
15 **shall be released;**

16 **(5) The right to visit the school their minor child attends during school hours in**
17 **accordance with reasonable regulations created under section 160.1055;**

18 **(6) The right to view and, upon request, receive a copy of all school records,**
19 **medical or otherwise, concerning their minor child, in accordance with state and federal**
20 **law;**

21 **(7) The right to receive information, upon request, about the collection of their**
22 **minor child's data and the transmission of such data to entities outside the LEA;**

23 **(8) The right to have an LEA governing board that is open, transparent, and**
24 **accountable to the patrons of the LEA under state and federal laws;**

25 **(9) The right to be informed regarding situations affecting their minor child's**
26 **safety in school, in accordance with section 160.1055;**

27 **(10) The right to provide authorization for their minor child to participate in**
28 **field trips; and**

29 **(11) The right to be free from their minor child being encouraged or**
30 **experiencing any attempt at coercion to withhold information from such minor child's**
31 **parents by an LEA employee, except that any such employee required to report**

32 suspected abuse or neglect under sections 210.109 to 210.183 may encourage a minor
33 child to withhold information where disclosure could reasonably result in abuse or
34 neglect.

160.1054. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Educators'
2 Bill of Rights".

3 2. To foster and maintain collaboration between teachers and parents, each
4 teacher has the following rights under this section:

5 (1) The right to be free from physical abuse from a student. Such abuse is
6 grounds for the suspension or expulsion of the student as provided in chapter 167;

7 (2) The right to be free from physical abuse from a parent and to be protected
8 from oral, written, or electronically generated threats of harm. Such abuse is grounds
9 for the prohibition of the physical presence of the perpetrator of such abuse on the
10 LEA's property and at the LEA's events and may result in other legal actions taken by
11 such teacher;

12 (3) The right to be evaluated for competency by an administrator under board
13 policy and, upon request, to be assigned a peer mentor to observe and coach the teacher;

14 (4) The right to exercise the freedom of speech, religion, and the expression of
15 such teacher's opinions as is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States;

16 (5) The right to be treated with civility and respect as a professional;

17 (6) The right to be given regularly scheduled preparation time during contract
18 hours;

19 (7) The right to teach protected by official immunity, as provided by state law,
20 and to be covered by LEA insurance for work-related duties;

21 (8) The right to have the opportunity to implement a discipline plan in the
22 classroom as allowed in section 160.1055 and to have the opportunity to provide the
23 administration with such teacher's professional opinion regarding the discipline of a
24 student;

25 (9) The right to be considered a professional, with all the appropriate rights,
26 responsibilities, and privileges afforded to other recognized professions, in accordance
27 with section 168.011;

28 (10) The right to teach in a safe, secure, and orderly environment that is
29 conducive to learning and to report any concerns regarding the safety and security of
30 the teaching environment and receive a response from the LEA;

31 (11) The right to intervene for the protection of pupils in incidents of school
32 violence and be entitled to all defenses to criminal charges available to the intervenor
33 under chapter 563; and

34 **(12) If such teacher is a beginning teacher, the right to receive leadership and**
35 **support in accordance with beginning teacher assistance programs as provided in state**
36 **law.**

160.1055. 1. Each local educational agency shall develop policies and procedures
2 **for such LEA to follow to accommodate and assist parents and teachers in the exercise**
3 **of the rights described in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055.**

4 **2. Each LEA's governing board shall affirm the board's commitment to ensuring**
5 **sufficient and effective accountability and transparency to parents in the LEA's**
6 **jurisdiction by adopting policies that:**

7 **(1) Recognize and affirm the protected right of parents to guide the education of**
8 **their minor child;**

9 **(2) Encourage communication between parents and the LEA relating to parental**
10 **rights and parental concerns about their minor child's education and educational**
11 **experience through the LEA's community engagement initiatives required under**
12 **162.058; and**

13 **(3) Collaborate with parents to identify ways in which parents can exercise**
14 **parental rights and communicate such ways to parents in a clear, consistent manner that**
15 **can be easily understood by all parents.**

16 **3. Each local educational agency shall notify parents in a timely manner if their**
17 **child is involved in a safety incident in which a school employee is charged with a crime.**

18 **4. Each local educational agency shall provide prompt notification to parents of**
19 **any serious disciplinary incidents involving their child and shall offer a meeting or**
20 **conference to discuss the behavior and outline steps for correction and improvement.**

21 **5. (1) Each local educational agency shall adopt reasonable procedures for**
22 **parents to follow when visiting their minor child during school hours.**

23 **(2) Each local educational agency shall adopt reasonable procedures for parents**
24 **to follow:**

25 **(a) During an emergency in which the safety of the students requires:**

26 **a. A lockdown to limit exposure of building occupants to an imminent hazard or**
27 **threat; or**

28 **b. A lockout to prevent an outside hazard or threat from entering the building;**
29 **or**

30 **(b) When such local educational agency is required to prohibit an individual**
31 **from having any interaction with a minor child due to an order entered under any**
32 **provision of state or federal law restricting or prohibiting such individual from**
33 **interacting with such minor child or the LEA has otherwise prohibited the individual**
34 **from accessing school property or events.**

35 **6. (1) Teachers, school administrators, parents, and students shall be fully**
36 **informed of the rights conferred upon parents and teachers under sections 160.1052 to**
37 **160.1055. Each LEA shall provide a physical or electronic copy of sections 160.1052 to**
38 **160.1055 to each parent, teacher, and student at the beginning of each school year.**

39 **(2) Each local educational agency shall post the rights listed in sections 160.1052**
40 **to 160.1055 on such LEA's website or provide a printed copy if no website exists.**

41 **7. (1) Each local educational agency shall adopt, enforce, publicly post, and**
42 **annually review a code of student conduct as described in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055.**

43 **(2) Such code of conduct shall promote safe, respectful, and orderly learning**
44 **environments by reinforcing teacher authority in maintaining classroom discipline and**
45 **enhancing parental involvement in student behavioral issues and shall set forth**
46 **expectations for behavior consistent with ethical responsibility, community standards,**
47 **and regard for school authority.**

48 **(3) Each local educational agency shall adopt such code of student conduct for**
49 **the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years.**

50 **(4) The state department of elementary and secondary education may offer**
51 **guidance and technical assistance to local educational agencies to ensure compliance.**
52 **The department shall not impose undue burdens or mandates on such LEAs.**

53 **8. The code of student conduct required under subsection 7 of this section shall:**

54 **(1) Reinforce respect for teachers, administrators, and staff, emphasizing that**
55 **willful disobedience or disregard toward school personnel is not tolerated;**

56 **(2) Promote high expectations of personal responsibility, encouraging students to**
57 **uphold values such as honesty, diligence, and civility;**

58 **(3) Include measures to address and correct disruptive behavior promptly,**
59 **ensuring that teachers have the necessary authority and support to remove students**
60 **from classrooms when warranted, in accordance with training provided by the LEA;**

61 **(4) Outline a system of graduated consequences for misconduct, balanced by**
62 **opportunities for students to develop personal resilience and reflect on their actions**
63 **through LEA-approved interventions;**

64 **(5) Require parental notification and involvement in significant disciplinary**
65 **actions, ensuring that parents have timely information and opportunities to engage with**
66 **teachers and administrators; and**

67 **(6) Clearly prohibit any policy or program that differentiates treatment of**
68 **students primarily on the basis of race alone, ensuring that all disciplinary measures are**
69 **applied equally and fairly to every student.**

70 **9. (1) A local educational agency may, at such LEA's discretion and with the**
71 **LEA's governing board's approval, incorporate evidence-based training for teachers**
72 **and counselors on strategies to guide students toward personal resilience.**

73 **(2) Such strategies may include:**

74 **(a) Encouraging personal responsibility and self-management;**

75 **(b) Providing students with opportunities to develop coping skills, conflict**
76 **resolution techniques, and appropriate responses to authority; and**

77 **(c) Using school counselors or other qualified personnel to offer supportive**
78 **interventions that emphasize respect for self and others, problem solving, and**
79 **perseverance.**

80 **(3) The content and method of delivering such strategies shall not reference or**
81 **require any training or curriculum primarily focused on race, gender, or other similar**
82 **classifications. Such strategies shall emphasize universal community standards that**
83 **benefit all students equally.**

84 **10. Each local educational agency shall ensure that teachers and staff are trained**
85 **in methods to maintain order, encourage compliance, foster civility, and encourage**
86 **personal responsibility.**

87 **11. Each local educational agency shall make efforts to facilitate parental**
88 **engagement through regular communication, opportunities for parents to review and**
89 **understand the policy handbook, and the provision of resources that support ethical**
90 **responsibility and community standards at home.**

91 **12. Each LEA's governing board shall adopt such policies and procedures**
92 **required by this section for the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years.**

93 **13. No LEA shall establish policies that prevent a parent or teacher from**
94 **exercising the applicable rights listed in sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 or any other**
95 **provision of law.**

96 **14. No provision of sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 shall be construed to supersede**
97 **any other federal or state law or any regulation or policy adopted by the state**
98 **department of elementary and secondary education or the state board of education.**

99 **15. No provision of sections 160.1052 to 160.1055 shall be construed to supersede**
100 **any LEA's order, ordinance, or policy relating to the discipline of students.**

 160.2700. For purposes of sections 160.2700 to 160.2725, "adult high school" means
2 a school that:

3 **(1) Is for individuals who do not have a high school diploma and who are [twenty-**
4 **one] eighteen years of age or older;**

5 (2) Offers an industry certification program or programs and a high school diploma in
6 a manner that allows students to earn a diploma at the same time that they earn an industry
7 certification;

8 (3) Offers child care for children of enrolled students attending the school; and

9 (4) Is not eligible to receive funding under section 160.415 or 163.031.

160.2705. 1. The department of social services shall authorize Missouri-based
2 nonprofit organizations meeting the criteria of this section to establish and operate up to five
3 adult high schools, with:

4 (1) One adult high school to be located in a city not within a county;

5 (2) One adult high school to be located in a county of the third classification without a
6 township form of government and with more than forty-one thousand but fewer than forty-
7 five thousand inhabitants or a county contiguous to that county;

8 (3) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with
9 more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer than three hundred thousand inhabitants or a
10 county contiguous to that county;

11 (4) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with
12 more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand inhabitants; and

13 (5) One adult high school to be located in a county with more than seven hundred
14 thousand but fewer than eight hundred thousand inhabitants, or a contiguous county.

15 2. The department of social services shall administer funding to adult high schools
16 subject to appropriations. The department shall be responsible for granting and maintaining
17 authorization for adult high schools. For adult high schools in operation prior to January 1,
18 2023, the department shall maintain authorization for the nonprofit organization to operate the
19 schools, subject to compliance with this section. No more than one organization shall be
20 authorized to operate an adult high school at each location described in subsection 1 of this
21 section. An organization may establish satellite campuses for any adult high school it is
22 authorized to operate. The department shall administer funding for satellite campuses subject
23 to appropriations.

24 3. On or before January 1, 2024, the department of social services shall select an
25 eligible Missouri-based nonprofit organization to operate in a location described in
26 subdivision (5) of subsection 1 of this section. An eligible organization shall:

27 (1) Demonstrate the ability to establish, within twenty-one months of the receipt of
28 the authorization, an adult high school offering high school diplomas, an industry certification
29 program or programs, and child care for children of the students attending the high schools;

30 (2) Demonstrate the ability to commit at least five hundred thousand dollars for the
31 purpose of establishing the necessary infrastructure at the adult high school;

32 (3) Demonstrate substantial and positive experience in providing services, including
33 industry certifications and job placement services, to adults ~~[twenty-one]~~ **eighteen** years of
34 age or older whose educational and training opportunities have been limited by educational
35 disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or similar circumstances;

36 (4) Establish a partnership with a state-supported postsecondary education institution
37 or more than one such partnership, if a partnership or partnerships are necessary in order to
38 meet the requirements for an adult high school;

39 (5) Establish a comprehensive plan that sets forth how the adult high schools will help
40 address the need for a sufficiently trained workforce in the surrounding region for each adult
41 high school;

42 (6) Establish partnerships and strategies for engaging the community and business
43 leaders in carrying out the goals of each adult high school;

44 (7) Establish the ability to meet quality standards through certified teachers and
45 programs that support each student in such student's goal to find a more rewarding job;

46 (8) Establish a plan for assisting students in overcoming barriers to educational
47 success including, but not limited to, educational disadvantages, homelessness, criminal
48 history, disability, including learning disability such as dyslexia, and similar circumstances;

49 (9) Establish a process for determining outcomes of the adult high school, including
50 outcomes related to a student's ability to find a more rewarding job through the attainment of
51 a high school diploma and job training and certification; and

52 (10) Limit the administrative fee to no more than ten percent.

53 4. (1) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish
54 academic requirements for students to obtain high school diplomas.

55 (2) Requirements for a high school diploma shall be based on an adult student's prior
56 high school achievement and the remaining credits and coursework that would be necessary
57 for the student to receive a high school diploma if such student were in a traditional high
58 school setting. The adult student shall meet the requirements with the same level of academic
59 rigor as would otherwise be necessary to attain such credits.

60 (3) The adult high school authorized under this section shall award high school
61 diplomas to students who successfully meet the established academic requirements. The
62 adult high school authorized under this section shall confer the diploma as though the student
63 earned the diploma at a traditional high school. The diploma shall have no differentiating
64 marks, titles, or other symbols.

65 (4) Students at adult high schools may complete required coursework at their own
66 pace and as available through the adult high school. They shall not be required to satisfy any
67 specific number of class minutes. The adult high school may also make classes available to
68 students online as may be appropriate. However, students shall not complete the majority of

69 instruction of the school's curriculum online or through remote instruction. For the purposes
70 of this subsection, synchronous instruction connecting students to a live class conducted in a
71 Missouri adult high school shall be treated the same as in-person instruction.

72 (5) The department of elementary and secondary education shall not create additional
73 regulations or burdens on the adult high school or the students attending the adult high
74 schools beyond certifying necessary credits and ensuring that students have sufficiently
75 mastered the subject matter to make them eligible for credit.

76 5. An adult high school shall be deemed a secondary school system for the purposes
77 of subdivision ~~[(+5)]~~ (16) of subsection 1 of section 210.211.

160.2710. 1. Any person who is ~~[twenty-one]~~ **eighteen** years of age or older may
2 enroll in an adult high school if he or she has not earned a high school diploma.

3 2. An adult high school shall give a preference in admission to those students who
4 receive any local, state, or federal assistance in which a person or family is required not to
5 exceed a certain income level in order to qualify for the assistance.

6 **3. For the purposes of compiling and tracking dropout rates of a local education**
7 **agency by the department of elementary and secondary education, a student**
8 **transferring from a local education agency to an adult high school shall be**
9 **considered a transfer student and not a dropout student from the local education**
10 **agency.**

161.026. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 161.032 or any other provision
2 of law, the governor shall, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appoint a teacher
3 representative to the state board of education who shall attend all meetings and participate in
4 all deliberations of the board. The teacher representative shall not have the right to vote on
5 any matter before the board or be counted in establishing a quorum under section 161.082.

6 2. The teacher representative shall be an active classroom teacher. For purposes of
7 this section, "active classroom teacher" means a resident of the state of Missouri who is a full-
8 time teacher with at least five years of teaching experience in the state of Missouri, who is
9 certified to teach under the laws governing the certification of teachers in Missouri, and who
10 is not on leave at the time of the appointment to the position of teacher representative. The
11 teacher representative shall have the written support of the local school board prior to
12 accepting the appointment.

13 3. The term of the teacher representative shall be four years, and ~~[appointments made~~
14 ~~under this section shall be made in rotation from each congressional district beginning with~~
15 ~~the first congressional district and continuing in numerical order]~~ **for the second and**
16 **succeeding appointments, the newly appointed teacher representative shall not be**
17 **appointed from the same congressional district as the two immediately preceding**
18 **teacher representatives.**

19 4. If a vacancy occurs for any reason in the position of teacher representative, the
20 governor shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, a replacement for
21 the unexpired term. Such replacement ~~[shall be a resident of the same congressional district~~
22 ~~as the teacher representative being replaced;]~~ shall meet the qualifications set forth under
23 subsection 2 of this section, and shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and
24 qualified. ~~[If the general assembly is not in session at the time for making an appointment,~~
25 ~~the governor shall make a temporary appointment until the next session of the general~~
26 ~~assembly, when the governor shall nominate a person to fill the position of teacher~~
27 ~~representative.]~~

28 5. If the teacher representative ceases to be an active classroom teacher, as defined
29 under subsection 2 of this section, or fails to follow the board's attendance policy, the teacher
30 representative's position shall immediately become vacant unless an absence is caused by
31 sickness or some accident preventing the teacher representative's arrival at the time and place
32 appointed for the meeting.

33 6. The teacher representative shall receive the same reimbursement for expenses as
34 members of the state board of education receive under section 161.022.

35 7. At no time shall more than one nonvoting member serve on the state board of
36 education.

37 ~~[8. The provisions of this section shall expire on August 28, 2025.]~~

2 ~~[161.026. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 161.032 or any~~
3 ~~other provision of law, the governor shall, by and with the advice and consent~~
4 ~~of the senate, appoint a teacher representative to the state board of education,~~
5 ~~who shall attend all meetings and participate in all deliberations of the board.~~
6 ~~The teacher representative shall not have the right to vote on any matter before~~
7 ~~the board or be counted in establishing a quorum under section 161.082.~~

8 ~~2. The teacher representative shall be an active classroom teacher. For~~
9 ~~purposes of this section, "active classroom teacher" means a resident of the~~
10 ~~state of Missouri who is a full-time teacher with at least five years of teaching~~
11 ~~experience in the state of Missouri, who is certified to teach under the laws~~
12 ~~governing the certification of teachers in Missouri, and who is not on leave at~~
13 ~~the time of the appointment to the position of teacher representative. The~~
14 ~~teacher representative shall have the written support of the local school board~~
15 ~~prior to accepting the appointment.~~

16 ~~3. The term of the teacher representative shall be four years, and~~
17 ~~appointments made under this section shall be made in rotation from each~~
18 ~~congressional district beginning with the first congressional district and~~
19 ~~continuing in numerical order.~~

20 ~~4. If a vacancy occurs for any reason in the position of teacher~~
21 ~~representative, the governor shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent~~
22 ~~of the senate, a replacement for the unexpired term. Such replacement shall be~~
23 ~~a resident of the same congressional district as the teacher representative being~~

- 23 ~~replaced, shall meet the qualifications set forth under subsection 2 of this~~
24 ~~section, and shall serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.~~
25 ~~5. If the teacher representative ceases to be an active classroom~~
26 ~~teacher, as defined under subsection 2 of this section, or fails to follow the~~
27 ~~board's attendance policy, the teacher representative's position shall~~
28 ~~immediately become vacant unless an absence is caused by sickness or~~
29 ~~some accident preventing the representative's arrival at the time and place~~
30 ~~appointed for the meeting.~~
31 ~~6. The teacher representative shall receive the same reimbursement for~~
32 ~~expenses as members of the state board of education receive under section~~
33 ~~161.022.~~
34 ~~7. At no time shall more than one nonvoting member serve on the state~~
35 ~~board of education.~~
36 ~~8. The provisions of this section shall expire on August 28, 2026.]~~

161.670. 1. Notwithstanding any other law, prior to July 1, 2007, the state board of
2 education shall establish the "Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program" to serve
3 school-age students residing in the state. The Missouri course access and virtual school
4 program shall offer nonclassroom-based instruction in a virtual setting using technology,
5 intranet, or internet methods of communication. Any student under the age of twenty-one in
6 grades kindergarten through twelve who resides in this state shall be eligible to enroll in the
7 Missouri course access and virtual school program pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.
8 2. (1) For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school aid, students
9 enrolled in the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall be included in the
10 student enrollment of the school district in which the student is enrolled under the relevant
11 provisions of subsection 3 of this section for such enrollment. Student attendance for full-
12 time virtual program students shall only be included in any district pupil attendance
13 calculation under chapter 163 using current-year pupil attendance for such full-time virtual
14 program pupils. For the purpose of calculating average daily attendance in full-time virtual
15 programs under this section, average daily attendance shall be defined as the quotient or the
16 sum of the quotients obtained by dividing the total number of hours attended in a term by
17 enrolled pupils between the ages of five and twenty-one by the actual number of hours that
18 the program was in session in that term, and the provisions of section 162.1250 shall not
19 apply to such funding calculation. Such calculation shall be generated by the virtual provider
20 and provided to the host district for submission to the department of elementary and
21 secondary education. Such students may complete their instructional activities, as defined in
22 subsection 4 of this section, during any hour of the day and during any day of the week. The
23 hours attended for each enrolled pupil shall be documented by the pupil's weekly progress in
24 the educational program according to a process determined by the virtual program and
25 published annually in the virtual program's enrollment handbook or policy. To the average

26 daily attendance of the following school term shall be added the full-time equivalent average
27 daily attendance of summer school students. In the case of a host school district enrolling one
28 or more full-time virtual school students, such enrolling district shall, as part of its monthly
29 state allocation, receive no less under the state aid calculation for such students than an
30 amount equal to the state adequacy target multiplied by the weighted average daily attendance
31 of such full-time students. Students residing in Missouri and enrolled in a full-time virtual
32 school program operated by a public institution of higher education in this state shall be
33 counted for a state aid calculation by the department, and the department shall pay, from
34 funds dedicated to state school aid payments made under section 163.031, to such institution
35 an amount equal to the state adequacy target multiplied by the weighted average daily
36 attendance of such full-time students.

37 (2) The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall report to the district
38 of residence the following information about each student served by the Missouri course
39 access and virtual school program: name, address, eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch,
40 limited English proficiency status, special education needs, and the number of courses in
41 which the student is enrolled. The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall
42 promptly notify the resident district when a student discontinues enrollment. A "full-time
43 equivalent student" is a student who is enrolled in the instructional equivalent of six credits
44 per regular term. Each Missouri course access and virtual school program course shall count
45 as one class and shall generate that portion of a full-time equivalent that a comparable course
46 offered by the school district would generate.

47 (3) Pursuant to an education services plan and collaborative agreement under
48 subsection 3 of this section, full-time equivalent students may be allowed to use a physical
49 location of the resident school district for all or some portion of ongoing instructional activity,
50 and the enrollment plan shall provide for reimbursement of costs of the resident district for
51 providing such access pursuant to rules promulgated under this section by the department.

52 (4) In no case shall more than the full-time equivalency of a regular term of
53 attendance for a single student be used to claim state aid. Full-time equivalent student credit
54 completed shall be reported to the department of elementary and secondary education in the
55 manner prescribed by the department. Nothing in this section shall prohibit students from
56 enrolling in additional courses under a separate agreement that includes terms for paying
57 tuition or course fees.

58 (5) A full-time virtual school program serving full-time equivalent students shall be
59 considered an attendance center in the host school district and shall participate in the
60 statewide assessment system as defined in section 160.518. The academic performance of
61 students enrolled in a full-time virtual school program shall be assigned to the designated
62 attendance center of the full-time virtual school program and shall be considered in like

63 manner to other attendance centers. The academic performance of any student who disenrolls
64 from a full-time virtual school program and enrolls in a public school or charter school shall
65 not be used in determining the annual performance report score of the attendance center or
66 school district in which the student enrolls for twelve months from the date of enrollment.

67 (6) For the purposes of this section, a public institution of higher education operating
68 a full-time virtual school program shall be subject to all requirements applicable to a host
69 school district with respect to its full-time equivalent students.

70 3. (1) A student who resides in this state may enroll in Missouri course access and
71 virtual school program courses of his or her choice as a part of the student's annual course
72 load each school year, with any costs associated with such course or courses to be paid by the
73 school district or charter school if:

74 (a) The student is enrolled full-time in a public school, including any charter school;
75 and

76 (b) Prior to enrolling in any Missouri course access and virtual school program
77 course, a student has received approval from his or her school district or charter school
78 through the procedure described under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

79 (2) Each school district or charter school shall adopt a policy that delineates the
80 process by which a student may enroll in courses provided by the Missouri course access and
81 virtual school program that is substantially similar to the typical process by which a district
82 student would enroll in courses offered by the school district and a charter school student
83 would enroll in courses offered by the charter school. The policy may include consultation
84 with the school's counselor and may include parental notification or authorization. The policy
85 shall ensure that available opportunities for in-person instruction are considered prior to
86 moving a student to virtual courses. The policy shall allow for continuous enrollment
87 throughout the school year. If the school district or charter school disapproves a student's
88 request to enroll in a course or courses provided by the Missouri course access and virtual
89 school program, the reason shall be provided in writing and it shall be for good cause. Good
90 cause justification to disapprove a student's request for enrollment in a course shall be a
91 determination that doing so is not in the best educational interest of the student, and shall be
92 consistent with the determination that would be made for such course request under the
93 process by which a district student would enroll in a similar course offered by the school
94 district and a charter school student would enroll in a similar course offered by the charter
95 school, except that the determination may consider the suitability of virtual courses for the
96 student based on prior participation in virtual courses by the student. Appeals of any course
97 denials under this subsection shall be considered under a policy that is substantially similar to
98 the typical process by which appeals would be considered for a student seeking to enroll in

99 courses offered by the school district and a charter school student seeking to enroll in courses
100 offered by the charter school.

101 (3) For students enrolled in any Missouri course access and virtual school program
102 course in which costs associated with such course are to be paid by the school district or
103 charter school as described under this subdivision, the school district or charter school shall
104 pay the content provider directly on a pro rata monthly basis based on a student's completion
105 of assignments and assessments. If a student discontinues enrollment, the district or charter
106 school may stop making monthly payments to the content provider. No school district or
107 charter school shall pay, for any one course for a student, more than the market necessary
108 costs but in no case shall pay more than fourteen percent of the state adequacy target, as
109 defined under section 163.011, as calculated at the end of the most recent school year for any
110 single, year-long course and no more than seven percent of the state adequacy target as
111 described above for any single semester equivalent course.

112 (4) (a) A student who lives in this state may enroll in a virtual program of their
113 choice as provided in this subdivision, and the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3) of this
114 subsection shall not apply to such enrollment in a full-time virtual program. Each host school
115 district operating a full-time virtual program under this section shall adopt, operate and
116 implement an enrollment policy as specified by the provisions of this subdivision. The
117 student, the student's parent or guardian if the student is not considered homeless, the virtual
118 program, the host district, and the resident district shall collaborate in good faith to implement
119 the enrollment policy regarding the student's enrollment, and the resident school district and
120 the host school district may mutually agree that the resident district shall offer or continue to
121 offer services for the student under an agreement that includes financial terms for
122 reimbursement by the host school district for the necessary costs of the resident school district
123 providing such services. An enrollment policy specified under this subsection shall:

124 a. Require a student's parent or guardian, if the student is not considered homeless, to
125 apply for enrollment in a full-time virtual program directly with the virtual program;

126 b. Specify timelines for timely participation by the virtual program, the host district,
127 and resident district; provided that the resident district shall provide any relevant information
128 and input on the enrollment within ten business days of notice from the virtual program of the
129 enrollment application;

130 c. Include a survey of the reasons for the student's and parent's interests in
131 participating in the virtual program;

132 d. Include consideration of available opportunities for in-person instruction prior to
133 enrolling a student in a virtual program;

134 e. Evaluate requests for enrollment based on meeting the needs for a student to be
135 successful considering all relevant factors;

136 f. Ensure that, for any enrolling student with a covered disability, an individualized
137 education program and a related services agreement, in cases where such agreement is
138 needed, are created to provide all services required to ensure a free and appropriate public
139 education, including financial terms for reimbursement by the host district for the necessary
140 costs of any virtual program, school district, or public or private entity providing all or a
141 portion of such services;

142 g. Require the virtual program to determine whether an enrolling student will be
143 admitted, based on the enrollment policy, in consideration of all relevant factors and provide
144 the basis for its determination and any service plan for the student, in writing, to the student,
145 the student's parent or guardian, the host district, and the resident district; and

146 h. Provide a process for reviewing appeals of decisions made under this subdivision.

147 (b) The department shall publish an annual report based on the enrollments and
148 enrollment surveys conducted under this subdivision that provides data at the statewide and
149 district levels of sufficient detail to allow analysis of trends regarding the reasons for
150 participation in the virtual program at the statewide and district levels; provided that no such
151 survey results will be published in a manner that reveals individual student information. The
152 department shall also include, in the annual report, data at the statewide and district levels of
153 sufficient detail to allow detection and analysis of the racial, ethnic, and socio-economic
154 balance of virtual program participation among schools and districts at the statewide and
155 district levels, provided that no such survey results will be published in a manner that reveals
156 individual student information.

157 (5) In the case of a student who is a candidate for A+ tuition reimbursement and
158 taking a virtual course under this section, the school shall attribute no less than ninety-five
159 percent attendance to any such student who has completed such virtual course.

160 (6) The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall ensure that
161 individual learning plans designed by certified teachers and professional staff are developed
162 for all students enrolled in more than two full-time course access program courses or a full-
163 time virtual school.

164 (7) Virtual school programs shall monitor individual student success and engagement
165 of students enrolled in their program and, for students enrolled in virtual courses on a part-
166 time basis, the virtual school program shall provide regular student progress reports for each
167 student at least four times per school year to the school district or charter school, provide the
168 host school district and the resident school district ongoing access to academic and other
169 relevant information on student success and engagement, and shall terminate or alter the
170 course offering if it is found the course is not meeting the educational needs of the students
171 enrolled in the course.

172 (8) The department of elementary and secondary education shall monitor the
173 aggregate performance of providers and make such information available to the public under
174 subsection 11 of this section.

175 (9) Pursuant to rules to be promulgated by the department of elementary and
176 secondary education, when a student transfers into a school district or charter school, credits
177 previously gained through successful passage of approved courses under the Missouri course
178 access and virtual school program shall be accepted by the school district or charter school.

179 (10) Pursuant to rules to be promulgated by the department of elementary and
180 secondary education, if a student transfers into a school district or charter school while
181 enrolled in a Missouri course access and virtual school program course or full-time virtual
182 school, the student shall continue to be enrolled in such course or school.

183 (11) Nothing in this section shall prohibit home school or FPE school students,
184 private school students, or students wishing to take additional courses beyond their regular
185 course load from enrolling in Missouri course access and virtual school program courses
186 under an agreement that includes terms for paying tuition or course fees.

187 (12) Nothing in this subsection shall require any school district, charter school, virtual
188 program, or the state to provide computers, equipment, or internet access to any student
189 unless required under the education services plan created for an eligible student under
190 subdivision (4) of this subsection or for an eligible student with a disability to comply with
191 federal law. An education services plan may require an eligible student to have access to
192 school facilities of the resident school district during regular school hours for participation
193 and instructional activities of a virtual program under this section, and the education services
194 plan shall provide for reimbursement of the resident school district for such access pursuant to
195 rules adopted by the department under this section.

196 (13) The authorization process shall provide for continuous monitoring of approved
197 providers and courses. The department shall revoke or suspend or take other corrective action
198 regarding the authorization of any course or provider no longer meeting the requirements of
199 the program. Unless immediate action is necessary, prior to revocation or suspension, the
200 department shall notify the provider and give the provider a reasonable time period to take
201 corrective action to avoid revocation or suspension. The process shall provide for periodic
202 renewal of authorization no less frequently than once every three years.

203 (14) Courses approved as of August 28, 2018, by the department to participate in the
204 Missouri virtual instruction program shall be automatically approved to participate in the
205 Missouri course access and virtual school program, but shall be subject to periodic renewal.

206 (15) Any online course or virtual program offered by a school district or charter
207 school, including those offered prior to August 28, 2018, which meets the requirements of
208 section 162.1250 shall be automatically approved to participate in the Missouri course access

209 and virtual school program. Such course or program shall be subject to periodic renewal. A
210 school district or charter school offering such a course or virtual school program shall be
211 deemed an approved provider.

212 (16) A host district may contract with a provider to perform any required services
213 involved with delivering a full-time virtual education.

214 4. (1) As used in this subsection, the term "instructional activities" means classroom-
215 based or nonclassroom-based activities that a student shall be expected to complete,
216 participate in, or attend during any given school day, such as:

- 217 (a) Online logins to curricula or programs;
- 218 (b) Offline activities;
- 219 (c) Completed assignments within a particular program, curriculum, or class;
- 220 (d) Testing;
- 221 (e) Face-to-face communications or meetings with school staff;
- 222 (f) Telephone or video conferences with school staff;
- 223 (g) School-sanctioned field trips; or
- 224 (h) Orientation.

225 (2) A full-time virtual school shall submit a notification to the parent or guardian of
226 any student who is not consistently engaged in instructional activities and shall provide
227 regular student progress reports for each student at least four times per school year.

228 (3) Each full-time virtual school shall develop, adopt, and post on the school's website
229 a policy setting forth the consequences for a student who fails to complete the required
230 instructional activities. Such policy shall state, at a minimum, that if a student fails to
231 complete the instructional activities after receiving a notification under subdivision (2) of this
232 subsection, and after reasonable intervention strategies have been implemented, that the
233 student shall be subject to certain consequences which may include disenrollment from the
234 school. Prior to any disenrollment, the parent or guardian shall have the opportunity to
235 present any information that the parent deems relevant, and such information shall be
236 considered prior to any final decision.

237 (4) If a full-time virtual school disenrolls a student under subdivision (3) of this
238 subsection, the school shall immediately provide written notification to such student's school
239 district of residence. The student's school district of residence shall then provide to the
240 parents or guardian of the student a written list of available educational options and promptly
241 enroll the student in the selected option. Any student disenrolled from a full-time virtual
242 school shall be prohibited from reenrolling in the same virtual school for the remainder of the
243 school year.

244 5. School districts or charter schools shall inform parents of their child's right to
245 participate in the program. Availability of the program shall be made clear in the parent

246 handbook, registration documents, and featured on the home page of the school district or
247 charter school's website.

248 6. The department shall:

249 (1) Establish an authorization process for course or full-time virtual school providers
250 that includes multiple opportunities for submission each year;

251 (2) Pursuant to the time line established by the department, authorize course or full-
252 time virtual school providers that:

253 (a) Submit all necessary information pursuant to the requirements of the process; and

254 (b) Meet the criteria described in subdivision (3) of this subsection;

255 (3) Review, pursuant to the authorization process, proposals from providers to
256 provide a comprehensive, full-time equivalent course of study for students through the
257 Missouri course access and virtual school program. The department shall ensure that these
258 comprehensive courses of study align to state academic standards and that there is
259 consistency and compatibility in the curriculum used by all providers from one grade level to
260 the next grade level;

261 (4) Within thirty days of any denial, provide a written explanation to any course or
262 full-time virtual school providers that are denied authorization;

263 (5) Allow a course or full-time virtual school provider denied authorization to reapply
264 at any point in the future.

265 7. The department shall publish the process established under this section, including
266 any deadlines and any guidelines applicable to the submission and authorization process for
267 course or full-time virtual school providers on its website.

268 8. If the department determines that there are insufficient funds available for
269 evaluating and authorizing course or full-time virtual school providers, the department may
270 charge applicant course or full-time virtual school providers a fee up to, but no greater than,
271 the amount of the costs in order to ensure that evaluation occurs. The department shall
272 establish and publish a fee schedule for purposes of this subsection.

273 9. Except as specified in this section and as may be specified by rule of the state board
274 of education, the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall comply with all
275 state laws and regulations applicable to school districts, including but not limited to the
276 Missouri school improvement program (MSIP), annual performance report (APR), teacher
277 certification, curriculum standards, audit requirements under chapter 165, access to public
278 records under chapter 610, and school accountability report cards under section 160.522.
279 Teachers and administrators employed by a virtual provider shall be considered to be
280 employed in a public school for all certification purposes under chapter 168.

281 10. The department shall submit and publicly publish an annual report on the
282 Missouri course access and virtual school program and the participation of entities to the

283 governor, the chair and ranking member of the senate education committee, and the chair and
284 ranking member of the house of representatives elementary and secondary education
285 committee. The report shall at a minimum include the following information:

286 (1) The annual number of unique students participating in courses authorized under
287 this section and the total number of courses in which students are enrolled in;

288 (2) The number of authorized providers;

289 (3) The number of authorized courses and the number of students enrolled in each
290 course;

291 (4) The number of courses available by subject and grade level;

292 (5) The number of students enrolled in courses broken down by subject and grade
293 level;

294 (6) Student outcome data, including completion rates, student learning gains, student
295 performance on state or nationally accepted assessments, by subject and grade level per
296 provider. This outcome data shall be published in a manner that protects student privacy;

297 (7) The costs per course;

298 (8) Evaluation of in-school course availability compared to course access availability
299 to ensure gaps in course access are being addressed statewide.

300 11. (1) The department shall be responsible for creating the Missouri course access
301 and virtual school program catalog providing a listing of all courses authorized and available
302 to students in the state, detailed information, including costs per course, about the courses to
303 inform student enrollment decisions, and the ability for students to submit their course
304 enrollments.

305 (2) On or before January 1, 2023, the department shall publish on its website, and
306 distribute to all school districts and charter schools in this state, a guidance document that
307 details the options for virtual course access and full-time virtual course access for all students
308 in the state. The guidance document shall include a complete and readily understood
309 description of the applicable enrollment processes including the opportunity for students to
310 enroll and the roles and responsibilities of the student, parent, virtual provider, school district
311 or districts, and charter schools, as appropriate. The guidance document shall be distributed
312 in written and electronic form to all school districts, charter schools, and virtual providers.
313 School districts and charter schools shall provide a copy of the guidance document to every
314 pupil and parent or legal guardian of every pupil enrolled in the district or charter school at
315 the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment for every pupil enrolling at a different
316 time of the school year. School districts and charter schools shall provide a readily viewable
317 link to the electronic version of the guidance document on the main page of the district's or
318 charter school's website.

12. Any virtual school or program may administer any statewide assessment required pursuant to the provisions of section 160.518, except for college readiness or workforce readiness assessments provided by a national college and career readiness assessment provider, in a virtual setting that aligns with the student's regular academic instruction. Any administration of a virtual statewide assessment shall meet the following conditions:

(1) The assessment shall be administered to the student at an assigned date and time;

(2) The assessment shall be administered during a synchronous assessment session initiated and managed by an employee of the virtual school or program;

(3) The student shall be monitored by an assessment proctor via a camera for the duration of the assessment. If the assessment platform does not allow for integrated camera proctoring, the student shall use two devices during the assessment. The first device shall be used to take the assessment and the second device shall have a functioning camera and be used to monitor the student during the assessment. However, if the assessment platform allows for the proctor to view the student and background, a second device shall not be required;

(4) The virtual school or program shall maintain a student-assessment-taker-to-assessment-proctor ratio of ten to one or lower;

(5) The student shall not exit the assessment platform until instructed to do so by the assigned assessment proctor; and

(6) The student's submission of the completed assessment shall be verified by the assessment administrator.

13. The state board of education through the rulemaking process and the department of elementary and secondary education in its policies and procedures shall ensure that multiple content providers and learning management systems are allowed, ensure digital content conforms to accessibility requirements, provide an easily accessible link for providers to submit courses or full-time virtual schools on the Missouri course access and virtual school program website, and allow any person, organization, or entity to submit courses or full-time virtual schools for approval. No content provider shall be allowed that is unwilling to accept payments in the amount and manner as described under subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section or does not meet performance or quality standards adopted by the state board of education.

~~[13.]~~ 14. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with

356 the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to
357 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
358 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2006, shall be invalid
359 and void.

162.065. On an annual basis, each school district shall provide training in at least
2 ~~eight~~ **four** hours of duration to each school bus driver employed by the school district or
3 under contract with the school district. Such training shall provide special instruction in
4 school bus driving.

162.069. 1. Every school district shall, by March 1, 2012, promulgate a written
2 policy concerning employee-student communication. The governing body of each charter
3 school shall adopt a written policy concerning employee-student communication by January
4 1, 2014. Such policy shall include, but not be limited to, the use of electronic media and other
5 mechanisms to prevent improper communications between staff members and students.

6 2. The school board of each school district and the governing body of each charter
7 school shall, by January 1, 2014, adopt and implement training guidelines and ~~an annual~~ **a**
8 training program for all school employees who are mandatory reporters of child abuse or
9 neglect under section 210.115. **Such training shall be provided as established in section**
10 **168.331.**

11 3. Every school district and the governing body of each charter school shall, by July
12 1, 2014, include in its teacher and employee training a component that provides up-to-date
13 and reliable information on identifying signs of sexual abuse in children and danger signals of
14 potentially abusive relationships between children and adults. The training shall emphasize
15 the importance of mandatory reporting of abuse under section 210.115 including the
16 obligation of mandated reporters to report suspected abuse by other mandated reporters, and
17 how to establish an atmosphere of trust so that students feel their school has concerned adults
18 with whom they feel comfortable discussing matters related to abuse. **Such training shall be**
19 **provided as established in section 168.331.** The training shall also emphasize that:

20 (1) All mandatory reporters shall, upon finding reasonable cause, directly and
21 immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect as provided in section 210.115;

22 (2) No supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting under section
23 210.115; and

24 (3) No person making a report under section 210.115 shall be subject to any sanction,
25 including any adverse employment action, for making such report.

162.207. 1. As used in this section, "electronic personal communications device"
2 means a portable device that is used to initiate, receive, store, or view communication,
3 information, images, or data electronically.

4 **2. (1) For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, each school**
5 **district and charter school governing board shall adopt a written policy governing a**
6 **student's possession or use of an electronic personal communications device.**

7 **(2) Such school district or governing board shall develop and design such policy**
8 **to promote the educational interests of students and to provide a safe and effective**
9 **working environment for school employees and volunteers.**

10 **3. At a minimum, such policy:**

11 **(1) Shall prohibit a student from using an electronic personal communications**
12 **device from the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day during**
13 **regularly scheduled instructional time and during meal times, provided that such policy**
14 **defines instructional time;**

15 **(2) May prohibit a student from using an electronic personal communications**
16 **device during breaks from regularly scheduled instructional time including, but not**
17 **limited to, time between classes, study halls, and field trips;**

18 **(3) Shall describe the disciplinary procedures and measures that will be taken if**
19 **a student violates the policy; and**

20 **(4) (a) Shall provide exceptions to the prohibition that allow the display and use**
21 **of an electronic personal communications device by a student when the use of such**
22 **device is required during regularly scheduled instructional activities for the following:**

23 **a. An individualized education program, or IEP, as such term is defined in 20**
24 **U.S.C. Section 1401, as amended;**

25 **b. A 504 plan created under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of**
26 **1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, as amended;**

27 **c. An individualized emergency health care plan or an individualized health care**
28 **plan established under section 167.625;**

29 **d. The Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq., as**
30 **amended;**

31 **e. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 701 et seq., as amended;**

32 **f. The federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; or**

33 **g. The federal Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. Section**
34 **1701 et seq., regarding English language learners, as such term is defined in 29 U.S.C.**
35 **Section 3102, as amended.**

36 **(b) Such exceptions may include when the use of such device is allowable for the**
37 **following:**

38 **a. In the case of an emergency; and**

39 **b. When directed to use such device for an educational purpose with**
40 **authorization as directed by established board policies.**

41 **4. Each school district and charter school governing board shall publish the**
42 **policy on such district's or charter school's website.**

43 **5. A school district or charter school employee or volunteer shall be held**
44 **harmless and immune from any liability for actions taken under this section if such**
45 **employee or volunteer acts in good faith and follows the proper disciplinary procedures**
46 **and measures adopted under this section by the school board or charter school**
47 **governing board.**

48 **6. The provisions of this section shall expire on August 28, 2032.**

162.705. 1. If a school district or special district fails or is unable to provide special
2 educational services to each handicapped or severely handicapped child as required in
3 sections 162.670 to 162.995, the district shall contract with a nearby district or districts or
4 public agency or agencies for such special educational services. If the board of education of
5 the district finds that no adequate program for handicapped or severely handicapped children
6 is available in nearby districts or through public agencies, it may contract with any
7 organization within the state **or an adjacent state** which has programs meeting the standards
8 established by the state board of education. If such district fails to contract for such services,
9 the state board of education may contract for such services with a nearby district or districts or
10 public agency or agencies. If the state board of education finds, after investigation by the
11 state department of education, that no adequate program for handicapped or severely
12 handicapped children is available in nearby districts or through public agencies, the state
13 board of education may contract with any organization within the state **or an adjacent state**
14 which has programs meeting the standards established by the state board of education.
15 Assignment of handicapped or severely handicapped children under this section shall be
16 made to a particular school or program which, in the judgment of the state department of
17 elementary and secondary education, can best provide special educational services to meet the
18 needs of the child, and such assignment shall be made upon the basis of competent evaluation.
19 The state board of education may seek the advice of established and ad hoc advisory
20 committees in developing standards for approving programs and costs of programs operated
21 by organizations. Nothing contained within this section shall be construed to affect the
22 provisions of section 162.700 or 162.725.

23 2. Per pupil costs of contractual arrangements shall be the obligation of the district of
24 residence, except districts which are part of a special school district, or special district of
25 residence; provided, however, that if the contract is with another district or special district, the
26 district providing the services under contractual arrangements shall include children served
27 under such contractual arrangements in determining the total per pupil cost for which the
28 district of residence is responsible. If the contract is with a public agency or an organization,
29 the district of residence shall be entitled to receive state aid as provided in section 163.031

30 and in section 162.980. Where the state board of education contracts for special educational
31 services pursuant to subsection 1 of this section, the state board of education shall submit to
32 the responsible district a bill for the per pupil cost payable by that district under the terms of
33 this subsection. Failure of a district to pay such cost within ninety days after a bill is
34 submitted by the state board of education shall result in the deduction of the amount due by
35 the state board of education from subsequent payments of state moneys due such district or
36 special district.

37 3. If the state board of education determines, after inspection by the state department
38 of elementary and secondary education and upon the recommendation of the commissioner of
39 education, that handicapped or severely handicapped children residing within the district may
40 better be provided special educational services by the district or special district of residence,
41 the state board of education shall order the district to provide special educational services in
42 accordance with sections 162.670 to 162.995.

43 4. If the state board of education determines, after public hearing before the
44 commissioner of education held in the school district on due notice, that the district has failed
45 to provide special educational services in accordance with an order issued under subsection 3
46 of this section, the state board of education shall withhold all or such portion of the state aid
47 under sections 162.670 to 162.995 and under chapter 163 as in its judgment is necessary to
48 require the district to carry out its responsibility under sections 162.670 to 162.995. The
49 denial of state financial assistance hereunder may continue until the failure to provide special
50 educational services is remedied.

51 5. No contract shall be made under sections 162.670 to 162.995 contrary to the
52 provisions of Article I, Section 7 or Article IX, Section 8 of the Constitution of Missouri.

163.044. 1. Beginning with the 2007 fiscal year and each subsequent fiscal year, the
2 general assembly shall appropriate thirty million dollars to be directed in the following
3 manner to school districts with an average daily attendance of three hundred fifty students or
4 less in the school year preceding the payment year, **provided that nonresident students**
5 **enrolled in such school districts through section 161.670 shall not be included in the total**
6 **for purposes of this section:**

7 (1) Twenty million dollars shall be distributed to the eligible districts in proportion to
8 their average daily attendance; and

9 (2) Ten million dollars shall be directed to the eligible districts that have an operating
10 levy for school purposes in the current year equal to or greater than the performance levy and
11 any school districts which have an operating levy for school purposes in the current year less
12 than the performance levy solely due to a modification of such district's levy required under
13 subdivision (4) of subsection 5 of section 137.073. A tax-rate-weighted average daily
14 attendance shall be calculated for each eligible district in proportion to its operating levy for

15 school purposes for the current year divided by the performance levy with that result
16 multiplied by the district's average daily attendance in the school year preceding the payment
17 year. The total appropriation pursuant to this subdivision shall then be divided by the sum of
18 the tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance of the eligible districts, and the resulting
19 amount per tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance shall be multiplied by each eligible
20 district's tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance to determine the amount to be paid to
21 each eligible district.

22 2. The payment under this section shall not be transferred to the capital projects fund.

23 3. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, districts receiving payments
24 under this section may use the moneys for, including but not limited to, the following:

25 (1) Distance learning;

26 (2) Extraordinary transportation costs;

27 (3) Rural teacher recruitment; and

28 (4) Student learning opportunities not available within the district.

163.045. 1. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in addition to
2 all funds distributed to school districts pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031, the
3 department of elementary and secondary education shall, after rendering all calculations
4 required pursuant to the provisions of such section, remit an amount equal to one percent for
5 fiscal years 2026 and 2027, or two percent for fiscal year 2028 and all subsequent fiscal years,
6 of each district's preceding year's annual state aid entitlement as calculated in June in
7 accordance with the provisions of such section for any district with a preceding year school
8 ~~[term]~~ **board-approved school calendar** that provided for one hundred sixty-nine school
9 days or more **of planned attendance**. For districts in which one or more charter schools
10 operate, and for all charter schools located therein, the department shall, after rendering all
11 calculations required pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031 and section 160.415, remit
12 an amount equal to one percent for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, or two percent for fiscal year
13 2028 and all subsequent fiscal years, of each district's and charter school's preceding year's
14 annual state aid entitlement as calculated in June, prior to any required adjustment pursuant to
15 subsections 4 and 15 of section 160.415, for any district or charter school with a preceding
16 year ~~[school term]~~ **board-approved school calendar** that provided for one hundred sixty-
17 nine school days or more **of planned attendance**.

18 (2) **This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the distribution of**
19 **additional moneys under subdivision (1) of this subsection to a school district or charter**
20 **school that:**

21 (a) **Prepares an annual calendar for the district's or charter school's school term**
22 **under section 171.031 that establishes a school term of at least one hundred sixty-nine**
23 **school days; and**

24 **(b) Is in session for fewer than one hundred sixty-nine school days in such school**
25 **term because of:**

26 **a. Exceptional or emergency circumstances, as provided under section 171.033;**
27 **or**

28 **b. An authorized reduction of the required number of hours or days under**
29 **subsection 2 of section 160.041.**

30 2. Any funds received as provided in this section shall be used by school districts and
31 charter schools exclusively to increase teacher salaries. Any school district or charter school
32 that receives funds as provided in this section but fails to utilize such funds solely to increase
33 teacher salaries shall have an amount equal to the amount of such funds received withheld
34 from such district's or charter school's state aid payments pursuant to the provisions of section
35 163.031 or 160.415.

 163.172. 1. (1) In school year 1994-95 and thereafter until school year 2006-07, the
2 minimum teacher's salary shall be eighteen thousand dollars. Beginning in school year 2006-
3 07, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-two thousand dollars; in school year 2007-
4 08, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-three thousand dollars; in school year 2008-
5 09, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-four thousand dollars; in school year 2009-
6 10 and in each subsequent school year through the 2024-25 school year, the minimum
7 teacher's salary shall be twenty-five thousand dollars.

8 (2) For the 2025-26 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum
9 teacher's salary shall be forty thousand dollars.

10 (3) Beginning in the school year 1996-97 until school year 2006-07, for any full-time
11 teacher with a master's degree and at least ten years' teaching experience in a public school or
12 combination of public schools, the minimum salary shall be twenty-four thousand dollars.
13 Beginning in the school year 2006-07, for any full-time teacher with a master's degree in an
14 academic teaching field and at least ten years' teaching experience in a public school or
15 combination of public schools, the minimum salary shall be thirty thousand dollars; in the
16 2007-08 school year such minimum salary shall be thirty-one thousand dollars; in the 2008-
17 09 school year such minimum salary shall be thirty-two thousand dollars; and in the 2009-10
18 school year and in each subsequent school year through the 2024-25 school year, such
19 minimum salary shall be thirty-three thousand dollars.

20 (4) For the 2025-26 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum
21 teacher's salary for any full-time teacher with a master's degree ~~[in an academic teaching field~~
22 ~~directly related to the teacher's assignment]~~ and at least ten years' teaching experience in a
23 public school or combination of public schools shall be as follows:

24 (a) In the 2025-26 school year, forty-six thousand dollars;

25 (b) In the 2026-27 school year, forty-seven thousand dollars; and

26 (c) In the 2027-28 school year, forty-eight thousand dollars.

27 2. (1) As used in this subsection, "CPI" means the Consumer Price Index for All
28 Urban Consumers for the United States as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its
29 successor index.

30 (2) In the 2028-29 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum
31 salaries identified in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section and in paragraph (c) of
32 subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section shall be adjusted annually by the percentage
33 increase in inflation as described in subdivision (3) of this subsection.

34 (3) If the CPI report for January of a given year indicates that inflation increased over
35 the previous twelve months by at least one percent, the department of elementary and
36 secondary education shall increase the minimum salaries described in subdivision (2) of this
37 subsection by the same percentage increase in inflation, except that no minimum salary
38 increase shall exceed three percent.

39 (4) The state board of education shall publish such minimum salaries annually in
40 February beginning in calendar year 2026. Modifications to the minimum salaries shall take
41 effect on July first of each calendar year.

42 3. The commissioner of education shall present to the appropriate committees of the
43 general assembly information on the average Missouri teacher's salary, regional average
44 salary data, and national average salary data.

45 4. All school salary information shall be public information.

46 5. As used in this section, the term "salary" shall be defined as the salary figure which
47 appears on the teacher's contract and as determined by the local school district's basic salary
48 schedule and does not include supplements for extra duties.

49 6. The minimum salary for any fully certificated teacher employed on a less than full-
50 time basis by a school district, state school for the severely handicapped, the Missouri School
51 for the Deaf, or the Missouri School for the Blind shall be prorated to reflect the amounts
52 provided in subsection 1 of this section.

53 7. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant
54 Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated under subsection 8 of this section. The
55 state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180,
56 the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon
57 appropriation, moneys in this fund shall be used solely to increase minimum teacher's salaries
58 as provided in this section.

59 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
60 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general
61 revenue fund.

62 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
63 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to
64 the fund.

65 8. (1) There is hereby created the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant" program. The
66 general assembly may appropriate amounts to the teacher baseline salary grant fund created in
67 subsection 7 of this section. The total amount appropriated to such fund shall not exceed the
68 amount necessary to assist each school district in increasing minimum teacher's salaries to the
69 minimum amount as required under this section.

70 (2) Subject to the appropriation of moneys to the teacher baseline salary grant fund,
71 each school district may apply to the department of elementary and secondary education for a
72 grant of moneys from the teacher baseline salary grant fund to assist such district in
73 increasing minimum teacher's salaries as required under this section.

**167.167. Each school district shall prohibit, in name and practice, any zero-
2 tolerance disciplinary policy or practice of discipline that results in an automatic
3 disciplinary consequence against a pupil without the discretion to modify such
4 disciplinary consequence on a case-by-case basis, such as automatic detention,
5 suspension, or expulsion or the automatic imposition of other disciplinary measures.**

167.950. 1. (1) By December 31, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary
2 education shall develop guidelines for the appropriate screening of students for dyslexia and
3 related disorders and the necessary classroom support for students with dyslexia and related
4 disorders. Such guidelines shall be consistent with the findings and recommendations of the
5 task force created under section 633.420.

6 (2) In the 2018-19 school year and subsequent years, each public school, including
7 each charter school, shall conduct dyslexia screenings for students in the appropriate year
8 consistent with the guidelines developed by the department of elementary and secondary
9 education.

10 (3) In the 2018-19 school year and subsequent years, the school board of each district
11 and the governing board of each charter school shall provide reasonable classroom support
12 consistent with the guidelines developed by the department of elementary and secondary
13 education.

14 2. In the 2018-19 school year and subsequent years, the practicing teacher assistance
15 programs established under section 168.400 shall offer and include two hours of in-service
16 training provided by each local school district for all practicing teachers in such district
17 regarding dyslexia and related disorders. Each charter school shall also offer all of its
18 teachers two hours of training on dyslexia and related disorders. Districts and charter schools
19 may seek assistance from the department of elementary and secondary education in
20 developing and providing such training. Completion of such training shall count as two

21 contact hours of professional development under section 168.021. **Such training shall be**
22 **provided as established in section 168.331.**

23 3. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

24 (1) "Dyslexia", a disorder that is neurological in origin, characterized by difficulties
25 with accurate and fluent word recognition and poor spelling and decoding abilities that
26 typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language, often unexpected in
27 relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction, and of
28 which secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced
29 reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.
30 Nothing in this definition shall require a student with dyslexia to obtain an individualized
31 education program (IEP) unless the student has otherwise met the federal conditions
32 necessary;

33 (2) "Dyslexia screening", a short test conducted by a teacher or school counselor to
34 determine whether a student likely has dyslexia or a related disorder in which a positive result
35 does not represent a medical diagnosis but indicates that the student could benefit from
36 approved support;

37 (3) "Related disorders", disorders similar to or related to dyslexia, such as
38 developmental auditory imperception, dysphasia, specific developmental dyslexia,
39 developmental dysgraphia, and developmental spelling disability;

40 (4) "Support", low-cost and effective best practices, such as oral examinations and
41 extended test-taking periods, used to support students who have dyslexia or any related
42 disorder.

43 4. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for each public
44 school to screen students for dyslexia and related disorders and to provide the necessary
45 classroom support for students with dyslexia and related disorders. Any rule or portion of a
46 rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in
47 this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the
48 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536
49 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to
50 chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
51 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule
52 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

53 5. Nothing in this section shall require the MO HealthNet program to expand the
54 services that it provides.

168.025. 1. For purposes of this section, "teacher externship" means an experience in
2 which a teacher, supervised by his or her school or school district, gains practical experience

3 at a business located in Missouri through observation and interaction with employers and
4 employees.

5 2. The department of economic development and the department of elementary and
6 secondary education shall develop and recommend:

7 (1) Requirements for teacher externships that can be considered the equivalent of the
8 completion of credit hours in graduate-level courses for purposes of salary schedules; and

9 (2) An equivalency schedule that sets forth the number of credit hours in graduate-
10 level courses that shall be considered equivalent to and awarded for each type of teacher
11 externship. To classify teacher externships and determine the number of credit hours that
12 would be appropriate for each type, the length of the teacher externship, the practical
13 experience gained, or any other factor deemed relevant may be considered.

14 3. The department of economic development and the department of elementary and
15 secondary education shall adopt and publish on their websites, before July 1, 2020,
16 requirements for teacher externships that can be considered the equivalent of the completion
17 of credit hours in graduate-level courses for purposes of salary schedules and an equivalency
18 schedule as described in subsection 2 of this section. Any teacher externship that meets the
19 published requirements shall be known as and considered a certified teacher externship for
20 purposes of this section.

21 4. If a school district or charter school uses a salary schedule in which a teacher
22 receives a higher salary if he or she has earned credit hours in graduate-level courses, the
23 school district or charter school shall consider any teacher who has completed a certified
24 teacher externship to have completed credit hours in graduate-level courses on its salary
25 schedule in the manner prescribed by the equivalency schedule developed under this section
26 and compensate the teacher accordingly.

27 5. The department of elementary and secondary education and the department of
28 economic development may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.
29 Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under
30 the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is
31 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section
32 and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
33 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a
34 rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any
35 rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.

36 ~~[6. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:~~

37 ~~(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall~~
38 ~~automatically sunset five years after August 28, 2019, unless reauthorized by an act of the~~
39 ~~general assembly;—~~

40 ~~(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section shall~~
41 ~~automatically sunset ten years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this section;~~
42 ~~and—~~

43 ~~(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately~~
44 ~~following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.]~~

168.036. 1. In addition to granting certificates of license to teach in public schools of
2 the state under section 168.021, the state board of education shall grant substitute teacher
3 certificates as provided in this section to any individual seeking to substitute teach in any
4 public school in this state.

5 2. (1) The state board shall not grant a certificate of license to teach under this section
6 to any individual who has not completed a background check as required under section
7 168.021.

8 (2) The state board may refuse to issue or renew, suspend, or revoke any certificate
9 sought or issued under this section in the same manner and for the same reasons as under
10 section 168.071.

11 3. The state board may grant a certificate under this section to any individual who has
12 completed:

13 (1) At least thirty-six semester hours at an accredited institution of higher education;
14 or

15 (2) The twenty-hour online training program required in this section and who
16 possesses a high school diploma or the equivalent thereof.

17 4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and maintain
18 an online training program for individuals, which shall consist of twenty hours of training
19 related to subjects appropriate for substitute teachers as determined by the department.

20 5. The state board may grant a certificate under this section to any highly qualified
21 individual with expertise in a technical or business field or with experience in the Armed
22 Forces of the United States who has completed the background check required in this section
23 but does not meet any of the qualifications under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection 3 of this
24 section if the superintendent of the school district in which the individual seeks to substitute
25 teach sponsors such individual and the school board of the school district in which the
26 individual seeks to substitute teach votes to approve such individual to substitute teach.

27 6. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions to contrary, beginning on June 30, 2022,
28 and ending on June 30, ~~[2025]~~ **2030**, any person who is retired and currently receiving a
29 retirement allowance under sections 169.010 to 169.141 or sections 169.600 to 169.715, other
30 than for disability, may be employed to substitute teach on a part-time or temporary substitute
31 basis by an employer included in the retirement system without a discontinuance of the
32 person's retirement allowance. Such a person shall not contribute to the retirement system, or

33 to the public school retirement system established by sections 169.010 to 169.141 or to the
34 public education employee retirement system established by sections 169.600 to 169.715,
35 because of earnings during such period of employment.

36 (2) In addition to the conditions set forth in subdivision 1 of this subsection, any
37 person retired and currently receiving a retirement allowance under sections 169.010 to
38 169.141, other than for disability, who is employed by a third party or is performing work as
39 an independent contractor may be employed to substitute teach on a part-time or temporary
40 substitute basis, if such person is performing work for an employer included in the retirement
41 system without a discontinuance of the person's retirement allowance.

42 (3) If a person is employed pursuant to this subsection on a regular, full-time basis the
43 person shall not be entitled to receive the person's retirement allowance for any month during
44 which the person is so employed. The retirement system may require the employer, the third-
45 party employer, the independent contractor, and the retiree subject to this subsection to
46 provide documentation showing compliance with this subsection. If such documentation is
47 not provided, the retirement system may deem the retiree to have exceeded the limitations
48 provided in this subsection.

49 7. A certificate granted under this section shall be valid for four years. A certificate
50 granted under this section shall expire at the end of any calendar year in which the individual
51 fails to substitute teach for at least five days or forty hours of in-seat instruction.

52 8. (1) An individual to whom the state board grants a certificate under this section
53 may be a substitute teacher in a public school in the state if the school district agrees to
54 employ the individual as a substitute teacher and such individual has completed a background
55 check as required in subsection 10 of this section.

56 (2) No individual to whom the state board grants a certificate under this section and
57 who is under twenty years of age shall be a substitute teacher in grades nine to twelve.

58 9. Each school district may develop an orientation for individuals to whom the state
59 board grants a certificate under this section for such individuals employed by the school
60 district and may require such individuals to complete such orientation. Such orientation shall
61 contain at least two hours of subjects appropriate for substitute teachers and shall contain
62 instruction on the school district's best practices for classroom management.

63 10. Beginning January 1, 2023, any substitute teacher may, at the time such substitute
64 teacher submits the fingerprints and information required for the background check required
65 under section 168.021, designate up to five school districts to which such substitute teacher
66 has submitted an application for substitute teaching to receive the results of the substitute
67 teacher's criminal history background check and fingerprint collection. The total amount of
68 any fees for disseminating such results to up to five school districts under this subsection shall
69 not exceed fifty dollars.

70 11. The state board may exercise the board's authority under chapter 161 to
71 promulgate all necessary rules and regulations necessary for the administration of this section.

168.331. 1. As used in this section, "school employee" means an individual who
2 **works in any paid capacity for a school district or a charter school, such as a**
3 **superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal, supervising**
4 **principal, supervisor, teacher, teacher-secretary, substitute teacher, school nurse, social**
5 **worker, school counselor, school psychologist, mental health professional, librarian,**
6 **janitor, cafeteria worker, or any other individual employed by such school district or**
7 **charter school.**

8 **2. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, in the 2025-26 school year**
9 **and each subsequent school year, the training, instruction, or education provided to**
10 **each school employee of a school district or a charter school under section 160.261,**
11 **160.263, 160.775, 162.065, 162.069, 167.950, 170.048, or 170.315, other provisions of state**
12 **law, or the employing school district's or charter school's policies shall be provided as**
13 **follows:**

14 **(1) For each newly hired school employee, the employing school district or**
15 **charter school shall provide such training, instruction, or education annually in each of**
16 **the first three school years after the hiring of such school employee;**

17 **(2) For all other school employees, the employing school district or charter**
18 **school shall provide such training, instruction, or education on a schedule as determined**
19 **by such school district or charter school based on the needs of the school district or**
20 **charter school, each school employee, or both; and**

21 **(3) Each school district and charter school shall provide each school employee**
22 **sufficient time during work hours to complete such training, instruction, or education.**

23 **3. This section shall not be construed to exempt a school employee from**
24 **attending or completing any training, instruction, or education that is required for such**
25 **school employee's position or job duties or that is required for such school employee by**
26 **federal law.**

27 **4. In the 2026-27 school year and each subsequent school year, all new training,**
28 **instruction, or education required under state law or rules promulgated by the**
29 **department of elementary and secondary education for school employees shall be**
30 **mandatory for and provided to each school employee for at least three consecutive**
31 **school years before the provisions of subsection 2 of this section apply.**

168.410. 1. As used in this section and section 168.411, "building-level
2 **administrator" means a school official who supervises or evaluates other licensed staff.**
3 **A building-level administrator may be a principal or an assistant principal.**

4 **2.** School administrators ~~[and]~~, school district superintendents, **and building-level**
5 **administrators** shall be evaluated in the following manner:

6 (1) The board of education of each school district shall cause a comprehensive
7 performance-based evaluation for each administrator employed by the district. Such
8 evaluation shall be ongoing, **specific**, and of sufficient specificity and frequency to provide
9 for demonstrated standards of competency and academic ability;

10 (2) All evaluations shall be:

11 **(a)** Maintained in the respective administrator's personnel file at the office of the
12 board of education of the school district. A copy of each evaluation shall be provided to the
13 person being evaluated and to the appropriate administrator; **and**

14 **(b)** **Conducted using research-based evaluation tools that align with best**
15 **practices;**

16 **(3)** **All evaluations may be based on multiple rating categories as determined by**
17 **the governing board; and**

18 ~~[(3)]~~ **(4)** The state department of elementary and secondary education shall provide
19 suggested procedures for the evaluations performed under this section.

168.411. 1. As used in this section, "nonrenewal" or "nonrenewed" means, when
2 referring to a contract of a building-level administrator, such contract is not extended
3 beyond the current term provided for in such contract.

4 **2. (1)** Each school district employing a building-level administrator shall
5 provide written notification of contract renewal or nonrenewal no later than March first
6 in the year the contract expires. If written notice is not given by the deadline, such
7 failure on the part of the school district constitutes reemployment on the same terms
8 and in the same building-level administrator position as those provided in the contract
9 of the current fiscal year for an additional one-year period.

10 **(2)** No building-level administrator's contract shall be nonrenewed without such
11 building-level administrator being evaluated at least once in the contract year as
12 required under section 168.410.

13 **(3) (a)** A school district shall present a contract to each building-level
14 administrator whose contract has been renewed.

15 **(b)** The building-level administrator shall accept or reject such contract in
16 writing within fifteen business days after receiving the contract.

17 **3. (1)** A contract for a building-level administrator with a minimum of five years
18 in administration with a school district shall not be nonrenewed by such district except
19 for cause. For purposes of this subsection, for cause includes, but is not limited to:

20 **(a)** Unsatisfactory performance as determined through the annual evaluation
21 process required in section 168.410;

- 22 (b) Violation of school district policies or state laws; or
23 (c) Conduct detrimental to the operation of the school district or a public school
24 in such district.
- 25 (2) (a) Any building-level administrator reemployed for at least five consecutive
26 years within a school district shall have the right to request a written statement of
27 reasons for nonrenewal of such building-level administrator's contract within ten
28 business days after receiving such nonrenewal notice. The school district shall provide
29 the reasons for such nonrenewal in writing within ten business days of receipt of the
30 request.
- 31 (b) A building-level administrator who receives such nonrenewal notice has the
32 right to:
- 33 a. Request a closed-session hearing before the school board within ten business
34 days of receiving the notice;
- 35 b. Present evidence, testimony, and cross-examine witnesses; and
36 c. Be represented by counsel if desired.
- 37 (3) The school board shall issue a final decision within thirty business days after
38 the hearing.
- 39 4. (1) A building-level administrator dismissed during an active contract term is
40 entitled to due process including, but not limited to:
- 41 (a) Written notice of the reason for dismissal;
- 42 (b) The opportunity to present the building-level administrator's case before the
43 school board; and
- 44 (c) A hearing conducted in compliance with state statutes and procedural due
45 process rights.
- 46 (2) A building-level administrator may file an appeal if nonrenewal or dismissal
47 violates:
- 48 (a) State law governing building-level administrator contracts; or
49 (b) School district policies regarding performance evaluations and contract
50 renewals.

170.048. 1. By July 1, 2018, each district shall adopt a policy for youth suicide
2 awareness and prevention, including plans for how the district will provide for the training
3 and education of its district employees. **Such training and education shall be provided as**
4 **established in section 168.331.**

- 5 2. Each district's policy shall address and include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 6 (1) Strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide;
- 7 (2) Strategies and protocols for helping students at possible risk of suicide; and
- 8 (3) Protocols for responding to a suicide death.

9 3. By July 1, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary education shall
10 develop a model policy that districts may adopt. When developing the model policy, the
11 department shall cooperate, consult with, and seek input from organizations that have
12 expertise in youth suicide awareness and prevention. By July 1, 2021, and at least every three
13 years thereafter, the department shall request information and seek feedback from districts on
14 their experience with the policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department
15 shall review this information and may use it to adapt the department's model policy. The
16 department shall post any information on its website that it has received from districts that it
17 deems relevant. The department shall not post any confidential information or any
18 information that personally identifies any student or school employee.

19 4. (1) Beginning July 1, 2025, a public school or charter school that serves any pupils
20 in grades seven to twelve and that issues pupil identification cards shall have printed on either
21 side of the cards:

22 (a) The three-digit dialing code that directs calls and routes text messages to the
23 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988; and

24 (b) The nonemergency telephone number of the local police department; and

25 (c) May have printed on either side of the cards:

26 a. The six-digit dialing code that routes text messages to the Crisis Text Line, 741741;
27 and

28 b. The telephone number of a local suicide prevention hotline, if such hotline is
29 available.

30 (2) If, on July 1, 2025, a public school or charter school subject to the requirements of
31 this subsection has a supply of unissued pupil identification cards that do not comply with the
32 requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the school shall issue those cards until that
33 supply is depleted.

34 (3) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to a pupil identification card issued
35 for the first time to a pupil and to a card issued to replace a damaged or lost card.

170.315. 1. **(1)** There is hereby established the Active Shooter and Intruder
2 Response Training for Schools Program (ASIRT).

3 **(2) For each school year ending before July 1, 2026,** each school district and
4 charter school may~~[-, by July 1, 2014,]~~ include in its teacher and school employee training a
5 component on how to properly respond to students who provide them with information about
6 a threatening situation and how to address situations in which there is a potentially dangerous
7 or armed intruder in the school. Training may also include information and techniques on
8 how to address situations where an active shooter is present in the school or on school
9 property.

10 **(3) For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, each school**
11 **district and charter school shall include in its teacher and school employee training**
12 **components on:**

13 **(a) How to properly respond to students who provide a teacher or school**
14 **employee with information about a threatening situation;**

15 **(b) How to address situations in which there is a potentially dangerous or armed**
16 **intruder in the school;**

17 **(c) Information and techniques on how to address situations where an active**
18 **shooter is present in the school or on school property**

19 **(d) How to identify potential threats or safety hazards; and**

20 **(e) Protocols for emergencies in the school including, but not limited to:**

21 **a. Evacuations;**

22 **b. Severe weather;**

23 **c. Earthquakes;**

24 **d. Fire; and**

25 **e. Medical.**

26 **2. For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, each school**
27 **district and charter school [may] that elects to provide such training shall conduct the**
28 **training [on an annual basis] as established in section 168.331. [If no formal training has**
29 **previously occurred, the length of the training may be eight hours.] The length of [annual**
30 **continuing] training [may] shall be [four hours] determined by the school district or**
31 **charter school electing to provide such training.**

32 **3. All school personnel [shall] may participate in a simulated active shooter and**
33 **intruder response drill conducted and led by law enforcement professionals or school safety**
34 **professionals. Each drill [may] shall include an explanation of its purpose and a safety**
35 **briefing. [The training shall require each participant to know and understand how to respond**
36 **in the event of an actual emergency on school property or at a school event. The drill may**
37 **include:**

38 **(1) Allowing school personnel to respond to the simulated emergency in whatever**
39 **way they have been trained or informed; and**

40 **(2) Allowing school personnel to attempt and implement new methods of responding**
41 **to the simulated emergency based upon previously used unsuccessful methods of response.]**

42 **4. All instructors for the program shall be certified by the department of public**
43 **safety's peace officers standards training commission.**

44 **5. School districts and charter schools may consult and collaborate with law**
45 **enforcement authorities, emergency response agencies, and other organizations and entities**
46 **trained to deal with active shooters or potentially dangerous or armed intruders.**

47 6. Public schools shall **actively** foster an environment in which students feel
48 comfortable sharing information they have regarding a potentially threatening or dangerous
49 situation with a responsible adult. **As part of each public school's efforts to actively foster**
50 **such environment, each public school shall annually provide age-appropriate**
51 **information and training on the Missouri state highway patrol's Courage2ReportMO**
52 **(C2R) reporting mechanism or its successor reporting mechanism.**

53 7. For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, each school
54 district and charter school shall hold an age-appropriate active shooter exercise in
55 which students, teachers, and other school employees participate in and practice the
56 procedures for safety and protection to be implemented under such conditions.

171.216. 1. Each school district and charter school that currently uses, has
2 within the past year used, or in the future begins to use a tutoring program or service
3 with at least a fifty-percent ownership interest held outside the United States shall notify
4 the parent of each student enrolled in such school district or charter school.

5 2. Such notice shall contain:

6 (1) The name of the tutoring program or service;

7 (2) A disclosure of the owner holding a majority ownership interest in such
8 tutoring program or service; and

9 (3) Whether such owner is based in a country designated by the U.S. Department
10 of State as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) as of the first day of the school year
11 in which the notice is posted.

12 3. Each school district and charter school shall post such notice:

13 (1) On the school district's or charter school's website; and

14 (2) Within any application or software the school district or charter school uses
15 in conjunction with the tutoring program or service owned by an entity having at least a
16 fifty-percent ownership interest held outside of the United States.

173.232. 1. There is hereby established the "Teacher Recruitment and Retention
2 State Scholarship Program", which shall be administered by the department of elementary
3 and secondary education. The program shall, upon appropriation, provide scholarships,
4 subject to the eligibility criteria enumerated in this section, for eligible students who enter a
5 teacher education program and make a commitment to teach as a condition of receiving such
6 scholarship.

7 2. (1) Subject to appropriation, each year the department of elementary and
8 secondary education shall make available to eligible students scholarships for up to two years
9 in an amount that encompasses up to one hundred percent of the total cost of eligible students'
10 tuition costs **and educational costs** related to teacher preparation at a four-year college or
11 university located in Missouri, except that no amount granted for tuition shall exceed the

12 amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri-Columbia for
13 attendance. Such amount shall be paid by funds appropriated to the department.

14 (2) The maximum number of scholarships made available or the maximum amount
15 awarded annually under this section shall be as follows:

16 ~~[(1)]~~ (a) For academic years ending before July 1, 2025, two hundred scholarships or
17 a maximum awarded amount of one million two hundred thousand dollars;

18 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) For the 2025-26 academic year, four hundred scholarships or a maximum
19 awarded amount of two million four hundred thousand dollars;

20 ~~[(3)]~~ (c) For the 2026-27 academic year, four hundred forty scholarships or a
21 maximum awarded amount of two million six hundred thousand dollars;

22 ~~[(4)]~~ (d) For the 2027-28 academic year, four hundred eighty scholarships or a
23 maximum awarded amount of two million eight hundred thousand dollars;

24 ~~[(5)]~~ (e) For the 2028-29 academic year, five hundred twenty scholarships or a
25 maximum awarded amount of three million dollars;

26 ~~[(6)]~~ (f) For the 2029-30 academic year, five hundred sixty scholarships or a
27 maximum awarded amount of three million two hundred thousand dollars; and

28 ~~[(7)]~~ (g) For the 2030-31 academic year and all subsequent academic years, six
29 hundred scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of three million four hundred thousand
30 dollars.

31 (3) (a) If the number of scholarships or the maximum awarded amount in a
32 given academic year does not meet or exceed the limits listed in subdivision (2) of this
33 subsection, the department shall use such remaining moneys to award additional
34 scholarships for tuition costs and educational costs related to teacher preparation at a
35 four-year college or university located in Missouri to students who are in such students'
36 final semester of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation program and
37 are student teaching.

38 (b) The department shall determine the amount of each scholarship awarded
39 under this subdivision based on an equal distribution of such remaining moneys among
40 all students eligible under this subdivision.

41 (c) No amount granted for tuition and under this subdivision shall exceed the
42 amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri-Columbia
43 for attendance for one semester.

44 3. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

45 (1) "Eligible student", an individual who:

46 (a) Is a United States citizen and a Missouri resident;

47 (b) Enters and makes a commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved
48 by the department of elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-year college
49 or university located in Missouri;

50 (c) Signs an agreement with the department of elementary and secondary education in
51 which the recipient agrees to teach in a Missouri public school that is a hard-to-staff school or
52 to teach at least one hard-to-staff subject area in a Missouri public school that offers classes in
53 hard-to-staff subject areas, or both, for two years for every one year the recipient received the
54 scholarship;

55 (d) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-
56 point scale or equivalent; and

57 (e) For scholarships awarded for any academic year beginning after June 30, 2025,
58 has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of grant funding that
59 could be applied to the total cost of such student's eligible tuition and fees as described in
60 subsection 2 of this section;

61 (2) "Hard-to-staff schools", attendance centers where the percentage of certificated
62 positions in the attendance center that were left vacant or were filled with a teacher not fully
63 qualified in the prior academic year exceeds ten percent as reported to the department of
64 elementary and secondary education;

65 (3) "Hard-to-staff subject areas", content areas for which positions were left vacant or
66 were filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year as reported to the
67 department of elementary and secondary education.

68 4. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of scholarships or revenues
69 available, the department of elementary and secondary education may consider the financial
70 needs of the applicant.

71 5. The scholarships provided in this section shall be available to eligible students who
72 meet at least one of the following:

73 (1) Have successfully completed two years at a community college with a minimum
74 of forty-eight credit hours and a grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-
75 point scale or the equivalent;

76 (2) Have been awarded an associate degree or the equivalent;

77 (3) Have successfully completed five semesters at a four-year college or university
78 with a minimum of sixty credit hours and a grade point average of at least two and one-half
79 on a four-point scale or the equivalent; or

80 (4) Have completed their baccalaureate degree.

81 6. (1) Every eligible student receiving scholarships under this section shall teach in
82 an elementary or secondary public school in Missouri as provided in paragraph (c) of
83 subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section. The student shall teach for a period of two

84 years for every one year such student received a scholarship under this section; otherwise, the
85 scholarship shall be treated as a loan to the eligible student. Interest shall be charged on the
86 unpaid balance of the amount received from the date the eligible student ceases to teach until
87 the amount received is paid back to the state. The interest rate shall be adjusted annually and
88 shall be equal to one percentage point over the prevailing United States prime rate in effect on
89 January first of such year.

90 (2) In order to provide for the servicing of such loans, the department of elementary
91 and secondary education ~~[may]~~ **shall** sell such loans to the higher education loan authority of
92 the state of Missouri created pursuant to sections 173.350 to 173.445. For each year the
93 student teaches, up to eight years, one-eighth of the amount received pursuant to this section
94 shall be applied against the total amount received and shall not be subject to the repayment
95 requirement of this section~~]; provided that twenty-five percent of such amount, not subject to~~
96 ~~repayment, shall be repaid by the local school district to the department].~~

97 (3) The department of elementary and secondary education shall have the power to
98 and shall defer interest and principal payments under certain circumstances, which shall
99 include, but need not be limited to, the enrollment in a graduate program or service in any
100 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States.

101 7. There is hereby established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "Teacher
102 Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program Fund", which shall consist of all
103 moneys that may be appropriated to it by the general assembly, and in addition may include
104 any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal, state, private, or other
105 sources. The fund shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary
106 education. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, moneys in the
107 fund shall not be transferred to the credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the
108 biennium. Interest and moneys earned on the fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in
109 the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of awarding scholarships under the provisions of
110 this section.

111 8. An individual who has qualified as an eligible student under this section shall
112 continue to qualify as an eligible student for purposes of paragraph (c) of subdivision (1) of
113 subsection 3 of this section as long as such individual remains employed by the school district
114 in which such individual agrees to teach regardless of whether such individual's employing
115 school no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff school, such class taught by such individual no
116 longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff subject area, or such individual's position within the school
117 district changes.