AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.522 and 348.407, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to elementary and secondary education.

Section A. Sections 160.522 and 348.407, RSMo, are repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.522, 168.205, 262.960, 262.962, 348.407, and 1, to read as follows:

160.522. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall produce or cause to be produced, at least annually, a school accountability report card for each public school district, each public school building in a school district, and each charter school in the state. The report card shall be designed to satisfy state and federal requirements for the disclosure of statistics about students, staff, finances, academic achievement, and other indicators. The purpose of the report card shall be to provide educational statistics and accountability information for parents, taxpayers, school personnel, legislators, and the print and broadcast news media in a standardized, easily accessible form.

2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop a standard form for the school accountability report card. The information reported shall include, but not be limited to, the district’s most recent accreditation rating, enrollment, rates of pupil attendance, high school dropout rate and graduation rate, the number and rate of suspensions of ten days or longer and expulsions of pupils, the district ratio of students to administrators and students to classroom teachers, the average years of experience of professional staff and advanced degrees earned, student achievement as measured through the assessment system developed pursuant to section 160.518, student scores on the ACT, along with the percentage of graduates taking the

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.
test, average teachers' and administrators' salaries compared to the state averages, average per pupil current expenditures for the district as a whole and by attendance center as reported to the department of elementary and secondary education, the adjusted tax rate of the district, assessed valuation of the district, percent of the district operating budget received from state, federal, and local sources, the percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, data on the percent of students continuing their education in postsecondary programs, information about the job placement rate for students who complete district vocational education programs, whether the school district currently has a state-approved gifted education program, and the percentage and number of students who are currently being served in the district's state-approved gifted education program.

3. The report card shall permit the disclosure of data on a school-by-school basis, but the reporting shall not be personally identifiable to any student or education professional in the state.

4. The report card shall identify each school or attendance center that has been identified as a priority school under sections 160.720 and 161.092. The report also shall identify attendance centers that have been categorized under federal law as needing improvement or requiring specific school improvement strategies.

5. The report card shall not limit or discourage other methods of public reporting and accountability by local school districts. Districts shall provide information included in the report card to parents, community members, the print and broadcast news media, and legislators by December first annually or as soon thereafter as the information is available to the district, giving preference to methods that incorporate the reporting into substantive official communications such as student report cards. The school district shall provide a printed copy of the district-level or school-level report card to any patron upon request and shall make reasonable efforts to supply businesses such as, but not limited to, real estate and employment firms with copies or other information about the reports so that parents and businesses from outside the district who may be contemplating relocation have access.

6. For purposes of completing and distributing the annual report card as prescribed in this section 160.522, a school district may include the data from a charter school located within such school district, provided the local board of education or special administrative board
for such district and the charter school reach mutual agreement for the
inclusion of the data from the charter schools and the terms of such
agreement are approved by the state board of education. The charter
school shall not be required to be a part of the local educational agency
of such school district and may maintain a separate local educational
agency status.

168.205. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
two or more school districts may share a superintendent who possesses
a valid Missouri superintendent’s license. If any school districts choose
to share a superintendent, they shall not be required to receive
approval from the department of elementary and secondary education
but may notify the department.

262.960. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
“Farm-to-School Act”.

2. There is hereby created within the department of agriculture
the “Farm-to-School Program” to connect Missouri farmers and schools
in order to provide schools with locally grown agricultural products for
inclusion in school meals and snacks and to strengthen local farming
economies. The department shall designate an employee to administer
and monitor the farm-to-school program and to serve as liaison between
Missouri farmers and schools.

3. The following agencies shall make staff available to the
Missouri farm-to-school program for the purpose of providing
professional consultation and staff support to assist the implementation
of this section:

(1) The department of health and senior services;
(2) The department of elementary and secondary education; and
(3) The office of administration.

4. The duties of the department employee coordinating the farm-
to-school program shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Establishing and maintaining a website database to allow
farmers and schools to connect whereby farmers can enter the locally
grown agricultural products they produce along with pricing
information, the times such products are available, and where they are
willing to distribute such products;
(2) Providing leadership at the state level to encourage schools
to procure and use locally grown agricultural products;
(3) Conducting workshops and training sessions and providing technical assistance to school food service directors, personnel, farmers, and produce distributors and processors regarding the farm-to-school program; and

(4) Seeking grants, private donations, or other funding sources to support the farm-to-school program.

262.962. 1. As used in this section, section 262.960, and subsection 5 of section 348.707, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Locally grown agricultural products", food or fiber produced or processed by a small agribusiness or small farm;

(2) “Schools”, includes any school in this state that maintains a food service program under the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the school;

(3) "Small agribusiness", as defined in section 348.400, and located in Missouri with gross annual sales of less than five million dollars;

(4) "Small farm", a family-owned farm or family farm corporation as defined in section 350.010, and located in Missouri with less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars in gross sales per year.

2. There is hereby created a taskforce under the AgriMissouri program established in section 261.230, which shall be known as the "Farm-to-School Taskforce". The taskforce shall be made up of at least one representative from each of the following agencies: the University of Missouri extension service, the department of agriculture, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the office of administration. In addition, the director of the department of agriculture shall appoint two persons actively engaged in the practice of small agribusiness. In addition, the director of the department of elementary and secondary education shall appoint two persons from schools within the state who direct a food service program. One representative for the department of agriculture shall serve as the chairperson for the taskforce and shall coordinate the taskforce meetings. The taskforce shall hold at least two meetings, but may hold more as it deems necessary to fulfill its requirements under this section. Staff of the department of agriculture may provide administrative assistance to the taskforce if such assistance is required.
3. The mission of the taskforce is to provide recommendations for strategies that:
   (1) Allow schools to more easily incorporate locally grown agricultural products into their cafeteria offerings, salad bars, and vending machines; and
   (2) Allow schools to work with food service providers to ensure greater use of locally grown agricultural products by developing standardized language for food service contracts.

4. In fulfilling its mission under this section, the taskforce shall review various food service contracts of schools within the state to identify standardized language that could be included in such contracts to allow schools to more easily procure and use locally grown agricultural products.

5. The taskforce shall prepare a report containing its findings and recommendations and shall deliver such report to the governor, the general assembly, and to the director of each agency represented on the taskforce by no later than December 31, 2015.

6. In conducting its work, the taskforce may hold public meetings at which it may invite testimony from experts, or it may solicit information from any party it deems may have information relevant to its duties under this section.

7. This section shall expire on December 31, 2015.

348.407. 1. The authority shall develop and implement agricultural products utilization grants as provided in this section.
2. The authority may reject any application for grants pursuant to this section.
3. The authority shall make grants, and may make loans or guaranteed loans from the grant fund to persons for the creation, development and operation, for up to three years from the time of application approval, of rural agricultural businesses whose projects add value to agricultural products and aid the economy of a rural community.
4. The authority may make loan guarantees to qualified agribusinesses for agricultural business development loans for businesses that aid in the economy of a rural community and support production agriculture or add value to agricultural products by providing necessary products and services for production or processing.
5. The authority may make grants, loans, or loan guarantees to Missouri businesses to access resources for accessing and processing locally grown agricultural products for use in schools within the state.

6. The authority may, upon the provision of a fee by the requesting person in an amount to be determined by the authority, provide for a feasibility study of the person’s rural agricultural business concept.

[6.] 7. Upon a determination by the authority that such concept is feasible and upon the provision of a fee by the requesting person, in an amount to be determined by the authority, the authority may then provide for a marketing study. Such marketing study shall be designed to determine whether such concept may be operated profitably.

[7.] 8. Upon a determination by the authority that the concept may be operated profitably, the authority may provide for legal assistance to set up the business. Such legal assistance shall include, but not be limited to, providing advice and assistance on the form of business entity, the availability of tax credits and other assistance for which the business may qualify as well as helping the person apply for such assistance.

[8.] 9. The authority may provide or facilitate loans or guaranteed loans for the business including, but not limited to, loans from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, subject to availability. Such financial assistance may only be provided to feasible projects, and for an amount that is the least amount necessary to cause the project to occur, as determined by the authority. The authority may structure the financial assistance in a way that facilitates the project, but also provides for a compensatory return on investment or loan payment to the authority, based on the risk of the project.

[9.] 10. The authority may provide for consulting services in the building of the physical facilities of the business.

[10.] 11. The authority may provide for consulting services in the operation of the business.

[11.] 12. The authority may provide for such services through employees of the state or by contracting with private entities.

[12.] 13. The authority may consider the following in making the decision:

(1) The applicant's commitment to the project through the applicant’s risk;

(2) Community involvement and support;
(3) The phase the project is in on an annual basis;
(4) The leaders and consultants chosen to direct the project;
(5) The amount needed for the project to achieve the bankable stage; and
(6) The project's planning for long-term success through feasibility studies, marketing plans and business plans.

[13.] 14. The department of agriculture, the department of natural resources, the department of economic development and the University of Missouri may provide such assistance as is necessary for the implementation and operation of this section. The authority may consult with other state and federal agencies as is necessary.

[14.] 15. The authority may charge fees for the provision of any service pursuant to this section.

[15.] 16. The authority may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

[16.] 17. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in sections 348.005 to 348.180 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. All rulemaking authority delegated prior to August 28, 1999, is of no force and effect and repealed. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to repeal or affect the validity of any rule filed or adopted prior to August 28, 1999, if it fully complied with all applicable provisions of law. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 1999, shall be invalid and void.

Section 1. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no district shall be penalized for any reason under the Missouri school improvement program if students who graduate from the district complete career and technical education programs approved by the department of elementary and secondary education but are not placed in occupations directly related to their training within six months of graduating.

2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall revise its scoring guide under the Missouri school improvement
program to provide additional points to districts that create and enter
into a partnership with area career centers, comprehensive high
schools, industry, and business to develop and implement a pathway for
students to:

(1) Enroll in a program of career and technical education while
in high school;

(2) Participate and complete an internship or apprenticeship
during their final year of high school; and

(3) Obtain the industry certification or credentials applicable to
their program or career and technical education and internship or
apprenticeship.

3. Each school district shall be authorized to create and enter
into a partnership with area career centers, comprehensive high
schools, industry, and business to develop and implement a pathway for
students to:

(1) Enroll in a program of career and technical education while
in high school;

(2) Participate and complete an internship or apprenticeship
during their final year of high school; and

(3) Obtain the industry certification or credentials applicable to
their program or career and technical education and internship or
apprenticeship.

4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall
permit student scores, that are from a nationally recognized
examination that demonstrates achievement of workplace employability
skills, to count towards credit for college and career readiness
standards on the Missouri school improvement program or any
subsequent school accreditation or improvement program.

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President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Governor