## SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

## SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 727
AN ACT


#### Abstract

To repeal sections 135.713, 135.714, 135.715, 160.011, 160.041, 160.400, 160.415, 161.670, 162.471, 162.492, 162.611, 162.996, 163.011, 163.018, 163.021, 163.044, 163.172, 166.700, 167.031, 167.061, 167.071, 167.600, 167.619, 167.850, 168.021, 168.110, 168.400, 168.500, 169.560, 170.048, 171.031, 171.033, 173.232, 210.167, 210.211, 211.031, and 452.375, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof forty-two new sections relating to elementary and secondary education, with penalty provisions and an effective date for certain sections.


Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:
Section A. Sections 135.713, 135.714, 135.715, 160.011, $2160.041,160.400,160.415,161.670,162.471,162.492,162.611$, 3 162.996, 163.011, 163.018, 163.021, 163.044, 163.172, 166.700, 4 167.031, 167.061, 167.071, 167.600, 167.619, 167.850, 168.021, $5168.110,168.400,168.500,169.560,170.048$, 171.031, 171.033, 6 173.232, 210.167, 210.211, 211.031, and 452.375, RSMo, are 7 repealed and forty-two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to 8 be known as sections 135.713, 135.714, 135.715, 160.011, $9160.041,160.400,160.415,161.239,161.670$, 162.471, 162.492, 10 162.611, 162.996, 163.011, 163.018, 163.021, 163.044, 163.096, 163.172, 166.700, 167.012, 167.013, 167.031, 167.061, 167.600, 167.619, 167.850, 168.021, 168.110, 168.400, 168.500, 169.560, 170.048, 171.028, 171.031, 171.033, 173.232, 210.167, 210.211, 211.031, 452.375, and 1, to read as follows:
135.713. 1. Any taxpayer who makes a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization after August 28, 2021, may claim a credit against the tax otherwise due under chapter 143, other than taxes withheld under sections 143.191 to 143.265 , and chapter 153 in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the amount the taxpayer contributed during the tax year for which the credit is claimed. No taxpayer shall claim a credit under sections 135.712 to 135.719 for any contribution made by the taxpayer, or an agent of the taxpayer, on behalf of the taxpayer's dependent or, in the case of a business taxpayer, on behalf of the business's agent's dependent.
2. The amount of the tax credit claimed shall not exceed fifty percent of the taxpayer's state tax liability for the tax year for which the credit is claimed. The state treasurer shall certify the tax credit amount to the taxpayer. A taxpayer may carry the credit forward to any of such taxpayer's four subsequent tax years. All tax credits authorized under the program shall not be transferred, sold, or assigned, and are not refundable.
3. The cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated to all taxpayers contributing to educational assistance organizations in any one calendar year shall not exceed [fifty] a maximum of seventy-five million dollars[, which]. Such maximum amount shall be annually adjusted by the state treasurer [for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Midwest region, as defined and officially recorded by the United States Department of Labor or its successor, such annual increase will cease when the amount of tax credits reach seventy-five million dollars] in an amount equal to the percent increase or decrease in the amount of state aid distributed to school districts pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031 in
the current fiscal year as compared to such amount in the preceding fiscal year, rounded to the nearest thousandth.

The state treasurer shall establish a procedure by which, from the beginning of the calendar year until August first, the cumulative amount of tax credits shall be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis among all educational assistance organizations. If an educational assistance organization fails to use all, or some percentage to be determined by the state treasurer, of its allocated tax credits during this period, the state treasurer may reallocate these unused tax credits to those educational assistance organizations that have used all, or some percentage to be determined by the state treasurer, of their allocated tax credits during this period. The state treasurer may establish more than one period and reallocate more than once during each calendar year. The state treasurer shall establish the procedure described in this subsection in such a manner as to ensure that taxpayers can claim all the tax credits possible up to the cumulative amount of tax credits available for the calendar year.
4. A taxpayer who makes a contribution to an education assistance organization shall not designate the student who will receive a scholarship grant.
[5. The provisions of sections 135.712 to 135.719 and sections 166.700 to 166.720 shall be effective in any fiscal year immediately subsequent to any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated for pupil transportation under section 163.161 equals or exceeds forty percent of the projected amount necessary to fully fund transportation aid funding for fiscal year 2021. If the amount appropriated for transportation under section 163.161 in any succeeding year falls below such amount, no additional scholarships for newly qualified students shall be awarded.]
135.714. 1. Each educational assistance organization shall:
(1) Notify the state treasurer of [its] such organization's intent to provide scholarship accounts to qualified students;
(2) Demonstrate to the state treasurer that [it] such organization is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
(3) Provide a state treasurer-approved receipt to taxpayers for contributions made to the organization;
(4) Ensure that grants are distributed to scholarship accounts of qualified students in the following order:
(a) Qualified students who received a scholarship grant in the previous school year;
(b) Qualified students who are siblings of qualified students who will receive a scholarship grant in the current school year;
(c) Qualified students that have an approved "individualized education plan" (IEP) developed under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. Section 1400, et seq., as amended, [or qualified students living in a household whose total annual income does not exceed an amount equal to one hundred percent of the income standard used to qualify for free and reduced price lunches;
(b) Qualified students living in a household whose total annual income does not exceed an amount equal to two hundred percent of the income standard used to qualify for free and reduced price lunches; and
(c)] or who have been diagnosed with dyslexia, as the term "dyslexia" is defined in section 633.420;
(d) Qualified students who are eligible for free lunch as approved by the department of elementary and secondary
education in accordance with federal regulations and who reside in an unaccredited or provisionally accredited school district;
(e) Qualified students who are eligible for reduced price lunch as approved by the department of elementary and secondary education in accordance with federal regulations and who reside in an unaccredited or provisionally accredited school district;
(f) Qualified students who are eligible for free lunch as approved by the department of elementary and secondary education in accordance with federal regulations;
(g) Qualified students who are eligible for reduced price lunch as approved by the department of elementary and secondary education in accordance with federal regulations;
(h) Qualified students who are active duty military dependents who have relocated to Missouri and are enrolling in a school in the state for the first time; and
(i) All other qualified students;
(5) Ensure that:
(a) One hundred percent of [its] such organization's revenues from interest or investments is spent on scholarship accounts;
(b) At least ninety percent of [its] such organization's revenues from qualifying contributions is spent on scholarship accounts; and
(c) Marketing and administrative expenses do not exceed the following limits of [its] such organization's remaining revenue from contributions:
a. Ten percent for the first two hundred fifty thousand dollars;
b. Eight percent for the next five hundred thousand dollars; and
C. Three percent thereafter;
(6) (a) Distribute scholarship account payments either four times per year or in a single lump sum at the beginning of the year as requested by the parent of a qualified student, [not to exceed a total grant amount equal tol based on the state adequacy target as defined in section 163.011 and calculated by the department of elementary and secondary education, subject to the following total grant amount limits:
a. For a qualified student who meets the criteria to be included in a school district's limited English proficiency pupil count as set forth in subdivision (8) of section 163.011, not more than one hundred sixty percent of the state adequacy target;
b. For a qualified student who is eligible for free or reduced price lunch as approved by the department of elementary and secondary education in accordance with federal regulations, not more than one hundred twenty-five percent of the state adequacy target;
c. For a qualified student who has an approved individualized education plan developed under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq., as amended, not more than one hundred seventy-five percent of the state adequacy target; and
d. For all other qualified students, not more than the state adequacy target;
(b) Scholarship account payments distributed under this subdivision shall be in the form of a deposit into the scholarship account of the qualified student;
(7) Provide the state treasurer, upon request, with criminal background checks on all [its] such organization's employees and board members and exclude from employment or
governance any individual who might reasonably pose a risk to the appropriate use of contributed funds;
(8) Demonstrate [its] such organization's financial accountability by:
(a) Submitting to the state treasurer annual audit financial statements by a certified public accountant within six months of the end of the educational assistance organization's fiscal year; and
(b) Having an auditor certify that the report is free of material misstatements; and
(9) Ensure that participating students take the state achievement tests or nationally norm-referenced tests that measure learning gains in math and English language arts, and provide for value-added assessment, in grades that require testing under the statewide assessment system set forth in section 160.518;
(10) Allow costs of the testing requirements to be covered by the scholarships distributed by the educational assistance organization;
(11) Provide the parents of each student who was tested with a copy of the results of the tests on an annual basis, beginning with the first year of testing;
(12) Provide the test results to the state treasurer, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the board established in section 135.715 on an annual basis, beginning with the first year of testing;
(13) Report student information that would allow the state treasurer, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the board established in section 135.715 to aggregate data by grade level, gender, family income level, and race;
(14) Provide rates of high school graduation, college attendance, and college graduation for participating
students to the state treasurer, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the board established in section 135.715 in a manner consistent with nationally recognized standards;
(15) Provide to the state treasurer, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the board established in section 135.715 the results from an annual parental satisfaction survey, including information about the number of years that the parent's child has participated in the scholarship program. The annual satisfaction survey shall ask parents of scholarship students to express:
(a) Their level of satisfaction with the child's academic achievement, including academic achievement at the schools the child attends through the scholarship program versus academic achievement at the school previously attended;
(b) Their level of satisfaction with school safety at the schools the child attends through the scholarship program versus safety at the schools previously attended;
(16) Demonstrate [its] such organization's financial viability, if [it] such organization is to receive donations of fifty thousand dollars or more during the school year, by filing with the state treasurer before the start of the school year a surety bond payable to the state in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of contributions expected to be received during the school year or other financial information that demonstrates the financial viability of the educational assistance organization.
2. The annual audit required under this section shall include:
(1) The name and address of the educational assistance organization;
(2) The name and address of each qualified student for whom a parent opened a scholarship account with the organization;
(3) The total number and total dollar amount of contributions received during the previous calendar year; and
(4) The total number and total dollar amount of scholarship accounts opened during the previous calendar year.
3. The state treasurer shall:
(1) Ensure compliance with all student privacy laws for data in the state treasurer's possession;
(2) Collect all test results;
(3) Provide the test results and associated learning gains to the public via a state website after the third year of test and test-related data collection. The findings shall be aggregated by the students' grade level, gender, family income level, number of years of participation in the scholarship program, and race; and
(4) Provide graduation rates to the public via a state website after the third year of test and test-related data collection.
4. The state treasurer shall cause the following information to be posted on the state treasurer's website annually, provided that no personally identifiable information of any student is released:
(1) The number of students who have been awarded a scholarship to date, and the number of students who have been awarded a scholarship in the current school year;
(2) The number of scholarship recipients enrolled in each qualified school, along with the number of recipients who qualify for free and reduced price lunch and the number of recipients who receive special education services and the type of special education services received. Such

```
information shall be broken down by school year and the
total to date;
    (3) The total number of scholarship recipients who are
eligible for free and reduced price lunch as approved by the
department of elementary and secondary education in
accordance with federal guidelines, broken down by school
year and the total to date;
    (4) The total number of scholarship recipients who
have an individualized education plan ("IEP") developed
under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education
Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1400, et seq., as amended, broken
down by school year and the total to date;
    (5) The number of scholarship recipients who have
received a grant from each educational assistance
organization, broken down by school year and the total to
date;
    (6) The student test scores required to be posted
online pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this
section;
    (7) The results of the parent satisfaction survey
required annually pursuant to subdivision (15) of subsection
1 of this section;
    (8) The average dollar amount of a scholarship grant
for all students who participate in the program;
    (9) The average dollar amount of a scholarship grant
for all students who participate in the program and who have
an IEP;
    (10) The average duration of a student's participation
in the program;
    (11) The number of students who are in their first
year of participation in the program;
    (12) A list of the educational assistance
organizations that make contributions to the empowerment
```

scholarship accounts of students enrolled in each qualified school; and
(13) The total amount of money that has been remitted from qualified students' empowerment scholarship accounts to each qualified school, broken down by school year and the total aggregate amount.
5. An educational assistance organization may contract with private financial management firms to manage scholarship accounts with the supervision of the state treasurer, provided that all laws and regulations that apply to employees of such educational assistance organization shall also apply to the actions of any employees of the management firm while they are conducting work relating to the direct decision-making of the operation of such
educational assistance organization.
135.715. 1. [Notwithstanding any provision in section
135.713 to the contrary, the annual increase to the
cumulative amount of tax credits under subsection 3 of section 135.713 shall cease when the amount of tax credits reaches fifty million dollars.] The cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated to all taxpayers contributing to educational assistance organizations in the first year of the program shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars.
2. The state treasurer shall limit the number of educational assistance organizations that are certified to administer scholarship accounts to no more than ten such organizations in any single school year[, with]. If the total contributions to educational assistance organizations exceed twenty-five million dollars in any school year, the state treasurer may certify one additional educational assistance organization to administer scholarship accounts.

No more than [six] seven of such organizations [having] shall have their principal place of business in:
(1) A county of the first classification with more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer than three hundred thousand inhabitants;
(2) A county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants;
(3) A county with a charter form of government and with more than three hundred thousand but fewer than four hundred fifty thousand inhabitants;
(4) A county with a charter form of government and with more than nine hundred fifty thousand inhabitants; or
(5) A city not within a county.
3. The state treasurer may delegate any duties assigned to the state treasurer under sections 135.712 to 135.719 and sections 166.700 to 166.720 to the "Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Board", which is hereby established. The Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts board shall consist of the state treasurer, who shall serve as chair, the commissioner of the department of higher education and workforce development, the commissioner of education, [the commissioner of the office of administration,] one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, [and] one member appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, and one member appointed by the six aforementioned board members who is an employee of an educational assistance organization and whose responsibilities are directly related to such organization's involvement in the empowerment scholarship accounts program. The appointed members shall serve terms of four years or until their successors have
been appointed and qualified. The board shall have all powers and duties assigned to the state treasurer under sections 135.712 to 135.719 and sections 166.700 to 166.720 that are delegated to the board by the state treasurer. The board shall assist the state treasurer with data collection, collaboration with the department of elementary and secondary education, making recommendations to the state treasurer regarding the promulgation of rules concerning the program. Members of the board shall not receive compensation for their service, but may receive reimbursement for necessary expenses.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 7 of section 135.716 to the contrary, four percent of the total qualifying contributions received by each educational assistance organization per calendar year shall be deposited in the Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts fund to be used by the state treasurer for marketing and administrative expenses or the costs incurred in administering the program, whichever is less.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section 135.712 to the contrary, the term "qualifying contribution" shall mean a donation of cash, including, but not limited to, checks drawn on a banking institution located in the continental United States in U.S. dollars (other than cashier checks, or third-party checks exceeding ten thousand dollars), money orders, payroll deductions, and electronic fund transfers. This term shall not include stocks, bonds, other marketable securities, or property.
160.011. As used in chapters 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 167, 168, 170, 171, 177 and 178, the following terms mean:
(1) "District" or "school district", when used alone, may include seven-director, urban, and metropolitan school districts;
(2) "Elementary school", a public school giving instruction in a grade or grades not higher than the eighth grade;
(3) "Family literacy programs", services of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and of sufficient duration, to make sustainable changes in families that include:
(a) Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children;
(b) Training of parents regarding how to be the primary teacher of their children and full partners in the education of their children;
(c) Parent literacy training that leads to high school completion and economic self sufficiency; and
(d) An age-appropriate education to prepare children of all ages for success in school;
(4) "Graduation rate", the quotient of the number of graduates in the current year as of June thirtieth divided by the sum of the number of graduates in the current year as of June thirtieth plus the number of twelfth graders who dropped out in the current year plus the number of eleventh graders who dropped out in the preceding year plus the number of tenth graders who dropped out in the second preceding year plus the number of ninth graders who dropped out in the third preceding year;
(5) "High school", a public school giving instruction in a grade or grades not lower than the ninth nor higher than the twelfth grade;
(6) "Metropolitan school district", any school district the boundaries of which are coterminous with the limits of any city which is not within a county;
(7) "Public school" includes all elementary and high schools operated at public expense;
(8) "School board", the board of education having general control of the property and affairs of any school district;
(9) "School term", a minimum of [one hundred seventyfour school days, as that term is defined in section 160.041, for schools with a five-day school week or a minimum of one hundred forty-two school days, as that term is defined in section 160.041, for schools with a four-day school week, and] one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance as scheduled by the board pursuant to section 171.031 during a twelve-month period in which the academic instruction of pupils is actually and regularly carried on for a group of students in the public schools of any school district[. In school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance shall be required with no minimum number of school days required], and, for a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a charter form of government or a school district that is located wholly or partially in a city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants, a minimum of one hundred and sixty-nine school days, as that term is defined in section 160.041 , unless the district has adopted a four-day school week as provided in section 171.028, in which case the district school term shall have a minimum of one hundred forty-two school days, as such term is defined in section 160.041. A school term may be within a school year or may consist of parts of two consecutive school years, but does not include summer school. A district may choose to operate two or more terms for different groups of children. A school term for students participating in a school flex program as
established in section 160.539 may consist of a combination of actual pupil attendance and attendance at college or technical career education or approved employment aligned with the student's career academic plan for a total of the required number of hours as provided in this subdivision;
(10) "Secretary", the secretary of the board of a school district;
(11) "Seven-director district", any school district which has seven directors and includes urban districts regardless of the number of directors an urban district may have unless otherwise provided by law;
(12) "Taxpayer", any individual who has paid taxes to the state or any subdivision thereof within the immediately preceding twelve-month period or the spouse of such individual;
(13) "Town", any town or village, whether or not incorporated, the plat of which has been filed in the office of the recorder of deeds of the county in which it is situated;
(14) "Urban school district", any district which includes more than half of the population or land area of any city which has not less than seventy thousand inhabitants, other than a city which is not within a county. 160.041. 1. [The "minimum school day" consists of three hours for schools with a five-day school week or four hours for schools with a four-day school week in which the pupils are under the guidance and direction of teachers in the teaching process.] A "school month" consists of four weeks of five days each for schools with a five-day school week or four weeks of four days each for schools with a fourday school week. [In school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, no minimum number of school days shall be required, and] The term "school day" shall mean any day in which, for
any amount of time, pupils are under the guidance and direction of teachers in the teaching process. The "school year" commences on the first day of July and ends on the thirtieth day of June following.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the commissioner of education is authorized to reduce the required number of hours or days in which the pupils are under the guidance and direction of teachers in the teaching process if:
(1) There is damage to or destruction of a public school facility which requires the dual utilization of another school facility; or
(2) Flooding or other inclement weather as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033 prevents students from attending the public school facility.

Such reduction shall not extend beyond two calendar years in duration.
160.400. 1. A charter school is an independent public school.
2. Except as further provided in subsection 4 of this section, charter schools may be operated only:
(1) In a metropolitan school district;
(2) In an urban school district containing most or all of a city with a population greater than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants;
(3) In a school district that has been classified as unaccredited by the state board of education;
(4) In a school district that has been classified as provisionally accredited by the state board of education and has received scores on its annual performance report consistent with a classification of provisionally accredited or unaccredited for three consecutive school years beginning
with the 2012-13 accreditation year under the following conditions:
(a) The eligibility for charter schools of any school district whose provisional accreditation is based in whole or in part on financial stress as defined in sections 161.520 to 161.529 , or on financial hardship as defined by rule of the state board of education, shall be decided by a vote of the state board of education during the third consecutive school year after the designation of provisional accreditation; and
(b) The sponsor is limited to the local school board or a sponsor who has met the standards of accountability and performance as determined by the department based on sections 160.400 to 160.425 and section 167.349 and properly promulgated rules of the department; [or]
(5) In a school district located within a county with more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand inhabitants, provided that the provisions of subsections 15 to 18 of section 160.415 shall not apply to any charter school operated in such county; or
(6) In a school district that has been accredited without provisions, sponsored only by the local school board; provided that no board with a current year enrollment of one thousand five hundred fifty students or greater shall permit more than thirty-five percent of its student enrollment to enroll in charter schools sponsored by the local board under the authority of this subdivision, except that this restriction shall not apply to any school district that subsequently becomes eligible under subdivision (3) or (4) of this subsection or to any district accredited without provisions that sponsors charter schools prior to having a current year student enrollment of one thousand five hundred fifty students or greater.
3. Except as further provided in subsection 4 of this section, the following entities are eligible to sponsor charter schools:
(1) The school board of the district in any district which is sponsoring a charter school as of August 27, 2012, as permitted under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection 2 of this section, the special administrative board of a metropolitan school district during any time in which powers granted to the district's board of education are vested in a special administrative board, or if the state board of education appoints a special administrative board to retain the authority granted to the board of education of an urban school district containing most or all of a city with a population greater than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, the special administrative board of such school district;
(2) A public four-year college or university with an approved teacher education program that meets regional or national standards of accreditation;
(3) A community college, the service area of which encompasses some portion of the district;
(4) Any private four-year college or university with an enrollment of at least one thousand students, with its primary campus in Missouri, and with an approved teacher preparation program;
(5) Any two-year private vocational or technical school designated as a $501(c)(3)$ nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, with its primary campus in Missouri;
(6) The Missouri charter public school commission created in section 160.425 .
4. Changes in a school district's accreditation status that affect charter schools shall be addressed as follows, except for the districts described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection 2 of this section:
(1) As a district transitions from unaccredited to provisionally accredited, the district shall continue to fall under the requirements for an unaccredited district until it achieves three consecutive full school years of provisional accreditation;
(2) As a district transitions from provisionally accredited to full accreditation, the district shall continue to fall under the requirements for a provisionally accredited district until it achieves three consecutive full school years of full accreditation;
(3) In any school district classified as unaccredited or provisionally accredited where a charter school is operating and is sponsored by an entity other than the local school board, when the school district becomes classified as accredited without provisions, a charter school may continue to be sponsored by the entity sponsoring it prior to the classification of accredited without provisions and shall not be limited to the local school board as a sponsor.

A charter school operating in a school district identified in subdivision (1) [or], (2), or (5) of subsection 2 of this section may be sponsored by any of the entities identified in subsection 3 of this section, irrespective of the accreditation classification of the district in which it is located. A charter school in a district described in this subsection whose charter provides for the addition of grade levels in subsequent years may continue to add levels until the planned expansion is complete to the extent of grade levels in comparable schools of the district in which the charter school is operated.
5. The mayor of a city not within a county may request a sponsor under subdivision (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) of subsection 3 of this section to consider sponsoring a "workplace charter school", which is defined for purposes of sections 160.400 to 160.425 as a charter school with the ability to target prospective students whose parent or parents are employed in a business district, as defined in the charter, which is located in the city.
6. No sponsor shall receive from an applicant for a charter school any fee of any type for the consideration of a charter, nor may a sponsor condition its consideration of a charter on the promise of future payment of any kind.
7. The charter school shall be organized as a Missouri nonprofit corporation incorporated pursuant to chapter 355. The charter provided for herein shall constitute a contract between the sponsor and the charter school.
8. As a nonprofit corporation incorporated pursuant to chapter 355, the charter school shall select the method for election of officers pursuant to section 355.326 based on the class of corporation selected. Meetings of the governing board of the charter school shall be subject to the provisions of sections 610.010 to 610.030.
9. A sponsor of a charter school, its agents and employees are not liable for any acts or omissions of a charter school that it sponsors, including acts or omissions relating to the charter submitted by the charter school, the operation of the charter school and the performance of the charter school.
10. A charter school may affiliate with a four-year college or university, including a private college or university, or a community college as otherwise specified in subsection 3 of this section when its charter is granted by a sponsor other than such college, university or community
college. Affiliation status recognizes a relationship between the charter school and the college or university for purposes of teacher training and staff development, curriculum and assessment development, use of physical facilities owned by or rented on behalf of the college or university, and other similar purposes. A university, college or community college may not charge or accept a fee for affiliation status.
11. The expenses associated with sponsorship of charter schools shall be defrayed by the department of elementary and secondary education retaining one and fivetenths percent of the amount of state and local funding allocated to the charter school under section 160.415 , not to exceed one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, adjusted for inflation. The department of elementary and secondary education shall remit the retained funds for each charter school to the school's sponsor, provided the sponsor remains in good standing by fulfilling its sponsorship obligations under sections 160.400 to 160.425 and 167.349 with regard to each charter school it sponsors, including appropriate demonstration of the following:
(1) Expends no less than ninety percent of its charter school sponsorship funds in support of its charter school sponsorship program, or as a direct investment in the sponsored schools;
(2) Maintains a comprehensive application process that follows fair procedures and rigorous criteria and grants charters only to those developers who demonstrate strong capacity for establishing and operating a quality charter school;
(3) Negotiates contracts with charter schools that clearly articulate the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding school autonomy, expected outcomes, measures
for evaluating success or failure, performance consequences based on the annual performance report, and other material terms;
(4) Conducts contract oversight that evaluates performance, monitors compliance, informs intervention and renewal decisions, and ensures autonomy provided under applicable law; and
(5) Designs and implements a transparent and rigorous process that uses comprehensive data to make merit-based renewal decisions.
12. Sponsors receiving funds under subsection 11 of this section shall be required to submit annual reports to the joint committee on education demonstrating they are in compliance with subsection 17 of this section.
13. No university, college or community college shall grant a charter to a nonprofit corporation if an employee of the university, college or community college is a member of the corporation's board of directors.
14. No sponsor shall grant a charter under sections 160.400 to 160.425 and 167.349 without ensuring that a criminal background check and family care safety registry check are conducted for all members of the governing board of the charter schools or the incorporators of the charter school if initial directors are not named in the articles of incorporation, nor shall a sponsor renew a charter without ensuring a criminal background check and family care safety registry check are conducted for each member of the governing board of the charter school.
15. No member of the governing board of a charter school shall hold any office or employment from the board or the charter school while serving as a member, nor shall the member have any substantial interest, as defined in section 105.450, in any entity employed by or contracting with the
board. No board member shall be an employee of a company that provides substantial services to the charter school. All members of the governing board of the charter school shall be considered decision-making public servants as defined in section 105.450 for the purposes of the financial disclosure requirements contained in sections 105.483, 105.485, 105.487, and 105.489.
16. A sponsor shall develop the policies and procedures for:
(1) The review of a charter school proposal including an application that provides sufficient information for rigorous evaluation of the proposed charter and provides clear documentation that the education program and academic program are aligned with the state standards and grade-level expectations, and provides clear documentation of effective governance and management structures, and a sustainable operational plan;
(2) The granting of a charter;
(3) The performance contract that the sponsor will use to evaluate the performance of charter schools. Charter schools shall meet current state academic performance standards as well as other standards agreed upon by the sponsor and the charter school in the performance contract;
(4) The sponsor's intervention, renewal, and revocation policies, including the conditions under which the charter sponsor may intervene in the operation of the charter school, along with actions and consequences that may ensue, and the conditions for renewal of the charter at the end of the term, consistent with subsections 8 and 9 of section 160.405;
(5) Additional criteria that the sponsor will use for ongoing oversight of the charter; and
(6) Procedures to be implemented if a charter school should close, consistent with the provisions of subdivision (15) of subsection 1 of section 160.405 .

The department shall provide guidance to sponsors in developing such policies and procedures.
17. (1) A sponsor shall provide timely submission to the state board of education of all data necessary to demonstrate that the sponsor is in material compliance with all requirements of sections 160.400 to 160.425 and section 167.349. The state board of education shall ensure each sponsor is in compliance with all requirements under sections 160.400 to 160.425 and 167.349 for each charter school sponsored by any sponsor. The state board shall notify each sponsor of the standards for sponsorship of charter schools, delineating both what is mandated by statute and what best practices dictate. The state board shall evaluate sponsors to determine compliance with these standards every three years. The evaluation shall include a sponsor's policies and procedures in the areas of charter application approval; required charter agreement terms and content; sponsor performance evaluation and compliance monitoring; and charter renewal, intervention, and revocation decisions. Nothing shall preclude the department from undertaking an evaluation at any time for cause.
(2) If the department determines that a sponsor is in material noncompliance with its sponsorship duties, the sponsor shall be notified and given reasonable time for remediation. If remediation does not address the compliance issues identified by the department, the commissioner of education shall conduct a public hearing and thereafter provide notice to the charter sponsor of corrective action that will be recommended to the state board of education. Corrective action by the department may include withholding
the sponsor's funding and suspending the sponsor's authority to sponsor a school that it currently sponsors or to sponsor any additional school until the sponsor is reauthorized by the state board of education under section 160.403.
(3) The charter sponsor may, within thirty days of receipt of the notice of the commissioner's recommendation, provide a written statement and other documentation to show cause as to why that action should not be taken. Final determination of corrective action shall be determined by the state board of education based upon a review of the documentation sulbmitted to the department and the charter sponsor.
(4) If the state board removes the authority to sponsor a currently operating charter school under any provision of law, the Missouri charter public school commission shall become the sponsor of the school.
18. If a sponsor notifies a charter school of closure under subsection 8 of section 160.405 , the department of elementary and secondary education shall exercise its financial withholding authority under subsection 12 of section 160.415 to assure all obligations of the charter school shall be met. The state, charter sponsor, or resident district shall not be liable for any outstanding liability or obligations of the charter school.
160.415. 1. For the purposes of calculation and distribution of state school aid under section 163.031, pupils enrolled in a charter school shall be included in the pupil enrollment of the school district within which each pupil resides. Each charter school shall report the eligibility for free and reduced price lunch, special education, or limited English proficiency status, as well as eligibility for categorical aid, of pupils resident in a school district who are enrolled in the charter school to
the school district in which those pupils reside. The charter school shall report the average daily attendance data, free and reduced price lunch count, special education pupil count, and limited English proficiency pupil count to the state department of elementary and secondary education. Each charter school shall promptly notify the state department of elementary and secondary education and the pupil's school district when a pupil discontinues enrollment at a charter school.
2. Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4 of this section, the aid payments for charter schools shall be as described in this subsection.
(1) A school district having one or more resident pupils attending a charter school shall pay to the charter school an annual amount equal to the product of the charter school's weighted average daily attendance and the state adequacy target, multiplied by the dollar value modifier for the district, plus local tax revenues per weighted average daily attendance from the incidental and teachers' funds in excess of the performance levy as defined in section 163.011 plus all other state aid attributable to such pupils.
(2) The district of residence of a pupil attending a charter school shall also pay to the charter school any other federal or state aid that the district receives on account of such pupil.
(3) If the department overpays or underpays the amount due to the charter school, such overpayment or underpayment shall be repaid by the charter school or credited to the charter school in twelve equal payments in the next fiscal year.
(4) The amounts provided pursuant to this subsection shall be prorated for partial year enrollment for a pupil.
(5) A school district shall pay the amounts due pursuant to this subsection as the disbursal agent and no later than twenty days following the receipt of any such funds. The department of elementary and secondary education shall pay the amounts due when it acts as the disbursal agent within five days of the required due date.
3. A workplace charter school shall receive payment for each eligible pupil as provided under subsection 2 of this section, except that if the pupil is not a resident of the district and is participating in a voluntary interdistrict transfer program, the payment for such pupils shall be the same as provided under section 162.1060 .
4. A charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency shall receive from the department of elementary and secondary education an annual amount equal to the product of the charter school's weighted average daily attendance and the state adequacy target, multiplied by the dollar value modifier for the district, plus local tax revenues per weighted average daily attendance from the incidental and teachers funds in excess of the performance levy as defined in section 163.011 plus all other state aid attributable to such pupils. If a charter school declares itself as a local educational agency, the department of elementary and secondary education shall, upon notice of the declaration, reduce the payment made to the school district by the amount specified in this subsection and pay directly to the charter school the annual amount reduced from the school district's payment.
5. If a school district fails to make timely payments of any amount for which it is the disbursal agent, the state department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize payment to the charter school of the amount due pursuant to subsection 2 of this section and shall deduct
the same amount from the next state school aid apportionment to the owing school district. If a charter school is paid more or less than the amounts due pursuant to this section, the amount of overpayment or underpayment shall be adjusted equally in the next twelve payments by the school district or the department of elementary and secondary education, as appropriate. Any dispute between the school district and a charter school as to the amount owing to the charter school shall be resolved by the department of elementary and secondary education, and the department's decision shall be the final administrative action for the purposes of review pursuant to chapter 536. During the period of dispute, the department of elementary and secondary education shall make every administrative and statutory effort to allow the continued education of students in their current charter school setting.
6. The charter school and a local school board may agree by contract for services to be provided by the school district to the charter school. The charter school may contract with any other entity for services. Such services may include but are not limited to food service, custodial service, maintenance, management assistance, curriculum assistance, media services and libraries and shall be subject to negotiation between the charter school and the local school board or other entity. Documented actual costs of such services shall be paid for by the charter school.
7. In the case of a proposed charter school that intends to contract with an education service provider for substantial educational services or management services, the request for proposals shall additionally require the charter school applicant to:
(1) Provide evidence of the education service provider's success in serving student populations similar to
the targeted population, including demonstrated academic achievement as well as successful management of nonacademic school functions, if applicable;
(2) Provide a term sheet setting forth the proposed duration of the service contract; roles and responsibilities of the governing board, the school staff, and the service provider; scope of services and resources to be provided by the service provider; performance evaluation measures and time lines; compensation structure, including clear identification of all fees to be paid to the service provider; methods of contract oversight and enforcement; investment disclosure; and conditions for renewal and termination of the contract;
(3) Disclose any known conflicts of interest between the school governing board and proposed service provider or any affiliated business entities;
(4) Disclose and explain any termination or nonrenewal of contracts for equivalent services for any other charter school in the United States within the past five years;
(5) Ensure that the legal counsel for the charter school shall report directly to the charter school's governing board; and
(6) Provide a process to ensure that the expenditures that the education service provider intends to bill to the charter school shall receive prior approval of the governing board or its designee.
8. A charter school may enter into contracts with community partnerships and state agencies acting in collaboration with such partnerships that provide services to students and their families linked to the school.
9. A charter school shall be eligible for transportation state aid pursuant to section 163.161 and shall be free to contract with the local district, or any
other entity, for the provision of transportation to the students of the charter school.
10. (1) The proportionate share of state and federal resources generated by students with disabilities or staff serving them shall be paid in full to charter schools enrolling those students by their school district where such enrollment is through a contract for services described in this section. The proportionate share of money generated under other federal or state categorical aid programs shall be directed to charter schools serving such students eligible for that aid.
(2) A charter school shall provide the special services provided pursuant to section 162.705 and may provide the special services pursuant to a contract with a school district or any provider of such services.
11. A charter school shall not charge tuition or impose fees that a school district is prohibited from charging or imposing, except that a charter school may receive tuition payments from districts in the same or an adjoining county for nonresident students who transfer to an approved charter school, as defined in section 167.895, from an unaccredited district.
12. A charter school is authorized to incur debt in anticipation of receipt of funds. A charter school may also borrow to finance facilities and other capital items. A school district may incur bonded indebtedness or take other measures to provide for physical facilities and other capital items for charter schools that it sponsors or contracts with. Except as otherwise specifically provided in sections 160.400 to 160.425 , upon the dissolution of a charter school, any liabilities of the corporation will be satisfied through the procedures of chapter 355. A charter school shall satisfy all its financial obligations within
twelve months of notice from the sponsor of the charter school's closure under subsection 8 of section 160.405. After satisfaction of all its financial obligations, a charter school shall return any remaining state and federal funds to the department of elementary and secondary education for disposition as stated in subdivision (17) of subsection 1 of section 160.405 . The department of elementary and secondary education may withhold funding at a level the department determines to be adequate during a school's last year of operation until the department determines that school records, liabilities, and reporting requirements, including a full audit, are satisfied.
13. Charter schools shall not have the power to acquire property by eminent domain.
14. The governing board of a charter school is authorized to accept grants, gifts or donations of any kind and to expend or use such grants, gifts or donations. A grant, gift or donation shall not be accepted by the governing board if it is subject to any condition contrary to law applicable to the charter school or other public schools, or contrary to the terms of the charter.
15. In addition to any state aid remitted to charter schools under this section, the department of elementary and secondary education shall remit to any charter school an amount equal to the weighted average daily attendance of the charter school multiplied by the difference of:
(1) The amount of state aid and local aid per weighted average daily attendance received by the school district in which the charter school is located, not including any funds remitted to charter schools in the district. For the purposes of this subdivision, the weighted average daily attendance of the school district shall not include the
weighted average daily attendance of the charter schools located in the district; and
(2) The amount of state aid and local aid per weighted average daily attendance of the charter school received by the charter school.
16. Charter schools may adjust weighted average daily attendance pursuant to section 163.036 .
17. When calculating the amounts in subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection 15 of this section, the department shall utilize the most current data to which the department has access.
18. For the purposes of subsection 15 of this section:
(1) The definitions contained in section 163.011, shall apply;
(2) The term "local aid" shall mean all local and county revenue received, including, but not limited to, the following:
(a) Property taxes and delinquent taxes;
(b) Merchants' and manufacturers' tax revenues;
(c) Financial institutions' tax revenues;
(d) City sales tax revenue, including city sales tax collected in any city not within a county;
(e) Payments in lieu of taxes; and
(f) Revenues from state-assessed railroad and utilities tax;
(3) The term local aid shall not be construed to include:
(a) Charitable contributions, gifts, and grants made to school districts;
(b) Interest earnings of school districts and student fees paid to school districts;
(c) Debt service authorized by a public vote for the purpose of making payments on a bond issuance of a school district;
(d) Proposition C revenues received for school purposes from the school district trust fund under section 163.087; or
(e) Any other funding solely intended for a particular school district or their respective employees, schools, foundations, or organizations;
(4) The term "state aid" shall mean any revenues received pursuant to this section and sections 163.043 and 163.087.
19. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, subsections 15 to 18 of this section shall be applicable to charter schools operated only in the following school districts, provided that no such school district shall be located in a county with more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand inhabitants:
(1) In a metropolitan school district;
(2) In an urban school district containing most or all of a city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county;
(3) In a school district that has been classified as unaccredited by the state board of education;
(4) In a school district that has been classified as provisionally accredited by the state board of education and has received scores on its annual performance report consistent with a classification of provisionally accredited or unaccredited for three consecutive school years beginning with the 2012-13 accreditation year under the conditions described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subdivision (4) of subsection 2 of section 160.400 ; or
(5) In a school district that has been accredited without provisions, sponsored only by the local school board under the conditions described in subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section 160.400 .
20. (1) The members of the governing board of a charter school shall be residents of the state of Missouri.
(2) Any current member of a governing board of a charter school who does not meet the requirements in subdivision (1) of this subsection may complete their term. Such individual shall not be renominated as a member of the governing board on which he or she sits.
21. (1) Any charter school management company operating a charter school in the state shall be a nonprofit corporation incorporated pursuant to chapter 355.
(2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a charter school is operated by a charter school management company, all laws and regulations that apply to employees of such charter school shall apply to the actions of any employees of the management company while they are conducting any work relating to the direct decisionmaking of the operation of such charter school.
22. Beginning July 1, 2023, the provisions of section 160.995 shall be applicable to charter schools.
23. Each charter school shall publish its annual performance report on the school's website in a downloadable format.
161.239. 1. For purposes of this section, the

## following terms mean:

(1) "Department", the department of elementary and

## secondary education;

(2) "Local educational agency", as such term is defined in section 161.1085.
2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Elementary Literacy Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated by the general assembly from general revenue and any gifts, bequests, or donations. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180 , the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and money in the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of providing grants to local educational agencies for home reading programs as provided in this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.
3. The general assembly shall annually appropriate to the fund an amount not to exceed five million dollars. The department shall develop a process by which a local educational agency may apply for a grant from the fund for an eligible home reading program that meets the conditions set forth in subsection 4 of this section, provided that the local educational agency shall match any such funds if such funds are granted.
4. A home reading program shall be considered eligible for a grant from the fund if the program is provided by a nonprofit organization that meets all of the following conditions:
(1) The program's objective is to deliver an evidencebased reading program consisting of books that are individually mailed to the residences of students in kindergarten to grade five following the selection of such

> books by such students, provided that each student shall be allowed to select books that he or she can read on his or her own with ease;
(2) The program incorporates at least weekly phone calls, texts, or application notifications in multiple languages to the parent or guardian of each participating student to increase parental and family engagement throughout the duration of the program;
(3) The program provides at least six, but not more than nine, student-selected new books that students are allowed to keep;
(4) The program builds on pedagogical and literacy principles to improve reading comprehension with student exercises;
(5) The program includes a customizable portal that generates individualized data reports for analysis of student progress;
(6) The program collects, disaggregates, and distributes detailed data on all metrics of the program, such as parental engagement, books read, and demographic data;
(7) The program provides summary data to the general assembly and to the department for all students served by the program;
(8) The program provider agrees to secure the required matching funds from the local educational agency, to maintain verification of the receipt of such matching funds, and to provide such verification in the event of an audit; and
(9) The combined total cost of the program, including matching funds from the local educational agency, does not exceed sixty dollars per student per semester.
161.670. 1. Notwithstanding any other law, prior to July 1, 2007, the state board of education shall establish the "Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program" to serve school-age students residing in the state. The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall offer nonclassroom-based instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, or internet methods of communication. Any student under the age of twenty-one in grades kindergarten through twelve who resides in this state shall be eligible to enroll in the Missouri course access and virtual school program pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.
2. (1) For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school aid, students enrolled in the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall be included in the student enrollment of the school district in which the student is enrolled under the relevant provisions of subsection 3 of this section[; provided that any such] for such enrollment. Student attendance for full-time virtual program students shall only be included in any district pupil attendance calculation under chapter 163 [and any charter school pupil attendance calculation under section 160.415,] using current-year pupil attendance for such fulltime virtual program pupils[; and further provided that]. For the purpose of calculating average daily attendance in full time virtual programs under this section, average daily attendance shall be defined as the quotient or the sum of the quotients obtained by dividing the total number of hours attended in a term by enrolled pupils between the ages of five and twenty-one by the actual number of hours that the program was in session in that term, and the provisions of section 162.1250 shall not apply to such funding calculation. Such calculation shall be generated by the
virtual provider and provided to the host district for submission to the department of elementary and secondary education. Such students may complete their instructional activities, as defined in subsection 4 of this section, during any hour of the day and during any day of the week. The hours attended for each enrolled pupil shall be documented by the pupil's weekly progress in the educational program according to a process determined by the virtual program and published annually in the virtual program's enrollment handbook or policy. To the average daily attendance of the following school term shall be added the full-time equivalent average daily attendance of summer school students. In the case of a host school district enrolling one or more full-time virtual school students, such enrolling district shall, as part of its monthly state allocation, receive no less under the state aid calculation for such students than an amount equal to the state adequacy target multiplied by the weighted average daily attendance of such full-time students. Students residing in Missouri and enrolled in a full-time virtual school program operated by a public institution of higher education in this state shall be counted for a state aid calculation by the department, and the department shall pay, from funds dedicated to state school aid payments made under section 163.031, to such institution an amount equal to the state adequacy target multiplied by the weighted average daily attendance of such full-time students.
(2) The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall report to the district of residence the following information about each student served by the Missouri course access and virtual school program: name, address, eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, limited English proficiency status, special education needs,
and the number of courses in which the student is enrolled. The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall promptly notify the resident district when a student discontinues enrollment. A "full-time equivalent student" is a student who is enrolled in the instructional equivalent of six credits per regular term. Each Missouri course access and virtual school program course shall count as one class and shall generate that portion of a full-time equivalent that a comparable course offered by the school district would generate.
(3) Pursuant to an education services plan and collaborative agreement under subsection 3 of this section, full-time equivalent students may be allowed to use a physical location of the resident school district for all or some portion of ongoing instructional activity, and the enrollment plan shall provide for reimbursement of costs of the resident district for providing such access pursuant to rules promulgated under this section by the department.
(4) In no case shall more than the full-time equivalency of a regular term of attendance for a single student be used to claim state aid. Full-time equivalent student credit completed shall be reported to the department of elementary and secondary education in the manner prescribed by the department. Nothing in this section shall prohibit students from enrolling in additional courses under a separate agreement that includes terms for paying tuition or course fees.
(5) A full-time virtual school program serving fulltime equivalent students shall be considered an attendance center in the host school district and shall participate in the statewide assessment system as defined in section 160.518. The academic performance of students enrolled in a full-time virtual school program shall be assigned to the
designated attendance center of the full-time virtual school program and shall be considered in like manner to other attendance centers. The academic performance of any student who disenrolls from a full-time virtual school program and enrolls in a public school or charter school shall not be used in determining the annual performance report score of the attendance center or school district in which the student enrolls for twelve months from the date of enrollment.
(6) For the purposes of this section, a public institution of higher education operating a full-time virtual school program shall be subject to all requirements applicable to a host school district with respect to its full-time equivalent students.
3. (1) A student who resides in this state may enroll in Missouri course access and virtual school program courses of his or her choice as a part of the student's annual course load each school year, with any costs associated with such course or courses to be paid by the school district or charter school if:
(a) The student is enrolled full-time in a public school, including any charter school; and
(b) Prior to enrolling in any Missouri course access and virtual school program course, a student has received approval from his or her school district or charter school through the procedure described under subdivision (2) of this subsection.
(2) Each school district or charter school shall adopt a policy that delineates the process by which a student may enroll in courses provided by the Missouri course access and virtual school program that is substantially similar to the typical process by which a district student would enroll in courses offered by the school district and a charter school
student would enroll in courses offered by the charter school. The policy may include consultation with the school's counselor and may include parental notification or authorization. The policy shall ensure that available opportunities for in-person instruction are considered prior to moving a student to virtual courses. The policy shall allow for continuous enrollment throughout the school year. If the school district or charter school disapproves a student's request to enroll in a course or courses provided by the Missouri course access and virtual school program, the reason shall be provided in writing and it shall be for good cause. Good cause justification to disapprove a student's request for enrollment in a course shall be a determination that doing so is not in the best educational interest of the student, and shall be consistent with the determination that would be made for such course request under the process by which a district student would enroll in a similar course offered by the school district and a charter school student would enroll in a similar course offered by the charter school, except that the determination may consider the suitability of virtual courses for the student based on prior participation in virtual courses by the student. Appeals of any course denials under this subsection shall be considered under a policy that is substantially similar to the typical process by which appeals would be considered for a student seeking to enroll in courses offered by the school district and a charter school student seeking to enroll in courses offered by the charter school.
(3) For students enrolled in any Missouri course access and virtual school program course in which costs associated with such course are to be paid by the school district or charter school as described under this
subdivision, the school district or charter school shall pay the content provider directly on a pro rata monthly basis based on a student's completion of assignments and assessments. If a student discontinues enrollment, the district or charter school may stop making monthly payments to the content provider. No school district or charter school shall pay, for any one course for a student, more than the market necessary costs but in no case shall pay more than fourteen percent of the state adequacy target, as defined under section 163.011, as calculated at the end of the most recent school year for any single, year-long course and no more than seven percent of the state adequacy target as described above for any single semester equivalent course.
(4) [For students enrolling in a full-time virtual
program, the department of elementary and secondary education shall adopt a policy that delineates the process by which] (a) A student who lives in this state may enroll in a virtual program of their choice as provided in this subdivision, and the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3) of this subsection shall not apply to such enrollment in a full-time virtual program. Each host school district operating a full-time virtual program under this section shall adopt, operate and implement [the state] an enrollment policy[, subject to] as specified by the provisions of this subdivision. [The policy shall:
(a) Require the good faith collaboration of] The student, the student's parent or guardian if the student is not considered homeless, the virtual program, the host district, and the resident district[;] shall collaborate in good faith to implement the enrollment policy regarding the student's enrollment, and the resident school district and the host school district may mutually agree that the resident district shall offer or continue to offer services
for the student under an agreement that includes financial terms for reimbursement by the host school district for the necessary costs of the resident school district providing such services. An enrollment policy specified under this subsection shall:
[(b)] a. Require a student's parent or guardian, if the student is not considered homeless, to apply for enrollment in a full-time virtual program directly with the virtual program;
b. Specify timelines for timely participation by the virtual program, the host district, and resident district; provided that the resident district shall provide any relevant information and input on the enrollment within ten business days of notice from the virtual program of the enrollment application;
[(c)] C. Include a survey of the reasons for the student's and parent's interests in participating in the virtual program;
[(d)] d. Include consideration of available opportunities for in-person instruction prior to enrolling a student in a virtual program;
[(e)] e. Evaluate requests for enrollment based on meeting the needs for a student to be successful considering all relevant factors;
[(f)] f. Ensure that, for any enrolling student with a covered disability, an individualized education [services plan and collaborative agreement is] program and a related services agreement, in cases where such agreement is needed, are created to provide all services required to ensure a free and appropriate public education, including financial terms for reimbursement by the host district for the necessary costs of any virtual program, school district, or
public or private entity providing all or a portion of such services;
[(g)] g. Require the virtual program to determine whether an enrolling student will be admitted, based on the enrollment policy, in consideration of all relevant factors and provide the basis for its determination and any service plan for the student, in writing, to the student, the student's parent or guardian, the host district, and the resident district; and
[(h)] h. Provide a process for reviewing appeals of decisions made under this subdivision[; and].
[(i) Require] (b) The department [to] shall publish an annual report based on the enrollments and enrollment surveys conducted under this subdivision that provides data at the statewide and district levels of sufficient detail to allow analysis of trends regarding the reasons for participation in the virtual program at the statewide and district levels; provided that no such survey results will be published in a manner that reveals individual student information. The department shall also include, in the annual report, data at the statewide and district levels of sufficient detail to allow detection and analysis of the racial, ethnic, and socio-economic balance of virtual program participation among schools and districts at the statewide and district levels, provided that no such survey results will be published in a manner that reveals individual student information.
(5) In the case of a student who is a candidate for A+ tuition reimbursement and taking a virtual course under this section, the school shall attribute no less than ninety-five percent attendance to any such student who has completed such virtual course.
(6) The Missouri course access and virtual school program shall ensure that individual learning plans designed by certified teachers and professional staff are developed for all students enrolled in more than two full-time course access program courses or a full-time virtual school.
(7) Virtual school programs shall monitor individual student success and engagement of students enrolled in their program[,] and, for students enrolled in virtual courses on a part-time basis, the virtual school program shall provide regular student progress reports for each student at least four times per school year to the school district or charter school, provide the host school district and the resident school district ongoing access to academic and other relevant information on student success and engagement, and shall terminate or alter the course offering if it is found the course [or full-time virtual school] is not meeting the educational needs of the students enrolled in the course.
(8) The department of elementary and secondary education shall monitor the aggregate performance of providers and make such information available to the public under subsection 11 of this section.
(9) Pursuant to rules to be promulgated by the department of elementary and secondary education, when a student transfers into a school district or charter school, credits previously gained through successful passage of approved courses under the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall be accepted by the school district or charter school.
(10) Pursuant to rules to be promulgated by the department of elementary and secondary education, if a student transfers into a school district or charter school while enrolled in a Missouri course access and virtual school program course or full-time virtual school, the
student shall continue to be enrolled in such course or school.
(11) Nothing in this section shall prohibit home school or FPE school students, private school students, or students wishing to take additional courses beyond their regular course load from enrolling in Missouri course access and virtual school program courses under an agreement that includes terms for paying tuition or course fees.
(12) Nothing in this subsection shall require any school district, charter school, virtual program, or the state to provide computers, equipment, or internet access to any student unless required under the education services plan created for an eligible student under subdivision (4) of this subsection or for an eligible student with a disability to comply with federal law. An education services plan may require an eligible student to have access to school facilities of the resident school district during regular school hours for participation and instructional activities of a virtual program under this section, and the education services plan shall provide for reimbursement of the resident school district for such access pursuant to rules adopted by the department under this section.
(13) The authorization process shall provide for continuous monitoring of approved providers and courses. The department shall revoke or suspend or take other corrective action regarding the authorization of any course or provider no longer meeting the requirements of the program. Unless immediate action is necessary, prior to revocation or suspension, the department shall notify the provider and give the provider a reasonable time period to take corrective action to avoid revocation or suspension. The process shall provide for periodic renewal of authorization no less frequently than once every three years.
(14) Courses approved as of August 28, 2018, by the department to participate in the Missouri virtual instruction program shall be automatically approved to participate in the Missouri course access and virtual school program, but shall be subject to periodic renewal.
(15) Any online course or virtual program offered by a school district or charter school, including those offered prior to August 28, 2018, which meets the requirements of section 162.1250 shall be automatically approved to participate in the Missouri course access and virtual school program. Such course or program shall be subject to periodic renewal. A school district or charter school offering such a course or virtual school program shall be deemed an approved provider.
(16) A host district may contract with a provider to perform any required services involved with delivering a full-time virtual education.
4. (1) As used in this subsection, the term
"instructional activities" means classroom-based or
nonclassroom-based activities that a student shall be expected to complete, participate in, or attend during any given school day, such as:
(a) Online logins to curricula or programs;
(b) Offline activities;
(c) Completed assignments within a particular program, curriculum, or class;
(d) Testing;
(e) Face-to-face communications or meetings with
school staff;
(f) Telephone or video conferences with school staff;
(g) School-sanctioned field trips; or
(h) Orientation.
(2) A full-time virtual school shall submit a notification to the parent or guardian of any student who is not consistently engaged in instructional activities and shall provide regular student progress reports for each student at least four times per school year.
(3) Each full-time virtual school shall develop, adopt, and post on the school's website a policy setting forth the consequences for a student who fails to complete the required instructional activities. Such policy shall state, at a minimum, that if a student fails to complete the instructional activities after receiving a notification under subdivision (2) of this subsection, and after reasonable intervention strategies have been implemented, that the student shall be subject to certain consequences which may include disenrollment from the school. Prior to any disenrollment, the parent or guardian shall have the opportunity to present any information that the parent deems relevant, and such information shall be considered prior to any final decision.
(4) If a full-time virtual school disenrolls a student under subdivision (3) of this subsection, the school shall immediately provide written notification to such student's school district of residence. The student's school district of residence shall then provide to the parents or guardian of the student a written list of available educational options and promptly enroll the student in the selected option. Any student disenrolled from a full-time virtual school shall be prohibited from reenrolling in the same virtual school for the remainder of the school year.
5. School districts or charter schools shall inform parents of their child's right to participate in the program. Availability of the program shall be made clear in the parent handbook, registration documents, and featured on
the home page of the school district or charter school's website.
6. The department shall:
(1) Establish an authorization process for course or full-time virtual school providers that includes multiple opportunities for submission each year;
(2) Pursuant to the time line established by the department, authorize course or full-time virtual school providers that:
(a) Submit all necessary information pursuant to the requirements of the process; and
(b) Meet the criteria described in subdivision (3) of this subsection;
(3) Review, pursuant to the authorization process, proposals from providers to provide a comprehensive, fulltime equivalent course of study for students through the Missouri course access and virtual school program. The department shall ensure that these comprehensive courses of study align to state academic standards and that there is consistency and compatibility in the curriculum used by all providers from one grade level to the next grade level;
(4) Within thirty days of any denial, provide a written explanation to any course or full-time virtual school providers that are denied authorization;
(5) Allow a course or full-time virtual school provider denied authorization to reapply at any point in the future.
7. The department shall publish the process established under this section, including any deadlines and any guidelines applicable to the submission and authorization process for course or full-time virtual school providers on its website.
8. If the department determines that there are insufficient funds available for evaluating and authorizing course or full-time virtual school providers, the department may charge applicant course or full-time virtual school providers a fee up to, but no greater than, the amount of the costs in order to ensure that evaluation occurs. The department shall establish and publish a fee schedule for purposes of this subsection.
9. Except as specified in this section and as may be specified by rule of the state board of education, the Missouri course access and virtual school program shall comply with all state laws and regulations applicable to school districts, including but not limited to the Missouri school improvement program (MSIP), annual performance report (APR), teacher certification, curriculum standards, audit requirements under chapter 165, access to public records under chapter 610, and school accountability report cards under section 160.522 . Teachers and administrators employed by a virtual provider shall be considered to be employed in a public school for all certification purposes under chapter 168.
10. The department shall submit and publicly publish an annual report on the Missouri course access and virtual school program and the participation of entities to the governor, the chair and ranking member of the senate education committee, and the chair and ranking member of the house of representatives elementary and secondary education committee. The report shall at a minimum include the following information:
(1) The annual number of unique students participating in courses authorized under this section and the total number of courses in which students are enrolled in;
(2) The number of authorized providers;
(3) The number of authorized courses and the number of students enrolled in each course;
(4) The number of courses available by subject and grade level;
(5) The number of students enrolled in courses broken down by subject and grade level;
(6) Student outcome data, including completion rates, student learning gains, student performance on state or nationally accepted assessments, by subject and grade level per provider. This outcome data shall be published in a manner that protects student privacy;
(7) The costs per course;
(8) Evaluation of in-school course availability compared to course access availability to ensure gaps in course access are being addressed statewide.
11. (1) The department shall be responsible for creating the Missouri course access and virtual school program catalog providing a listing of all courses authorized and available to students in the state, detailed information, including costs per course, about the courses to inform student enrollment decisions, and the ability for students to submit their course enrollments.
(2) On or before January 1, 2023, the department shall publish on its website, and distribute to all school districts and charter schools in this state, a guidance document that details the options for virtual course access and full-time virtual course access for all students in the state. The guidance document shall include a complete and readily understood description of the applicable enrollment processes including the opportunity for students to enroll and the roles and responsibilities of the student, parent, virtual provider, school district or districts, and charter schools, as appropriate. The guidance document shall be
distributed in written and electronic form to all school districts, charter schools, and virtual providers. School districts and charter schools shall provide a copy of the guidance document to every pupil and parent or legal guardian of every pupil enrolled in the district or charter school at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment for every pupil enrolling at a different time of the school year. School districts and charter schools shall provide a readily viewable link to the electronic version of the guidance document on the main page of the district's or charter school's website.
12. 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. 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 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, 2006, shall be invalid and void.
162.471. 1. The government and control of an urban school district is vested in a board of seven directors.
2. Except as provided in section 162.563, each director shall be a voter of the district who has resided within this state for one year next preceding the director's election or appointment and who is at least twenty-four years of age. All directors, except as otherwise provided in sections 162.481, 162.492, and 162.563, shall hold their offices for six years and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All vacancies occurring in the board[, except as provided in section 162.492,] shall be filled by appointment by the board as soon as practicable, and the person appointed shall hold office until the next school board election, when a successor shall be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term. The power of the board to perform any official duty during the existence of a vacancy continues unimpaired thereby.
162.492. 1. In all urban districts containing the greater part of the population of a city which has more than three hundred thousand inhabitants, the election authority of the city in which the greater portion of the school district lies, and of the county if the district includes territory not within the city limits, shall serve ex officio as a redistricting commission. The commission shall on or before November 1, 2018, divide the school district into five subdistricts, all subdistricts being of compact and contiguous territory and as nearly equal in the number of inhabitants as practicable and thereafter the board shall
redistrict the district into subdivisions as soon as practicable after each United States decennial census. In establishing the subdistricts each member shall have one vote and a majority vote of the total membership of the commission is required to make effective any action of the commission.
2. School elections for the election of directors shall be held on municipal election days in 2014 and 2016. At the election in 2014, directors shall be elected to hold office until 2019 and until their successors are elected and qualified. At the election in 2016 , directors shall be elected until 2019 and until their successors are elected and qualified. Beginning in 2019, school elections for the election of directors shall be held on the local election date as specified in the charter of a home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county. Beginning at the election for school directors in 2019, the number of directors on the board shall be reduced from nine to seven. Two directors shall be at-large directors and five directors shall represent the subdistricts, with one director from each of the subdistricts. At the 2019 election, one of the at-large directors and the directors from subdistricts one, three, and five shall be elected for a two-year term, and the other at-large director and the directors from subdistricts two and four shall be elected for a four-year term. Thereafter, all seven directors shall serve a four-year term. Directors shall serve until the next election and until their successors, then elected, are duly qualified as provided in this section. In addition to other qualifications prescribed by law, each member elected from a subdistrict shall be a resident of the subdistrict from which he or she
is elected. The subdistricts shall be numbered from one to five.
3. The five candidates, one from each of the subdistricts, who receive a plurality of the votes cast by the voters of that subdistrict and the at-large candidates receiving a plurality of the at-large votes shall be elected. The name of no candidate for nomination shall be printed on the ballot unless the candidate has at least sixty days prior to the election filed a declaration of candidacy with the secretary of the board of directors containing the signatures of at least two hundred fifty registered voters who are residents of the subdistrict within which the candidate for nomination to a subdistrict office resides, and in case of at-large candidates the signatures of at least five hundred registered voters. The election authority shall determine the validity of all signatures on declarations of candidacy.
4. In any election either for at-large candidates or candidates elected by the voters of subdistricts, if there are more than two candidates, a majority of the votes are not required to elect but the candidate having a plurality of the votes shall be elected.
5. The names of all candidates shall appear upon the ballot without party designation and in the order of the priority of the times of filing their petitions of nomination. No candidate may file both at large and from a subdistrict and the names of all candidates shall appear only once on the ballot, nor may any candidate file more than one declaration of candidacy. All declarations shall designate the candidate's residence and whether the candidate is filing at large or from a subdistrict and the numerical designation of the subdistrict or at-large area.
6. The provisions of all sections relating to sevendirector school districts shall also apply to and govern urban districts in cities of more than three hundred thousand inhabitants, to the extent applicable and not in conflict with the provisions of those sections specifically relating to such urban districts.
7. Vacancies which occur on the school board [between the dates of election shall be filled by special election if such vacancy happens more than six months prior to the time of holding an election as provided in subsection 2 of this section. The state board of education shall order a special election to fill such a vacancy. A letter from the commissioner of education, delivered by certified mail to the election authority or authorities that would normally conduct an election for school board members shall be the authority for the election authority or authorities to proceed with election procedures. If a vacancy occurs less than six months prior to the time of holding an election as provided in subsection 2 of this section, no special election shall occur and the vacancy shall be filled at the next election day on which local elections are held as specified in the charter of any home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county] shall be filled in the manner provided in section 162.471.
162.611. Any member failing to attend the meetings of the board for three consecutive regular meetings, unless excused by the board for reasons satisfactory to the board, shall be deemed to have vacated his seat; and the secretary of the board shall certify that fact to the [mayor] board. The secretary shall likewise certify to the [mayor] board any other vacancy occurring in the board. Any vacancy shall
be filled by the [mayor] board by appointment for the remainder of the term.
162.996. 1. Special educational services may be offered during the regular school day. Children who attend special educational services in the district and who otherwise attend a private, parochial, parish [or], home school, or FPE school shall be in compliance with section 167.031.
2. A public school district shall be entitled to state aid for resident handicapped children who attend special educational services and who otherwise attend private, parochial, parish, FPE, or home schools. State aid shall be calculated on the basis of full-time equivalent average daily attendance of part-time students as provided in section 163.011.
3. Nothing in this section shall change the authority of a public school board to set the schedule of classes for full-time or part-time public school pupils including pupils receiving services under this section.
4. Nothing herein shall be construed to require transportation for these services.
5. No resident child shall be denied or discriminated against in special educational services offered by a school district on the grounds that the child regularly attends a private, parochial, parish [or], home school, or FPE school.
163.011. As used in this chapter unless the context requires otherwise:
(1) "Adjusted operating levy", the sum of tax rates for the current year for teachers' and incidental funds for a school district as reported to the proper officer of each county pursuant to section 164.011;
(2) "Average daily attendance", the quotient or the sum of the quotients obtained by dividing the total number
of hours attended in a term by resident pupils between the ages of five and twenty-one by the actual number of hours school was in session in that term. To the average daily attendance of the following school term shall be added the full-time equivalent average daily attendance of summer school students. "Full-time equivalent average daily attendance of summer school students" shall be computed by dividing the total number of hours, except for physical education hours that do not count as credit toward graduation for students in grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve, attended by all summer school pupils by the number of hours required in section 160.011 in the school term. For purposes of determining average daily attendance under this subdivision, the term "resident pupil" shall include all children between the ages of five and twenty-one who are residents of the school district and who are attending kindergarten through grade twelve in such district. If a child is attending school in a district other than the district of residence and the child's parent is teaching in the school district or is a regular employee of the school district which the child is attending, then such child shall be considered a resident pupil of the school district which the child is attending for such period of time when the district of residence is not otherwise liable for tuition. Average daily attendance for students below the age of five years for which a school district may receive state aid based on such attendance shall be computed as regular school term attendance unless otherwise provided by law;
(3) "Current operating expenditures":
(a) For the fiscal year 2007 calculation, "current operating expenditures" shall be calculated using data from fiscal year 2004 and shall be calculated as all expenditures for instruction and support services except capital outlay
and debt service expenditures minus the revenue from federal categorical sources; food service; student activities; categorical payments for transportation costs pursuant to section 163.161; state reimbursements for early childhood special education; the career ladder entitlement for the district, as provided for in sections 168.500 to 168.515; the vocational education entitlement for the district, as provided for in section 167.332; and payments from other districts;
(b) In every fiscal year subsequent to fiscal year 2007, current operating expenditures shall be the amount in paragraph (a) of this subdivision plus any increases in state funding pursuant to sections 163.031 and 163.043 subsequent to fiscal year 2005, not to exceed five percent, per recalculation, of the state revenue received by a district in the 2004-05 school year from the foundation formula, line 14, gifted, remedial reading, exceptional pupil aid, fair share, and free textbook payments for any district from the first preceding calculation of the state adequacy target;
(4) "District's tax rate ceiling", the highest tax rate ceiling in effect subsequent to the 1980 tax year or any subsequent year. Such tax rate ceiling shall not contain any tax levy for debt service;
(5) "Dollar-value modifier", an index of the relative purchasing power of a dollar, calculated as one plus fifteen percent of the difference of the regional wage ratio minus one, provided that the dollar value modifier shall not be applied at a rate less than 1.0:
(a) "County wage per job", the total county wage and salary disbursements divided by the total county wage and salary employment for each county and the City of St. Louis as reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United

States Department of Commerce for the fourth year preceding the payment year;
(b) "Regional wage per job":
a. The total Missouri wage and salary disbursements of the metropolitan area as defined by the Office of Management and Budget divided by the total Missouri metropolitan wage and salary employment for the metropolitan area for the county signified in the school district number or the City of St. Louis, as reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce for the fourth year preceding the payment year and recalculated upon every decennial census to incorporate counties that are newly added to the description of metropolitan areas; or if no such metropolitan area is established, then:
b. The total Missouri wage and salary disbursements of the micropolitan area as defined by the Office of Management and Budget divided by the total Missouri micropolitan wage and salary employment for the micropolitan area for the county signified in the school district number, as reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce for the fourth year preceding the payment year, if a micropolitan area for such county has been established and recalculated upon every decennial census to incorporate counties that are newly added to the description of micropolitan areas; or
c. If a county is not part of a metropolitan or micropolitan area as established by the Office of Management and Budget, then the county wage per job, as defined in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, shall be used for the school district, as signified by the school district number;
(c) "Regional wage ratio", the ratio of the regional wage per job divided by the state median wage per job;
(d) "State median wage per job", the fifty-eighth highest county wage per job;
(6) "Free and reduced price lunch pupil count", for school districts not eligible for and those that do not choose the USDA Community Eligibility Option, the number of pupils eligible for free and reduced price lunch on the last Wednesday in January for the preceding school year who were enrolled as students of the district, as approved by the department in accordance with applicable federal regulations. For eligible school districts that choose the USDA Community Eligibility Option, the free and reduced price lunch pupil count shall be the percentage of free and reduced price lunch students calculated as eligible on the last Wednesday in January of the most recent school year that included household applications to determine free and reduced price lunch count multiplied by the district's average daily attendance figure;
(7) "Free and reduced price lunch threshold" shall be calculated by dividing the total free and reduced price lunch pupil count of every performance district that falls entirely above the bottom five percent and entirely below the top five percent of average daily attendance, when such districts are rank-ordered based on their current operating expenditures per average daily attendance, by the total average daily attendance of all included performance districts;
(8) "Limited English proficiency pupil count", the number in the preceding school year of pupils aged three through twenty-one enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school who were not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English or are Native American or Alaskan native, or a native resident of the outlying areas, and come from an
environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on such individuals' level of English language proficiency, or are migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who come from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and have difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language sufficient to deny such individuals the ability to meet the state's proficient level of achievement on state assessments described in Public Law 107-10, the ability to achieve successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English, or the opportunity to participate fully in society;
(9) "Limited English proficiency threshold" shall be calculated by dividing the total limited English proficiency pupil count of every performance district that falls entirely above the bottom five percent and entirely below the top five percent of average daily attendance, when such districts are rank-ordered based on their current operating expenditures per average daily attendance, by the total average daily attendance of all included performance districts;
(10) "Local effort":
(a) For the fiscal year 2007 calculation, "local effort" shall be computed as the equalized assessed valuation of the property of a school district in calendar year 2004 divided by one hundred and multiplied by the performance levy less the percentage retained by the county assessor and collector plus one hundred percent of the amount received in fiscal year 2005 for school purposes from intangible taxes, fines, escheats, payments in lieu of taxes and receipts from state-assessed railroad and utility tax, one hundred percent of the amount received for school
purposes pursuant to the merchants' and manufacturers' taxes under sections 150.010 to 150.370, one hundred percent of the amounts received for school purposes from federal properties under sections 12.070 and 12.080 except when such amounts are used in the calculation of federal impact aid pursuant to P.L. 81-874, fifty percent of Proposition C revenues received for school purposes from the school district trust fund under section 163.087, and one hundred percent of any local earnings or income taxes received by the district for school purposes. Under this paragraph, for a special district established under sections 162.815 to 162.940 in a county with a charter form of government and with more than one million inhabitants, a tax levy of zero shall be utilized in lieu of the performance levy for the special school district;
(b) In every year subsequent to fiscal year 2007, "local effort" shall be the amount calculated under paragraph (a) of this subdivision plus any increase in the amount received for school purposes from fines. If a district's assessed valuation has decreased subsequent to the calculation outlined in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the district's local effort shall be calculated using the district's current assessed valuation in lieu of the assessed valuation utilized in the calculation outlined in paragraph (a) of this subdivision. When a change in a school district's boundary lines occurs because of a boundary line change, annexation, attachment, consolidation, reorganization, or dissolution under section 162.071, 162.081, sections 162.171 to 162.201 , section 162.221 , 162.223, 162.431, 162.441, or 162.451, or in the event that a school district assumes any territory from a district that ceases to exist for any reason, the department of elementary and secondary education shall make a proper adjustment to
each affected district's local effort, so that each district's local effort figure conforms to the new boundary lines of the district. The department shall compute the local effort figure by applying the calendar year 2004 assessed valuation data to the new land areas resulting from the boundary line change, annexation, attachment, consolidation, reorganization, or dissolution and otherwise follow the procedures described in this subdivision;
(11) "Membership" shall be the average of:
(a) The number of resident full-time students and the full-time equivalent number of part-time students who were enrolled in the public schools of the district on the last Wednesday in September of the previous year and who were in attendance one day or more during the preceding ten school days; and
(b) The number of resident full-time students and the full-time equivalent number of part-time students who were enrolled in the public schools of the district on the last Wednesday in January of the previous year and who were in attendance one day or more during the preceding ten school days, plus the full-time equivalent number of summer school pupils. "Full-time equivalent number of part-time students" is determined by dividing the total number of hours for which all part-time students are enrolled by the number of hours in the school term. "Full-time equivalent number of summer school pupils" is determined by dividing the total number of hours for which all summer school pupils were enrolled by the number of hours required pursuant to section 160.011 in the school term. Only students eligible to be counted for average daily attendance shall be counted for membership;
(12) "Operating levy for school purposes", the sum of tax rates levied for teachers' and incidental funds plus the
operating levy or sales tax equivalent pursuant to section 162.1100 of any transitional school district containing the school district, in the payment year, not including any equalized operating levy for school purposes levied by a special school district in which the district is located;
(13) "Performance district", any district that has met performance standards and indicators as established by the department of elementary and secondary education for purposes of accreditation under section 161.092 and as reported on the final annual performance report for that district each year; for calculations to be utilized for payments in fiscal years subsequent to fiscal year 2018, the number of performance districts shall not exceed twenty-five percent of all public school districts;
(14) "Performance levy", three dollars and forty-three cents;
(15) "School purposes" pertains to teachers' and incidental funds;
(16) "Special education pupil count", the number of public school students with a current individualized education program or services plan and receiving services from the resident district as of December first of the preceding school year, except for special education services provided through a school district established under sections 162.815 to 162.940 in a county with a charter form of government and with more than one million inhabitants, in which case the sum of the students in each district within the county exceeding the special education threshold of each respective district within the county shall be counted within the special district and not in the district of residence for purposes of distributing the state aid derived from the special education pupil count;
(17) "Special education threshold" shall be calculated by dividing the total special education pupil count of every performance district that falls entirely above the bottom five percent and entirely below the top five percent of average daily attendance, when such districts are rankordered based on their current operating expenditures per average daily attendance, by the total average daily attendance of all included performance districts;
(18) "State adequacy target", the sum of the current operating expenditures of every performance district that falls entirely above the bottom five percent and entirely below the top five percent of average daily attendance, when such districts are rank-ordered based on their current operating expenditures per average daily attendance, divided by the total average daily attendance of all included performance districts. The department of elementary and secondary education shall first calculate the state adequacy target for fiscal year 2007 and recalculate the state adequacy target every two years using the most current available data. The recalculation shall never result in a decrease from the state adequacy target as calculated for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 and any state adequacy target figure calculated subsequent to fiscal year 2018. Should a recalculation result in an increase in the state adequacy target amount, fifty percent of that increase shall be included in the state adequacy target amount in the year of recalculation, and fifty percent of that increase shall be included in the state adequacy target amount in the subsequent year. The state adequacy target may be adjusted to accommodate available appropriations as provided in subsection 7 of section 163.031;
(19) "Teacher", any teacher, teacher-secretary, substitute teacher, supervisor, principal, supervising
principal, superintendent or assistant superintendent, school nurse, social worker, counselor or librarian who shall, regularly, teach or be employed for no higher than grade twelve more than one-half time in the public schools and who is certified under the laws governing the certification of teachers in Missouri;
(20) "Weighted average daily attendance"[,]:
(a) For fiscal years prior to the 2026 fiscal year, paragraph (g) of this subdivision;
(b) For the 2026 fiscal year, the sum of nine tenths multiplied by paragraph (g) of this subdivision plus one tenth multiplied by the weighted membership;
(c) For the 2027 fiscal year, the sum of eight tenths multiplied by paragraph ( $g$ ) of this subdivision plus two tenths multiplied by the weighted membership;
(d) For the 2028 fiscal year, the sum of seven tenths multiplied by paragraph (g) of this subdivision plus three tenths multiplied by the weighted membership;
(e) For the 2029 fiscal year, the sum of six tenths multiplied by paragraph (g) of this subdivision plus four tenths multiplied by the weighted membership;
(f) For the 2030 fiscal year and all subsequent fiscal years, the sum of five tenths multiplied by paragraph (g) of this subdivision plus five tenths multiplied by the weighted membership;
(g) The average daily attendance plus the product of twenty-five hundredths multiplied by the free and reduced price lunch pupil count that exceeds the free and reduced price lunch threshold, plus the product of seventy-five hundredths multiplied by the number of special education pupil count that exceeds the special education threshold, plus the product of six-tenths multiplied by the number of limited English proficiency pupil count that exceeds the
limited English proficiency threshold. For special districts established under sections 162.815 to 162.940 in a county with a charter form of government and with more than one million inhabitants, weighted average daily attendance shall be the average daily attendance plus the product of twenty-five hundredths multiplied by the free and reduced price lunch pupil count that exceeds the free and reduced price lunch threshold, plus the product of seventy-five hundredths multiplied by the sum of the special education pupil count that exceeds the threshold for each county district, plus the product of six-tenths multiplied by the limited English proficiency pupil count that exceeds the limited English proficiency threshold. None of the districts comprising a special district established under sections 162.815 to 162.940 in a county with a charter form of government and with more than one million inhabitants, shall use any special education pupil count in calculating their weighted average daily attendance;
(21) "Weighted membership", the membership plus the product of twenty-five hundredths multiplied by the free and reduced price lunch pupil count that exceeds the free and reduced price lunch threshold, plus the product of seventyfive hundredths multiplied by the number of special education pupil count that exceeds the special education threshold, plus the product of six-tenths multiplied by the number of limited English proficiency pupil count that exceeds the limited English proficiency threshold. For special districts established under sections 162.815 to 162.940 in a county with more than one million inhabitants, weighted membership shall be the membership plus the product of twenty-five hundredths multiplied by the free and reduced price lunch pupil count that exceeds the free and reduced price lunch threshold, plus the product of seventy-five
hundredths multiplied by the sum of the special education pupil count that exceeds the threshold for each county district, plus the product of six-tenths multiplied by the limited English proficiency pupil count that exceeds the limited English proficiency threshold. None of the districts comprising a special district established under sections 162.815 to 162.940 in a county with more than one million inhabitants shall use any special education pupil count in calculating their weighted membership.
163.018. 1. (1) Notwithstanding the definition of average daily attendance in subdivision (2) of section 163.011 to the contrary, pupils between the ages of three and five who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch and attend an early childhood education program:
(a) That is operated by and in a district or by a charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency providing full-day kindergarten and that meets standards established by the state board of education; or
(b) That is under contract with a district or charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency and that meets standards established by the state board of education;
shall be included in the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance. The total number of such pupils included in the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance shall not exceed [four] eight percent of the total number of pupils who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch between the ages of five and eighteen who are included in the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance.
(2) If a pupil described under subdivision (1) of this subsection leaves an early childhood education program during the school year, a district or charter school shall be allowed to fill the vacant enrollment spot with another pupil between the ages of three and five who is eligible for free and reduced price lunch without affecting the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance.
2. In establishing standards for any early childhood education program that is under contract with a district or charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency, the state board of education shall consider:
(1) Whether a program offers full-day and full-year programming;
(2) Whether a program has teacher-to-child ratios consistent with reasonable standards set by early childhood education program accrediting agencies;
(3) Whether a program offers professional development supports for educators and the type of supports offered;
(4) Whether a program uses appropriately credentialed educators;
(5) Whether a program uses an early childhood education curriculum that has been approved by the department of elementary and secondary education and whether the curriculum is developmentally appropriate; and
(6) Any other factor that the state board of education determines to be significant in ensuring that children achieve high levels of kindergarten readiness.

The state board of education shall require that staff members of any early childhood education program that is under contract with a district or charter school that has
declared itself as a local educational agency undergo background checks as described in section 168.133.
3. This section shall not require school attendance beyond that mandated under section 167.031 and shall not change or amend the provisions of sections 160.051, 160.053, 160.054 , and 160.055 relating to kindergarten attendance. 163.021. 1. A school district shall receive state aid for its education program only if it:
(1) Provides for [a minimum of one hundred seventyfour days and one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance in a term scheduled by the board pursuant to section 160.041 for each pupil or group of pupils, except that the board shall provide a minimum of one hundred seventy-four days and five hundred twenty-two hours of actual pupil attendance in a term for kindergarten pupils. If any school is dismissed because of inclement weather after school has been in session for three hours, that day shall count as a school day including afternoon session kindergarten students] at least a minimum school term as provided in section 171.031. When the aggregate hours lost in a term due to inclement weather decreases the total hours of the school term below the required minimum number of hours by more than twelve hours for all-day students or six hours for one-half-day kindergarten students, all such hours below the minimum must be made up [in one-half day or full day additions to the term, except] as provided in section 171.033[. In school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance with no minimum number of school days shall be required for each pupil or group of pupils; except that, the board shall provide a minimum of five hundred twenty-two hours of actual pupil attendance in a term for kindergarten pupils with no minimum number of school days];
(2) Maintains adequate and accurate records of attendance, personnel and finances, as required by the state board of education, which shall include the preparation of a financial statement which shall be submitted to the state board of education the same as required by the provisions of section 165.111 for districts;
(3) Levies an operating levy for school purposes of not less than one dollar and twenty-five cents after all adjustments and reductions on each one hundred dollars assessed valuation of the district; and
(4) Computes average daily attendance as defined in subdivision (2) of section 163.011 as modified by section 171.031. Whenever there has existed within the district an infectious disease, contagion, epidemic, plague or similar condition whereby the school attendance is substantially reduced for an extended period in any school year, the apportionment of school funds and all other distribution of school moneys shall be made on the basis of the school year next preceding the year in which such condition existed.
2. For the 2006-07 school year and thereafter, no school district shall receive more state aid, as calculated under subsections 1 and 2 of section 163.031 , for its education program, exclusive of categorical add-ons, than it received per weighted average daily attendance for the school year 2005-06 from the foundation formula, line 14, gifted, remedial reading, exceptional pupil aid, fair share, and free textbook payment amounts, unless it has an operating levy for school purposes, as determined pursuant to section 163.011, of not less than two dollars and seventyfive cents after all adjustments and reductions. Any district which is required, pursuant to Article X, Section 22 of the Missouri Constitution, to reduce its operating levy below the minimum tax rate otherwise required under
this subsection shall not be construed to be in violation of this subsection for making such tax rate reduction. Pursuant to Section $10(c)$ of Article $X$ of the state constitution, a school district may levy the operating levy for school purposes required by this subsection less all adjustments required pursuant to Article X, Section 22 of the Missouri Constitution if such rate does not exceed the highest tax rate in effect subsequent to the 1980 tax year. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that a school district is guaranteed to receive an amount not less than the amount the school district received per eligible pupil for the school year 1990-91. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any school district located in a county of the second classification which has a nuclear power plant located in such district or to any school district located in a county of the third classification which has an electric power generation unit with a rated generating capacity of more than one hundred fifty megawatts which is owned or operated or both by a rural electric cooperative except that such school districts may levy for current school purposes and capital projects an operating levy not to exceed two dollars and seventy-five cents less all adjustments required pursuant to Article X, Section 22 of the Missouri Constitution.
3. No school district shall receive more state aid, as calculated in section 163.031, for its education program, exclusive of categorical add-ons, than it received per eligible pupil for the school year 1993-94, if the state board of education determines that the district was not in compliance in the preceding school year with the requirements of section 163.172, until such time as the board determines that the district is again in compliance with the requirements of section 163.172.
4. No school district shall receive state aid, pursuant to section 163.031, if such district was not in compliance, during the preceding school year, with the requirement, established pursuant to section 160.530 to allocate revenue to the professional development committee of the district.
5. No school district shall receive more state aid, as calculated in subsections 1 and 2 of section 163.031 , for its education program, exclusive of categorical add-ons, than it received per weighted average daily attendance for the school year 2005-06 from the foundation formula, line 14, gifted, remedial reading, exceptional pupil aid, fair share, and free textbook payment amounts, if the district did not comply in the preceding school year with the requirements of subsection 5 of section 163.031 .
6. Any school district that levies an operating levy for school purposes that is less than the performance levy, as such term is defined in section 163.011 , shall provide written notice to the department of elementary and secondary education asserting that the district is providing an adequate education to the students of such district. If a school district asserts that it is not providing an adequate education to its students, such inadequacy shall be deemed to be a result of insufficient local effort. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any special district established under sections 162.815 to 162.940 .
163.044. 1. Beginning with the 2007 fiscal year and each subsequent fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate [fifteen] thirty million dollars to be directed in the following manner to school districts with an average daily attendance of three hundred fifty students or less in the school year preceding the payment year:
(1) [Ten] Twenty million dollars shall be distributed to the eligible districts in proportion to their average daily attendance; and
(2) [Five] Ten million dollars shall be directed to the eligible districts that have an operating levy for school purposes in the current year equal to or greater than the performance levy and any school districts which have an operating levy for school purposes in the current year less than the performance levy solely due to a modification of such district's levy required under subdivision (4) of subsection 5 of section 137.073. A tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance shall be calculated for each eligible district in proportion to its operating levy for school purposes for the current year divided by the performance levy with that result multiplied by the district's average daily attendance in the school year preceding the payment year. The total appropriation pursuant to this subdivision shall then be divided by the sum of the tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance of the eligible districts, and the resulting amount per tax-rateweighted average daily attendance shall be multiplied by each eligible district's tax-rate-weighted average daily attendance to determine the amount to be paid to each eligible district.
2. The payment under this section shall not be transferred to the capital projects fund.
3. Except as provided in subsection 2 of this section, districts receiving payments under this section may use the moneys for, including but not limited to, the following:
(1) Distance learning;
(2) Extraordinary transportation costs;
(3) Rural teacher recruitment; and
(4) Student learning opportunities not available within the district.
163.096. For any school district that, during fiscal
year 2005, recorded revenues from intangible taxes, the merchants' and manufacturers' surcharge, and payments in lieu of taxes other than tax increment financing surplus to the district's teacher and incidental funds and, as a result, caused an elevation of the district's "local effort" figure, as the term "local effort" is defined in section 163.011, the department of elementary and secondary education shall calculate the amount of state aid the district would have received had the district placed such revenues in its capital projects fund or debt service fund. The department shall use this revised local effort figure for all state aid payments subsequent to August 28, 2024. 163.172. 1. (1) In school year 1994-95 and thereafter until school year 2006-07, the minimum teacher's salary shall be eighteen thousand dollars. Beginning in school year 2006-07, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-two thousand dollars; in school year 2007-08, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-three thousand dollars; in school year 2008-09, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-four thousand dollars; in school year 2009-10 and [thereafter] in each subsequent school year through the 2024-25 school year, the minimum teacher's salary shall be twenty-five thousand dollars.
(2) For the 2025-26 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum teacher's salary shall be forty thousand dollars.
(3) Beginning in the school year 1996-97 until school year 2006-07, for any full-time teacher with a master's degree and at least ten years' teaching experience in a public school or combination of public schools, the minimum
salary shall be twenty-four thousand dollars. Beginning in the school year 2006-07, for any full-time teacher with a master's degree in an academic teaching field and at least ten years' teaching experience in a public school or combination of public schools, the minimum salary shall be thirty thousand dollars; in the 2007-08 school year such minimum salary shall be thirty-one thousand dollars; in the 2008-09 school year such minimum salary shall be thirty-two thousand dollars; and in the 2009-10 school year and in each subsequent school year through the 2024-25 school year, such minimum salary shall be thirty-three thousand dollars.
(4) For the 2025-26 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum teacher's salary for any full-time teacher with a master's degree in an academic teaching field directly related to the teacher's assignment and at least ten years' teaching experience in a public school or combination of public schools shall be as follows:
(a) In the 2025-26 school year, forty-six thousand dollars;
(b) In the 2026-27 school year, forty-seven thousand dollars; and
(c) In the 2027-28 school year, forty-eight thousand dollars.
2. (1) As used in this subsection, "CPI" means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the United States as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor index.
(2) In the 2028-29 school year and in all subsequent school years, the minimum salaries identified in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section and in paragraph (c) of subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section shall be adjusted annually by the percentage increase in inflation as described in subdivision (3) of this subsection.
(3) If the CPI report for January of a given year indicates that inflation increased over the previous twelve months by at least one percent, the department of elementary and secondary education shall increase the minimum salaries described in subdivision (2) of this subsection by the same percentage increase in inflation, except that no minimum salary increase shall exceed three percent.
(4) The state board of education shall publish such minimum salaries annually in February beginning in calendar year 2026. Modifications to the minimum salaries shall take effect on July first of each calendar year.
[2. Beginning with the budget requests for fiscal year 1991,] 3. The commissioner of education shall present to the appropriate committees of the general assembly information on the average Missouri teacher's salary, regional average salary data, and national average salary data.
[3.] 4. All school salary information shall be public information.
[4.] 5. As used in this section, the term "salary" shall be defined as the salary figure which appears on the teacher's contract and as determined by the local school district's basic salary schedule and does not include supplements for extra duties.
[5.] 6. The minimum salary for any fully certificated teacher employed on a less than full-time basis by a school district, state school for the severely handicapped, the Missouri School for the Deaf, or the Missouri School for the Blind shall be prorated to reflect the amounts provided in subsection 1 of this section.
7. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated under subsection 8 of this
section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180 , the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in this fund shall be used solely to increase minimum teacher's salaries as provided in this section.
(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.
(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.
8. (1) There is hereby created the "Teacher Baseline Salary Grant" program. The general assembly may appropriate amounts to the teacher baseline salary grant fund created in subsection 7 of this section. The total amount appropriated to such fund shall not exceed the amount necessary to assist each school district in increasing minimum teacher's salaries to the minimum amount as required under this section.
(2) Subject to the appropriation of moneys to the teacher baseline salary grant fund, each school district may apply to the department of elementary and secondary education for a grant of moneys from the teacher baseline salary grant fund to assist such district in increasing minimum teacher's salaries as required under this section. 166.700. As used in sections 166.700 to 166.720 , the following terms mean:
(1) "Curriculum", a complete course of study for a particular content area or grade level, including any supplemental materials;
(2) "District", the same meaning as used in section 160.011;
(3) "Educational assistance organization", the same meaning as used in section 135.712;
(4) "Illegal alien", any person who is not lawfully present in the United States, according to the terms of 8 U.S.C. 1101, et seq., as in existence on January 1, 2024;
(5) "Parent", the same meaning as used in section 135.712;
[(5)] (6) "Private school", a school that is not a part of the public school system of the state of Missouri and that charges tuition for the rendering of elementary or secondary educational services;
[(6)] (7) "Program", the same meaning as used in section 135.712;
[(7)] (8) "Qualified school", [a home school as defined in section 167.031] an FPE school or any of the following entities that is incorporated in Missouri and that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin:
(a) A charter school as defined in section 160.400;
(b) A private school;
(c) A public school as defined in section 160.011; or
(d) A public or private virtual school;
[(8)] (9) "Qualified student", any elementary or secondary school student who is a resident of this state, who is not an illegal alien, and [resides in any county with
a charter form of government or any city with at least thirty thousand inhabitants] who:
(a) Has an approved "individualized education plan" (IEP) developed under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. Section $1400[$, et seq., as amended; or
(b) Is a member of a household whose total annual income does not exceed an amount equal to [two] three hundred percent of the income standard used to qualify for free and reduced price lunches, and that meets at least one of the following qualifications:
a. Attended a public school as a full-time student for at least one semester during the previous twelve months; [or]
b. Is a child who is eligible to begin kindergarten or first grade under sections 160.051 to 160.055 ; or
c. Is a sibling of a qualified student who received a scholarship grant in the previous school year and will receive a scholarship grant in the current school year.
167.012. 1. For purposes of state law, a "home school" is a school, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that:
(1) Has as its primary purpose the provision of private or religious-based instruction;
(2) Enrolls children between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age for the school district in which the home school is located, of which no more than four are unrelated by affinity or consanguinity in the third degree;
(3) Does not charge or receive consideration in the form of tuition, fees, or other remuneration in a genuine and fair exchange for provision of instruction;
(4) Does not enroll children who participate in the program established in sections 135.712 to 135.719 and sections 166.700 to 166.720 ; and
(5) Is not an FPE school.
2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, as evidence that a child is receiving regular instruction, the child's parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child shall:
(1) Maintain the following records:
(a) a. A plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities engaged in;
b. A portfolio of samples of the child's academic work; and
c. A record of evaluations of the child's academic progress; or
(b) Other written or credible evidence equivalent to subparagraphs a. to c. of paragraph (a) of this subdivision; and
(2) Offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which shall be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, or academic courses that are related to such subject areas and consonant with the child's age and ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular home school location;
(3) The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to any pupil sixteen years of age or older.
3. The production of a daily log by a parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of a child showing that a home school has a course of instruction that satisfies the requirements of this section and section 167.031 or, in the case of a pupil sixteen years of age or older who attended a metropolitan school district the previous year, a written statement that the pupil is attending home school in compliance with section 167.031 shall be a defense to any prosecution under section 167.031 and to any charge or action for educational neglect brought under chapter 210. Home school education enforcement and records pursuant to this section, and sections 210.167 and 211.031, shall be subject to review only by the local prosecuting attorney.

> 167.013. 1. For purposes of state law, a "Family Paced Education (FPE) school" or "FPE school" is a school, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that:
(1) Has as its primary purpose the provision of private or religious-based instruction;
(2) Enrolls children between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age for the school district in which the FPE school is located, of which no more than four are unrelated by affinity or consanguinity in the third degree;
(3) Does not charge or receive consideration in the form of tuition, fees, or other remuneration in a genuine and fair exchange for provision of instruction; and
(4) May enroll children who participate in the program established in sections 135.712 to 135.719 and sections 166.700 to 166.720 .
2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, as evidence that a child is receiving regular instruction, the child's parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child shall:
(1) Maintain the following records:
(a) a. A plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities engaged in;
b. A portfolio of samples of the child's academic work; and
c. A record of evaluations of the child's academic progress; or
(b) Other written or credible evidence equivalent to subparagraphs a. to c. of paragraph (a) of this subdivision; and
(2) Offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which shall be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, or
academic courses that are related to such subject areas and consonant with the child's age and ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular FPE school location;
(3) The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to any pupil sixteen years of age or older.
3. The production of a daily log by a parent,
guardian, or other person having control or custody of a child showing that a FPE school has a course of instruction that satisfies the requirements of this section and section 167.031 or, in the case of a pupil sixteen years of age or older who attended a metropolitan school district the previous year, a written statement that the pupil is attending a FPE school in compliance with section 167.031 shall be a defense to any prosecution under section 167.031 and to any charge or action for educational neglect brought under chapter 210. FPE school education enforcement and records pursuant to this section, and sections 210.167 and 211.031, shall be subject to review only by the local prosecuting attorney.
167.031. 1. (1) Every parent, guardian, or other person in this state having charge, control, or custody of a child [not enrolled] is responsible for enrolling the child in a program of academic instruction in a public, private, parochial, parish school, home school, FPE school, or fulltime equivalent attendance in a combination of such schools [and] between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age for the district [is responsible for enrolling the child in a program of academic instruction which complies with subsection 2 of this section].
(2) Any parent, guardian, or other person who enrolls a child between the ages of five and seven years in a public school program of academic instruction shall cause such
child to attend the academic program on a regular basis, according to this section. Nonattendance by such child shall cause such parent, guardian, or other responsible person to be in violation of the provisions of section 167.061, except as provided by this section. A parent, guardian, or other person in this state having charge, control, or custody of a child between the ages of seven years of age and the compulsory attendance age for the district shall cause the child to attend regularly some public, private, parochial, parish, home school, FPE school, or a combination of such schools not less than the entire school term of the school [which] that the child attends; except that:
[(1)] (a) A child who, to the satisfaction of the superintendent of public schools of the district in which [he] such child resides, or if there is no superintendent then the chief school officer, is determined to be mentally or physically incapacitated may be excused from attendance at school for the full time required, or any part thereof;
[(2)] (b) A child between fourteen years of age and the compulsory attendance age for the district may be excused from attendance at school for the full time required, or any part thereof, by the superintendent of public schools of the district, or if there is none then by a court of competent jurisdiction, when legal employment has been obtained by the child and found to be desirable, and after the parents or guardian of the child have been advised of the pending action; or
[(3)] (c) A child between five and seven years of age shall be excused from attendance at school if a parent, guardian, or other person having charge, control, or custody of the child makes a written request that the child be dropped from the school's rolls; or
(d) A child may be excused from attendance at school for the full time required, or any part thereof, if the child is unable to attend school due to mental or behavioral health concerns, provided that the school receives documentation from a mental health professional licensed under chapters 334 or 337 acting within his or her authorized scope of practice stating that the child is not able to attend school due to such concerns.
2. [(1) As used in sections 167.031 to 167.071 , a

```
"home school" is a school, whether incorporated or
```

unincorporated, that:
(a) Has as its primary purpose the provision of private or religious-based instruction;
(b) Enrolls pupils between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age for the district, of which no more than four are unrelated by affinity or consanguinity in the third degree; and
(c) Does not charge or receive consideration in the form of tuition, fees, or other remuneration in a genuine and fair exchange for provision of instruction.
(2) As evidence that a child is receiving regular

## instruction, the parent shall, except as otherwise provided

 in this subsection:(a) Maintain the following records:
a. A plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities engaged in; and
b. A portfolio of samples of the child's academic work; and
c. A record of evaluations of the child's academic progress; or
d. Other written, or credible evidence equivalent to
subparagraphs a., b. and c.; and
(b) Offer at least one thousand hours of instruction, at least six hundred hours of which will be in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science or academic courses that are related to the aforementioned subject areas and consonant with the pupil's age and ability. At least four hundred of the six hundred hours shall occur at the regular home school location.
(3) The requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not apply to any pupil above the age of sixteen years.
3.] Nothing in this section shall require a private, parochial, parish [or], home school, or FPE school to include in its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice in conflict with the school's religious doctrines or to exclude from its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice consistent with the school's religious doctrines. Any other provision of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, all departments or agencies of the state of Missouri shall be prohibited from dictating through rule, regulation, or other device any statewide curriculum for private, parochial, parish [or], home schools, or FPE schools.
[4.] 3. A school year begins on the first day of July and ends on the thirtieth day of June following.
[5. The production by a parent of a daily log showing that a home school has a course of instruction which satisfies the requirements of this section or, in the case of a pupil over the age of sixteen years who attended a metropolitan school district the previous year, a written statement that the pupil is attending home school in compliance with this section shall be a defense to any prosecution under this section and to any charge or action for educational neglect brought pursuant to chapter 210 .
6.] 4. (1) As used in [sections 167.031 to 167.051] this section, the term "compulsory attendance age for the district" shall mean:
[(1)] (a) Seventeen years of age for any metropolitan school district for which the school board adopts a resolution to establish such compulsory attendance age; provided that such resolution shall take effect no earlier than the school year next following the school year during which the resolution is adopted; and
[(2)] (b) Seventeen years of age or having successfully completed sixteen credits towards high school graduation in all other cases.
(2) The school board of a metropolitan school district for which the compulsory attendance age is seventeen years may adopt a resolution to lower the compulsory attendance age to sixteen years; provided that such resolution shall take effect no earlier than the school year next following the school year during which the resolution is adopted.
[7.] 5. For purposes of [subsection 2 of this section] home school or FPE school credits toward high school graduation, as applied in subsection [6 herein] 4 of this section, a "completed credit towards high school graduation" shall be defined as one hundred hours or more of instruction in a course. [Home school education enforcement and records pursuant to this section, and sections 210.167 and 211.031, shall be subject to review only by the local prosecuting attorney.]
167.061. Any parent, guardian or other person having charge, control or custody of a child, who violates the provisions of section 167.031 is guilty of a class C misdemeanor. Upon conviction and pending any judicial appeal, the defendant shall be required to enroll the child in a public, private, parochial, parish [or], home school,
or FPE school within three public school days, after which each successive school day shall constitute a separate violation of section 167.031. The fine or imprisonment, or both, may be suspended and finally remitted by the court, with or without the payment of costs, at the discretion of the court, if the child is immediately placed and kept in regular attendance at a public, private, parochial, parish [or], home school, or FPE school and if the fact of regular attendance is proved subsequently to the satisfaction of the court. A certificate stating that the child is regularly attending a public, private, parochial or parish school and properly attested by the superintendent, principal or person in charge of the school is prima facie evidence of regular attendance by the child.
167.600. 1. As used in sections 167.600 to 167.621 , the following terms mean:
(1) "Family practitioner", a primary care provider, including a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or primary care physician sponsor as defined in subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of section 208.166, or a primary care contracted health provider plan, approved by the parent, guardian or legal custodian of a school age child pursuant to section 167.611;
(2) "Most accessible care", that care or services which reach the most children where they normally are during school hours or where children are most likely to participate with the least obstacles to participation and may include, but shall not be limited to, private, public or parochial schools, learning centers, preschools, child care facilities, common community gathering places, licensed health care facilities, physicians' offices and community centers and may also include the use of traveling medical professionals;
(3) "School age children", all children under the age of nineteen without regard to whether they are currently enrolled in any school and without regard to what public, private, parochial [or], home school, or FPE school they may attend;
(4) "School children health services", services, including immunization, screening for physical or mental disease, disability or injury, treatment of pathological disease or injury, emergency medical treatment or first aid, or administration of drugs or treatment as ordered by the child's family practitioner, provided that the term shall only include the enumerated services and services directly related to the services enumerated herein;
(5) "Service area", the public school district, if the school district elects to be a Medicaid provider, or an area determined by the department of social services at the time a public school within a school district elects to be a Medicaid provider.
2. Sections 167.600 to 167.621 shall not be severable from each other.
167.619. When a school or school district enrolls as a Medicaid provider pursuant to section 167.606 or receives a grant under section 167.603, the department of social services shall assure that the grants or funds are used to provide the most accessible care to school age children. No resident child shall be denied or discriminated against in school children health services or Medicaid services offered by a school district or a local health department under sections 167.600 to 167.621 on the grounds that the child regularly attends or does not attend a public, private, parochial, parish [or], home school, or an FPE school.
167.850. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:
(1) "Board", the state board of education;
(2) "Commissioner", the commissioner of education;
(3) "Recovery high school", a public high school that serves eligible students diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency as defined by the most recent Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and that provides both a comprehensive four-year high school education in an alternative public school setting and a structured plan of recovery;
(4) "Sending district", the school district where a student attending or planning to attend the recovery high school resides and from which the student is referred for enrollment in a recovery high school.
2. (1) The commissioner may approve and authorize up to four pilot recovery high schools, geographically located in metropolitan areas throughout the state, to be established by school districts or groups of school districts for the purpose of demonstrating the effectiveness of the recovery high school model in this state. The commissioner shall issue a request for proposals from school districts to operate a pilot recovery high school. Such proposals may be submitted by an individual school district proposing to operate a recovery high school or by a group of school districts proposing to jointly operate such a school. Such proposals shall be submitted to the commissioner no later than [December] July first of the school year prior to the school year in which the recovery high school is proposed to begin operation. The approval of the board shall be required for the recovery high school to begin operation.
(2) Proposals shall detail how the district or districts will satisfy the criteria for a high school education program under state law and board rule and how the
recovery high school will satisfy the requirements for accreditation by the Association of Recovery Schools or another recovery school accreditation organization authorized by the board. The proposal shall include a financial plan outlining the anticipated public and private funding that will allow the recovery high school to operate and meet the school's educational and recovery criteria. The district or districts may partner with one or more local nonprofit organizations or other local educational agencies regarding establishment and operation of a recovery high school and may establish a joint board to oversee the operation of the recovery high school as provided in a memorandum of understanding entered with such organization or organizations.
(3) By approval of the proposal upon the recommendation of the commissioner, the board shall be deemed to have authorized all necessary equivalencies and waivers of regulations enumerated in the proposal.
(4) The commissioner may specify an authorization period for the recovery high school, which shall be no less than four years. Before July first of each year the recovery high school is in operation, the school district or group of school districts, in consultation with the recovery high school, shall submit to the commissioner an analysis of the recovery high school's educational, recovery, and other related outcomes as specified in the proposal. The commissioner shall review the analysis and renew any recovery high school meeting the requirements of this section and the requirements of the school's proposal and may include terms and conditions to address areas needing correction or improvement. The commissioner may revoke or suspend the authorization of a recovery high school not
meeting the requirements of this section or the requirements of the school's proposal.
(5) Pupil attendance, dropout rate, student performance on statewide assessments, and other data considered in the Missouri school improvement program and school accreditation shall not be attributed to the general accreditation of either a sending district or the district or districts operating the recovery high school and may be used by the commissioner only in the renewal process for the recovery high school as provided in this subsection.
3. (1) A school district may enter into an agreement with a district or districts operating a recovery high school for the enrollment of an eligible student who is currently enrolled in or resides in the sending district.
(2) A parent or guardian may seek to enroll an eligible student residing in a sending district in a recovery high school created under this section. A student over eighteen years of age residing in a sending district may seek to enroll in a recovery high school.
(3) An "eligible student" shall mean a student who is in recovery from substance use disorder or substance dependency, or such a condition along with co-occurring disorders such as anxiety, depression, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and who is determined by the recovery high school to be a student who would academically and clinically benefit from placement in the recovery high school and is committed to working on the student's recovery. The recovery high school shall consider available information including, but not limited to, any recommendation of a drug counselor, alcoholism counselor, or substance abuse counselor licensed or certified under applicable laws and regulations.
(4) A recovery high school shall not limit or deny admission to an eligible student based on race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, income level, proficiency in the English language, or athletic ability.
4. (1) The recovery high school shall annually adopt a policy establishing a tuition rate for its students no later than February first of the preceding school year.
(2) The sending district of an eligible student who is enrolled in and attending a recovery high school shall pay tuition to the recovery high school equal to the lesser of:
(a) The tuition rate established under subdivision (1) of this subsection; or
(b) The state adequacy target, as defined in section 163.011, plus the average sum produced per child by the local tax effort above the state adequacy target of the sending district.
(3) If costs associated with the provision of special education and related disability services to the student exceed the tuition to be paid under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the sending district shall remain responsible for paying the excess cost to the recovery high school.
(4) The commissioner may enter into an agreement with the appropriate official or agency of another state to develop a reciprocity agreement for otherwise eligible, nonresident students seeking to attend a recovery high school in this state. A recovery high school may enroll otherwise eligible students residing in a state other than this state as provided in such reciprocity agreement. Such reciprocity agreement shall require the out-of-state student's district of residence to pay to the recovery high school an annual amount equal to one hundred five percent of the tuition rate for the recovery high school established under this subsection. If an otherwise eligible student
resides in a state that is not subject to a reciprocity agreement, such student may attend a recovery high school provided such student pays to the school one hundred five percent of the tuition rate for the recovery high school established under this subsection. No student enrolled and attending a recovery high school under this subdivision shall be included as a resident pupil for any state aid purpose under chapter 163.
5. The board, in consultation with the department of mental health, may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. 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 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, 2022, shall be invalid and void.
168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be granted as follows:
(1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it:
(a) Upon the basis of college credit;
(b) Upon the basis of examination;
(2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any individual who presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an accredited institution of higher education accredited by a
regional accrediting association such as North Central Association. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant to rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those certificates established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section;
(3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following criteria:
(a) a. Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher preparation program;
b. The department of elementary and secondary
education shall develop and maintain an eighteen hour (one thousand eighty minutes) online teacher preparation program related to subjects appropriate for elementary and secondary education settings. Any charitable organization registered in Missouri that is exempt from federal taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 , as amended, may submit a teacher preparation program to the department of elementary and secondary education for approval. Once approved, the charitable organization shall be certified to develop and maintain a teacher preparedness program. Approved teacher preparedness programs created by a charitable organization shall be made available by the department of elementary and secondary education. An individual with a bachelor's degree may complete an eighteen hour online training program, either created by the department or by a charitable organization, and receive a teacher certificate. Such
certificate shall not be accepted by Missouri public schools, but shall be accepted by private schools and private school accrediting agencies;
(b) a. Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit assessment for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of education;
b. (i) Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on the designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional certificate;
(ii) During the two-year nonrenewable provisional certification, an individual teacher may gain full professional certification by:
i. Achieving a qualifying score on the designated exam; or
ii. Successfully achieving an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher evaluation system from seven walkthrough evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one summative evaluation for each of the two probationary years and being offered a third contract by the employing district. For any applicant who has a change in job status because of a reduction in the workforce or a change in life circumstances, the scores required under this item may be scores achieved in any school district during the two-year nonrenewable provisional certification period; and
(iii) The employing school district shall recommend to the department of elementary and secondary education that the individual teacher be awarded a full professional certification by the state board under rules prescribed by the state board; and
(c) Upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133 and possession of a valid teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher preparation program was completed;
(4) By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis of a relevant bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score for the designated exit examination, for individuals whose academic degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a basis for instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or financial responsibility, at the discretion of the state board. Such certificate shall be limited to the major area of study of the holder and shall be restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this subdivision shall be exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections 168.102 to 168.130 and each school district shall have the decision-making authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates;
(5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on the basis of certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) and verification of ability to work with children as demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one of the following areas as validated by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the classroom, of which at least forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach, except that such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of early childhood education, or special education. For certification in the area of elementary education, ninety contact hours in the classroom shall be required, of which at least thirty shall be in an elementary classroom. Upon the completion of the following
requirements, an applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate under subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this section:
(a) Completion of thirty contact hours of professional development within four years, which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum;
(b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a district mentoring program approved by the state board of education;
(c) Attainment of a successful performance-based teacher evaluation; and
(d) Participation in a beginning teacher assistance program; [or]
(6) (a) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, which shall issue an initial visiting scholars certificate at the discretion of the board, based on the following criteria:
a. Verification from the hiring school district that the applicant will be employed as part of a businesseducation partnership initiative designed to build career pathways systems or employed as part of an initiative designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-staff public schools or hard-to-fill subject areas for students in a grade or grades not lower than the ninth grade for which the applicant's academic degree or professional experience qualifies the applicant;
b. Appropriate and relevant bachelor's degree or higher, occupational license, or industry-recognized credential;
c. Completion of the application for a one-year visiting scholars certificate; and
d. Completion of a background check as prescribed under section 168.133.
(b) The initial visiting scholars certificate shall certify the holder of such certificate to teach for one year. An applicant shall be eligible to renew an initial visiting scholars certificate a maximum of two times, based upon the completion of the requirements listed under subparagraphs a., b., and d. of paragraph (a) of this subdivision; completion of professional development required by the school district and school; and attainment of a satisfactory performance-based teacher evaluation; or
(7) By the state board, which shall issue an additional professional subject-area certification for specific content knowledge or for a specialty area to a certificate holder who:
(a) Applies for an additional professional subjectarea certification;
(b) Successfully achieves an acceptable score on the state-approved teacher evaluation system from seven walkthrough evaluations, two formative evaluations, and one summative evaluation of the applicant teaching specific content knowledge or the specialty area for which the additional professional subject-area certification is sought;
(c) Receives a recommendation from the applicant's employing school district that the applicant be awarded an additional professional subject area-certification by the state board under rules prescribed by the state board; and
(d) Completes a background check as prescribed in section 168.133.
2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board policies and regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the professional development requirements of this section and shall continue
in effect until they expire, are revoked or suspended, as provided by law. When such certificates are required to be renewed, the state board or its designee shall grant to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly equivalent to the one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of such person's current certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the classification system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.
3. (1) Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall be based upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of education which shall include completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133. The state board shall provide for the following levels of professional certification: an initial professional certificate and a career continuous professional certificate.
(2) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based upon verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by the state board of education. The state board shall require holders of the four-year initial professional certificate to:
(a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the district for a minimum of two years;
(b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum, or for holders of a certificate under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, an amount of professional development in proportion
to the certificate holder's hours in the classroom, if the certificate holder is employed less than full time; and
(c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.
(3) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional certificate and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or paragraphs (a) to (d) of subdivision (5) of subsection 1 of this section.
(b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as provided for in state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may count hours in excess of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should the possessor fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the possessor shall complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating the possessor's certificate. The requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the
local school district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.
(c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt from the professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of this subdivision if such teacher has a local professional development plan in place within such teacher's school district and meets two of the three following criteria:
a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of education;
b. Possesses a master's degree; or
c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board of education.
4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who was not retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of certification. There shall also be established policies and procedures allowing a teacher who has not been employed in an educational position for three years or more to reactivate the teacher's last level of certification by completing twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or after reactivating the teacher's certificate.
5. The state board shall, upon completion of a background check as prescribed in section 168.133, issue a professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from another state or certification under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this
section, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the state board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish policies by which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee for a certificate of license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the issuing of a certificate of license to teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize the issuance of a provisional certificate of license, which shall be valid for three years and shall allow the holder to assume classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background check under section 168.133, for any applicant who:
(1) Is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces stationed in Missouri;
(2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of application;
(3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a teaching certificate of license from another state; and
(4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.
6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional certificate a fee, to be deposited into the excellence in education fund established pursuant to section 160.268, for the issuance of the career continuous professional certificate. However, such fee shall not exceed the combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be responsible for any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of the certificate, but nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from developing a policy that permits fee reimbursement.
7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who entered covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in another state or states and held a certificate issued by another state and subsequently worked in a school district covered by the public school retirement system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated in Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to the member's original date of employment in a Missouri public school.
8. Within thirty days of receiving an application from a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully completed the background check described under subsection 5 of this section and section 168.133, the state board shall issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach, provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements to be issued such a certificate.
168.110. 1. As used in this section, the following
terms mean:
(1) "Hard-to-staff schools", attendance centers where the percentage of certificated positions in the attendance center that were left vacant or were filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year exceeds ten percent as reported to the department of elementary and secondary education;
(2) "Hard-to-staff subject areas", content areas for which positions were left vacant or were filled with a
teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year as reported to the department of elementary and secondary education.
2. The board of education of a school district may modify an indefinite contract annually on or before the fifteenth day of May in the following particulars:
(1) Determination of the date of beginning and length of the next school year;
(2) Fixing the amount of annual compensation for the following school year as provided by the salary schedule adopted by the board of education applicable to all teachers.
3. The board of education of a school district may include differentiated placement of teachers on the salary schedule to increase compensation in order to recruit and retain teachers in hard-to-staff subject areas or hard-tostaff schools. The board may annually review its hard-tostaff subject areas and hard-to-staff schools. No modifications to the identification of hard-to-staff subject areas or hard-to-staff schools, or both, for the purpose of placement on the salary schedule shall result in the demotion of a teacher in the salary schedule.
4. Any salary schedule that includes differentiated placement of teachers on the salary schedule under subsection 3 of this section for hard-to-staff subject areas or hard-to-staff schools, or both, shall be set prior to approval by such board of education.
5. The modifications shall be effective at the beginning of the next school year. All teachers affected by the modification shall be furnished written copies of the modifications within thirty days after their adoption by the board of education.
6. Each school district that includes differentiated placement of teachers on the district salary schedule shall annually provide to the department of elementary and secondary education a report containing the following information:
(1) The salary schedule adopted by the district;
(2) The number of positions filled by differentiated placement of teachers for hard-to-staff subject areas;
(3) The number of positions filled with differentiated placement of teachers for hard-to-staff schools;
(4) The number of steps and additional compensation that teachers with differentiated placement received for the school year; and
(5) Any other relevant information required by the department.
168.400. 1. Sections 168.400 to 168.415 shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Professional Teacher and Administrator Act". This section shall become effective September 1, 1988, and shall establish programs for the following public school personnel:
(1) The preservice teacher or student in training;
(2) The beginning teacher;
(3) The practicing teacher; and
(4) The administrator.
2. [Preservice teacher programs established under this section shall include, but need not be limited to, the following provisions:
(1) A program of entry-level testing of all
prospective teacher education students shall be established at all colleges and universities offering approved teacher education programs and, with the advice of the advisory council as provided in section 168.015 , shall be administered by the commissioner of education, who shall
cause the department of elementary and secondary education to develop or select such tests to establish abilities necessary to receive a satisfactory rating, and to establish procedures for the administering of the test;
(2) The entry-level tests developed under this subsection shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of basic oral and written communication skills and of basic mathematics skills, and may include both oral and written examinations;
(3) Each prospective teacher education student shall be required to obtain a satisfactory rating prior to admission into the approved teacher education program;
(4)] The department of elementary and secondary education, with the advice of the advisory council as provided in section 168.015, shall establish and monitor exit requirements from approved teacher education programs which shall be met by all preservice teacher education students seeking certification in Missouri, and specific criteria for a preservice teacher assessment that all candidates for certification shall meet. The preservice teacher assessment established under this [subdivision] subsection shall include, but need not be limited to, classroom achievement, practice teaching evaluation and observation, successful participation in assessment centers, interviews, tests and other evaluation measures. The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules to allow all preservice teacher education students who have been employed for at least two years as teacher assistants to utilize their teacher assistant experience to bypass the practice teaching evaluation and observation process. These rules shall allow the certified teacher working with the teacher assistant to observe and evaluate the teacher assistant's practice teaching. No rule
or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to the authority of this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to chapter 536. The preservice teacher assessment shall be reviewed by the certifying authority prior to issuance of a certificate. An unsatisfactory assessment shall result in the nonissuance of a certificate. Persons who are aggrieved by the nonissuance of a certificate may appeal such nonissuance in the manner provided in section 168.071. Any costs associated with [the entry-level tests or] the exit requirements established under this subsection shall be borne by each institution and costs defrayal included in the incidental fees charged to the student.
3. Each approved teacher education program shall require the faculty teaching preservice teacher education courses to further their professional development through direct personal involvement in the public schools in grades kindergarten through twelve on a periodic basis. As used in this subsection, the term "faculty" shall include, but need not be limited to, full- and part-time classroom instructors, and supervisors of practice teaching at institutions offering an approved teacher education program.
4. Beginning teacher assistance programs established under this section shall include, but need not be limited to, the following provisions:
(1) Such programs shall require each school district to provide a plan of professional development for the first two years of teaching for any teacher who does not have prior teaching experience. The professional development plan shall include assistance from a professional development committee, which is hereby established in each school district, which committee shall work with beginning teachers and experienced teachers in identifying
instructional concerns and remedies; serve as a confidential consultant upon a teacher's request; assess faculty needs and develop in-service opportunities for school staff; and present to the proper authority faculty suggestions, ideas and recommendations pertaining to classroom instruction within the school district. The members of each professional development committee shall be selected by the teachers employed by the school district in question. The professional development plan may include guidance from a district-designated faculty member employed at a grade level comparable to the instructional grade level of the beginning teacher, and such other forms of assistance which the school district may choose to offer. The professional development committee may apply to the state board of education for a grant, which shall be in addition to any state aid provided to the committee for activities identified in this subdivision. The grant thus awarded shall be used by the committee to provide in-service training to the teachers of the district on teaching children identified as at risk of failing in school as defined in section 167.273. The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide resource materials and assist the committee if such assistance is requested;
(2) Such programs shall include assistance from the teacher education program which provided the teacher's training if such training was provided in a Missouri college or university. Such assistance from the college or university may include retraining, internships, counseling, and in-service training.
5. The practicing teacher assistance programs established under this section shall include, but need not be limited to, programs of professional development and improvement as provided for experienced teachers by the
professional development committee established under subsection 4 of this section, and in-service opportunities as provided by the local school district for all practicing teachers.
6. (1) The administrator assistance programs established under this section shall include, but shall not be limited to, programs of professional development and improvement for superintendents, principals, assistant principals, and other school district personnel charged with administrative duties.
(2) Establishment of programs by local districts and organizations for the training of school board members are encouraged and recommended.
168.500. 1. For the purpose of providing career pay, which shall be a salary supplement, for public school teachers, which for the purpose of sections 168.500 to 168.515 shall include classroom teachers, librarians, school counselors and certificated teachers who hold positions as school psychological examiners, parents as teachers educators, school psychologists, special education diagnosticians and speech pathologists, and are on the district salary schedule, there is hereby created and established a career advancement program which shall be known as the "Missouri Career Development and Teacher Excellence Plan", hereinafter known as the "career plan or program". Participation by local school districts in the career advancement program established under this section shall be voluntary. The career advancement program is a matching fund program. The general assembly may make an annual appropriation to the excellence in education fund established under section 160.268 for the purpose of providing the state's portion for the career advancement program. The "Career Ladder Forward Funding Fund" is hereby
established in the state treasury. Beginning with fiscal year 1998 and until the career ladder forward funding fund is terminated pursuant to this subsection, the general assembly may appropriate funds to the career ladder forward funding fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, moneys in the fund shall not be transferred to the credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the biennium. All interest or other gain received from investment of moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund. All funds deposited in the fund shall be maintained in the fund until such time as the balance in the fund at the end of the fiscal year is equal to or greater than the appropriation for the career ladder program for the following year, at which time all such revenues shall be used to fund, in advance, the career ladder program for such following year and the career ladder forward funding fund shall thereafter be terminated.
2. The department of elementary and secondary education, at the direction of the commissioner of education, shall study and develop model career plans which shall be made available to the local school districts. These state model career plans shall:
(1) Contain three steps or stages of career advancement;
(2) Contain a detailed procedure for the admission of teachers to the career program;
(3) Contain specific criteria for career step qualifications and attainment. These criteria shall clearly describe the minimum number of professional responsibilities required of the teacher at each stage of the plan and shall include reference to classroom performance evaluations performed pursuant to section 168.128. The criteria may
include, but shall not be limited to, teacher externships as provided in section 168.025 ;
(4) Be consistent with the teacher certification process recommended by the Missouri advisory council of certification for educators and adopted by the department of elementary and secondary education;
(5) Provide that public school teachers in Missouri shall become eligible to apply for admission to the career plans adopted under sections 168.500 to 168.515 after two years of public school teaching in Missouri, except that such two-year requirement shall not apply to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or such member's spouse who has teaching experience in another state and who has transferred to this state. All teachers seeking admission to any career plan shall, as a minimum, meet the requirements necessary to obtain the first renewable professional certificate as provided in section 168.021;
(6) Provide procedures for appealing decisions made under career plans established under sections 168.500 to 168.515.
3. School district career plans shall recognize additional responsibilities and volunteer efforts by teachers in formulating criteria for career ladder admission and stage achievement. Such additional responsibilities and volunteer efforts [shall be required to occur outside of compensated hours and] outside of the duties that require a teaching certificate under section 168.021 may include, but shall not be limited to:
(1) Serving as a coach, supervisor, or organizer for any extracurricular activity for which the teacher does not already receive additional compensation;
(2) Serving as a mentor for students or teachers, whether in a formal or informal capacity;
(3) Receiving additional teacher training or certification outside of that offered by the school district;
(4) Serving as a tutor or providing additional learning opportunities to students; and
(5) Assisting students with postsecondary education preparation including, but not limited to, teaching an ACT or SAT preparation course or assisting students with completing college or career school admission or financial assistance applications.
4. The commissioner of education shall cause the department of elementary and secondary education to establish guidelines for all career plans established under this section, and criteria that must be met by any school district which seeks funding for its career plan.
5. A participating local school district may have the option of implementing a career plan developed by the department of elementary and secondary education or a local plan which has been developed with advice from teachers employed by the district and which has met with the approval of the department of elementary and secondary education. In approving local career plans, the department of elementary and secondary education may consider provisions in the plan of the local district for recognition of teacher mobility from one district to another within this state.
6. The career plans of local school districts shall
not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, color, creed, or age. Participation in the career plan of a local school district is optional, and any teacher who declines to participate shall not be penalized in any way.
7. In order to receive funds under this section, a school district which is not subject to section 162.920 must have a total levy for operating purposes which is in excess
of the amount allowed in Section $11(\mathrm{~b})$ of Article X of the Missouri Constitution; and a school district which is subject to section 162.920 must have a total levy for operating purposes which is equal to or in excess of twentyfive cents on each hundred dollars of assessed valuation.
8. The commissioner of education shall cause the department of elementary and secondary education to regard a speech pathologist who holds both a valid certificate of license to teach and a certificate of clinical competence to have fulfilled the standards required to be placed on stage III of the career program, provided that such speech pathologist has been employed by a public school in Missouri for at least two years and is approved for placement at such stage III by the local school district.
9. Beginning in fiscal year 2012, the state portion of career ladder payments shall only be made available to local school districts if the general assembly makes an appropriation for such program. Payments authorized under sections 168.500 to 168.515 shall only be made available in a year for which a state appropriation is made. Any state appropriation shall be made prospectively in relation to the year in which work under the program is performed.
10. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a local school district from funding the program for its teachers for work performed in years for which no state appropriation is made available.
169.560. 1. Any person retired and currently receiving a retirement allowance pursuant to sections 169.010 to $169.141[$, other than for disability,] may be employed in any capacity for an employer included in the retirement system created by those sections on either a parttime or temporary-substitute basis not to exceed a total of five hundred fifty hours in any one school year, and through
such employment may earn up to fifty percent of the annual compensation payable under the employer's salary schedule for the position or positions filled by the retiree, given such person's level of experience and education, without a discontinuance of the person's retirement allowance. If the employer does not utilize a salary schedule, or if the position in question is not subject to the employer's salary schedule, a retiree employed in accordance with the provisions of this subsection may earn up to fifty percent of the annual compensation paid to the person or persons who last held such position or positions, or may earn up to fifty percent of the limit set for the position by the school board of the employer which has been submitted and approved by the board of trustees of the retirement system. If the position or positions did not previously exist, the compensation limit shall be determined in accordance with rules duly adopted by the board of trustees of the retirement system; provided that, it shall not exceed fifty percent of the annual compensation payable for the position by the employer that is most comparable to the position filled by the retiree. In any case where a retiree fills more than one position during the school year, the fiftypercent limit on permitted earning shall be based solely on the annual compensation of the highest paid position occupied by the retiree for at least one-fifth of the total hours worked during the year. Such a person shall not contribute to the retirement system or to the public education employee retirement system established by sections 169.600 to 169.715 because of earnings during such period of employment. If such a person is employed in any capacity by such an employer in excess of the limitations set forth in this subsection, the person shall not be eligible to receive the person's retirement allowance for any month during which
the person is so employed or the retirement system shall recover the amount the person earned in excess of the limitations, whichever is less. In addition, such person shall contribute to the retirement system if the person satisfies the retirement system's membership eligibility requirements. In addition to the conditions set forth above, this subsection shall apply to any person retired and currently receiving a retirement allowance under sections 169.010 to 169.141[, other than for disability,] who is employed by a third party or is performing work as an independent contractor, if such person is performing work for an employer included in the retirement system as a temporary or long-term substitute teacher or in any other position that would normally require that person to be duly certificated under the laws governing the certification of teachers in Missouri if such person was employed by the district. The retirement system may require the employer, the third-party employer, the independent contractor, and the retiree subject to this subsection to provide documentation showing compliance with this subsection. If such documentation is not provided, the retirement system may deem the retiree to have exceeded the limitations provided in this subsection.
2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any person retired and currently receiving a retirement allowance in accordance with sections 169.010 to 169.141[, other than for disability,] may be employed by an employer included in the retirement system created by those sections in a position that does not normally require a person employed in that position to be duly certificated under the laws governing the certification of teachers in Missouri, and through such employment may earn, beginning on August 28, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2028, up to one
hundred thirty-three percent of the annual earnings exemption amount applicable to a Social Security recipient before the calendar year of attainment of full retirement age under 20 CFR 404.430, and, after June 30, 2028, up to the annual earnings exemption amount applicable to a Social Security recipient before the calendar year of attainment of full retirement age under 20 CFR 404.430, without a discontinuance of the person's retirement allowance from the retirement system. The Social Security annual earnings exemption amount applied shall be the exemption amount in effect for the calendar year in which the school year begins. Such person shall not contribute to the retirement system or to the public education employee retirement system established by sections 169.600 to 169.715 because of earnings during such period of employment, and such person shall not earn membership service for such employment. The employer's contribution rate shall be paid by the hiring employer into the public education employee retirement system established by sections 169.600 to 169.715 . If such a person is employed in any capacity by an employer in excess of the limitations set forth in this subsection, the person shall not be eligible to receive the person's retirement allowance for any month during which the person is so employed or the retirement system shall recover the amount the person earned in excess of the limitations, whichever is less. In addition, such person shall become a member of and contribute to any retirement system described in this subsection if the person satisfies the retirement system's membership eligibility requirements. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person retired and currently receiving a retirement allowance in accordance with sections 169.010 to 169.141 employed by a
public community college or employer under subsection 4 of section 169.130.
170.048. 1. By July 1, 2018, each district shall adopt a policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention, including plans for how the district will provide for the training and education of its district employees.
2. Each district's policy shall address and include, but not be limited to, the following:
(1) Strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide;
(2) Strategies and protocols for helping students at possible risk of suicide; and
(3) Protocols for responding to a suicide death.
3. By July 1, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary education shall develop a model policy that districts may adopt. When developing the model policy, the department shall cooperate, consult with, and seek input from organizations that have expertise in youth suicide awareness and prevention. By July 1, 2021, and at least every three years thereafter, the department shall request information and seek feedback from districts on their experience with the policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department shall review this information and may use it to adapt the department's model policy. The department shall post any information on its website that it has received from districts that it deems relevant. The department shall not post any confidential information or any information that personally identifies any student or school employee.
4. (1) Beginning July 1, [2023] 2025, a public school or charter school that serves any pupils in grades seven to twelve and that issues pupil identification cards shall have printed on either side of the cards:
(a) The three-digit dialing code that directs calls and routes text messages to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988; and
(b) The nonemergency telephone number of the local police department; and
(c) May have printed on either side of the cards:
a. The six-digit dialing code that routes text messages to the Crisis Text Line, 741741; and
b. The telephone number of a local suicide prevention hotline, if such hotline is available.
(2) If, on July 1, [2023] 2025, a public school or charter school subject to the requirements of this subsection has a supply of unissued pupil identification cards that do not comply with the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the school shall issue those cards until that supply is depleted.
(3) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to a pupil identification card issued for the first time to a pupil and to a card issued to replace a damaged or lost card.
171.028. 1. The school board of a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a charter form of government, or located wholly or partially in a city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants, may establish a four-day school week in lieu of a five-day school week for the 2026-2027 school year and all subsequent school years only as permitted pursuant to the provisions of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any district other than a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a charter form of government or a school district located wholly or partially in a city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants.
2. (1) A school board may adopt the provisions of subsection 1 of this section by referring to the qualified voters of the school district a ballot measure authorizing the same. Such proposal shall be referred to the qualified voters of the school district upon a majority vote of the members elected to the school board. Upon such adoption by the school board, the measure shall be submitted to the qualified voters at the next date available for public elections pursuant to chapter 115 and by July first of the school year in which the four-day school week is proposed to commence. If a majority of the votes cast on the question by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the measure, then the provisions of subsection 1 of this section shall become effective. If a majority of the votes cast on the question by the qualified voters voting thereon are opposed to the measure, then the board shall not adopt the provisions of subsection 1 of this section unless and until the measure is resubmitted pursuant to this subsection to the qualified voters and such question is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting on the measure. (2) The question submitted by the school board pursuant to this subsection shall be in substantially the following form:
"Shall the school board of ......... adopt the provisions of Section 171.028, RSMo, establishing a four-day school week for the next ten years in the district of ...?"
$\qquad$ $\square \mathrm{NO}$
3. Upon adoption of a four-day school week, any school district that adopts a four-day school week shall file a calendar with the department of elementary and secondary education in accordance with section 171.031. Such calendar shall include, but not be limited to, a minimum term of one
hundred forty-two school days, as the term "school days" is defined in section 160.041 , and a minimum of one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance hours during a twelve-month period in which the academic instruction of pupils is actually and regularly carried on for a group of students in the public schools of any school district, pursuant to the provisions of section 171.031.
171.031. 1. Each school board shall prepare annually a calendar for the school term, specifying the opening date, days of planned attendance, and providing a minimum term of at least [one hundred seventy-four days for schools with a five-day school week or one hundred forty-two days for schools with a four-day school week, and] one thousand fortyfour hours of actual pupil attendance[. In school year 201920 and subsequent years, one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance shall be required for the school term with no minimum number of school days], and, for a school district that is located wholly or partially in a county with a charter form of government or a school district that is located wholly or partially in a city with more than thirty thousand inhabitants, a minimum of one hundred and sixty-nine school days, unless the district has adopted a four-day school week as provided in section 171.028, in which case the district school term shall have a minimum of one hundred forty-two school days. In addition, such calendar shall include six make-up days for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033. In school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, such calendar shall include thirty-six make-up hours for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather, as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033, with no minimum number of make-up days.
2. Each local school district may set its opening date each year, which date shall be no earlier than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September. No public school district shall select an earlier start date unless, for calendars for school years before school year 2020-21, the district follows the procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section. The procedure set forth in subsection 3 of this section shall be unavailable to school districts in preparing their calendars for school year 202021 and for subsequent years.
3. For calendars for school years before school year 2020-21, a district may set an opening date that is more than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September only if the local school board first gives public notice of a public meeting to discuss the proposal of opening school on a date more than fourteen days prior to the first Monday in September, and the local school board holds said meeting and, at the same public meeting, a majority of the board votes to allow an earlier opening date. If all of the previous conditions are met, the district may set its opening date more than fourteen calendar days prior to the first Monday in September. The condition provided in this subsection must be satisfied by the local school board each year that the board proposes an opening date more than fourteen days before the first Monday in September.
4. If any local district violates the provisions of this section, the department of elementary and secondary education shall withhold an amount equal to one quarter of the state funding the district generated under section 163.031 for each date the district was in violation of this section.
5. The provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of this section shall not apply to school districts in which school is in session for twelve months of each calendar year.
6. The state board of education may grant an exemption from this section to a school district that demonstrates highly unusual and extenuating circumstances justifying exemption from the provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of this section. Any exemption granted by the state board of education shall be valid for one academic year only.
171.033. 1. "Inclement weather", for purposes of this section, shall be defined as ice, snow, extreme cold, excessive heat, flooding, or a tornado.
2. (1) A district shall be required to make up the first six days of school lost or cancelled due to inclement weather and half the number of days lost or cancelled in excess of six days if the makeup of the days is necessary to ensure that the district's students will attend a minimum [of one hundred forty-two days and a minimum of one thousand forty-four hours for the school year] school term as provided in section 171.031 except as otherwise provided in this section. Schools with a four-day school week may schedule such make-up days on Fridays.
(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, in school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, a district shall be required to make up the first thirty-six hours of school lost or cancelled due to inclement weather and half the number of hours lost or cancelled in excess of thirty-six if the makeup of the hours is necessary to ensure that the district's students attend a minimum of one thousand forty-four hours for the school year, except as otherwise provided under subsections 3 and 4 of this section.
3. (1) In the 2009-10 school year and subsequent years, a school district may be exempt from the requirement
to make up days of school lost or cancelled due to inclement weather in the school district when the school district has made up the six days required under subsection 2 of this section and half the number of additional lost or cancelled days up to eight days, resulting in no more than ten total make-up days required by this section.
(2) In school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, a school district may be exempt from the requirement to make up school lost or cancelled due to inclement weather in the school district when the school district has made up the thirty-six hours required under subsection 2 of this section and half the number of additional lost or cancelled hours up to forty-eight, resulting in no more than sixty total makeup hours required by this section.
4. The commissioner of education may provide, for any school district that cannot meet the minimum school calendar requirement [of at least one hundred seventy-four days for schools with a five-day school week or one hundred forty-two days for schools with a four-day school week and one thousand forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance or, in school year 2019-20 and subsequent years, one thousand fortyfour hours of actual pupil attendance,] as provided in section 171.031, upon request, a waiver to be excused from such requirement. This waiver shall be requested from the commissioner of education and may be granted if the school was closed due to circumstances beyond school district control, including inclement weather or fire.
5. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in school year 2020-21 and subsequent years, a district shall not be required to make up any hours of school lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances during a school year if the district has an alternative methods of instruction plan approved by the
department of elementary and secondary education for such school year. Exceptional or emergency circumstances shall include, but not be limited to, inclement weather, a utility outage, or an outbreak of a contagious disease. The department of elementary and secondary education shall not approve any such plan unless the district demonstrates that the plan will not negatively impact teaching and learning in the district.
(2) If school is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances and the district has an approved alternative methods of instruction plan, the district shall notify students and parents on each day of the closure whether the alternative methods of instruction plan is to be implemented for that day. If the plan is to be implemented on any day of the closure, the district shall ensure that each student receives assignments for that day in hard copy form or receives instruction through virtual learning or another method of instruction.
(3) A district with an approved alternative methods of instruction plan shall not use alternative methods of instruction as provided for in the plan for more than thirtysix hours during a school year. A district that has used such alternative methods of instruction for thirty-six hours during a school year shall be required, notwithstanding subsections 2 and 3 of this section, to make up any subsequent hours of school lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances during such school year.
(4) The department of elementary and secondary education shall give districts with approved alternative methods of instruction plans credit for the hours in which they use alternative methods of instruction by considering such hours as hours in which school was actually in session.
(5) Any district wishing to use alternative methods of instruction under this subsection shall submit an application to the department of elementary and secondary education. The application shall describe:
(a) The manner in which the district intends to strengthen and reinforce instructional content while supporting student learning outside the classroom environment;
(b) The process the district intends to use to communicate to students and parents the decision to implement alternative methods of instruction on any day of a closure;
(c) The manner in which the district intends to communicate the purpose and expectations for a day in which alternative methods of instruction will be implemented to students and parents;
(d) The assignments and materials to be used within the district for days in which alternative methods of instruction will be implemented to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of the students;
(e) The manner in which student attendance will be determined for a day in which alternative methods of instruction will be implemented. The method chosen shall be linked to completion of lessons and activities;
(f) The instructional methods, which shall include instruction through electronic means and instruction through other means for students who have no access to internet services or a computer;
(g) Instructional plans for students with individualized education programs; and
(h) The role and responsibility of certified personnel to be available to communicate with students.
6. In the 2022-23 school year and subsequent years, a school district's one-half-day education programs shall be subject to the following provisions in proportions appropriate for a one-half-day education program, as applicable:
(1) Requirements in subsection 2 of this section to make up days or hours of school lost or cancelled because of inclement weather;
(2) Exemptions in subsection 3 of this section;
(3) Waiver provisions in subsection 4 of this section; and
(4) Approved alternative methods of instruction provisions in subsection 5 of this section.
173.232. 1. There is hereby established the "[Urban Flight and Rural Needs] Teacher Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program", which shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary education. The program shall, upon appropriation, provide scholarships, subject to the eligibility criteria enumerated in this section, for eligible students who enter a teacher education program and make a commitment to teach as a condition of receiving such scholarship.
2. Subject to appropriation, each year the department of elementary and secondary education shall make available to eligible students [up to one hundred four-year urban flight and rural needs] scholarships for up to two years in an amount that encompasses up to one hundred percent of the total cost of eligible students' tuition [and fees] costs related to teacher preparation at a four-year college or university located in Missouri, except that no amount granted for tuition shall exceed the amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of MissouriColumbia for attendance. Such amount shall be paid by funds

```
appropriated to the department. The maximum number of
scholarships made available or the maximum amount awarded
annually under this section shall be as follows:
    (1) For academic years ending before July 1, 2025, two
hundred scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of one
million two hundred thousand dollars;
    (2) For the 2025-26 academic year, four hundred
scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of two million four
hundred thousand dollars;
    (3) For the 2026-27 academic year, four hundred forty
scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of two million six
hundred thousand dollars;
    (4) For the 2027-28 academic year, four hundred eighty
scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of two million
eight hundred thousand dollars;
    (5) For the 2028-29 academic year, five hundred twenty
scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of three million
dollars;
    (6) For the 2029-30 academic year, five hundred sixty
scholarships or a maximum awarded amount of three million
two hundred thousand dollars; and
    (7) For the 2030-31 academic year and all subsequent
academic years, six hundred scholarships or a maximum
awarded amount of three million four hundred thousand
dollars.
    3. As used in this section, the [term] following terms
    mean:
    (1) "Eligible student" [shall mean], an individual who:
    [(1)] (a) Is a United States citizen and a Missouri
resident [who attended a Missouri high school];
    [(2)] (b) Enters and makes a commitment to pursue a
        teacher education program approved by the department of
```

elementary and secondary education and offered by a fouryear college or university located in Missouri;
[(3)] (c) Signs an agreement with the department of elementary and secondary education in which the recipient agrees to teach in a Missouri public school[, the population of which includes a higher-than-average "at-risk student population", as such term shall be defined by the department of elementary and secondary education,] that is a hard-tostaff school or to teach at least one hard-to-staff subject area in a Missouri public school that offers classes in hard-to-staff subject areas, or both, for two years for every one year the recipient received the [urban flight and rural needs] scholarship;
[(4) Has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a fourpoint scale or equivalent;
(5)] (d) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-point scale or equivalent; and
(e) For scholarships awarded for any academic year beginning after June 30, 2025, has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of grant funding that could be applied to the total cost of such student's eligible tuition and fees as described in subsection 2 of this section;
(2) "Hard-to-staff schools", attendance centers where the percentage of certificated positions in the attendance center that were left vacant or were filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year exceeds ten percent as reported to the department of elementary and secondary education;
(3) "Hard-to-staff subject areas", content areas for which positions were left vacant or were filled with a
teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year as reported to the department of elementary and secondary education.
4. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of scholarships or revenues available, the department of elementary and secondary education may consider the financial needs of the applicant.
5. The scholarships provided in this section shall be available to [otherwise] eligible students who [either] meet at least one of the following:
(1) [Are currently enrolled in a community college and make a commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved by the department of elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-year college or university located in Missouri; or] Have successfully completed two years at a community college with a minimum of forty-eight credit hours and a grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-point scale or the equivalent;
(2) Have been awarded an associate degree or the equivalent;
(3) Have successfully completed five semesters at a four-year college or university with a minimum of sixty credit hours and a grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-point scale or the equivalent; or
(4) Have completed their baccalaureate degree [and agree to enter a teacher education program and make a commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved by the department of elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-year college or university located in Missouri].
6. (1) Every eligible student receiving scholarships under this section shall teach in an elementary or secondary public school in Missouri as provided in paragraph (c) of
subdivision [(3)] (1) of subsection 3 of this section. The student shall teach for a period of two years for every one year [he or she] such student received [an urban flight and rural needs] a scholarship under this section; otherwise, the scholarship shall be treated as a loan to the eligible student[, and interest at the rate of nine and one-half percent per year]. Interest shall be charged on the unpaid balance of the amount received from the date the eligible student ceases to teach until the amount received is paid back to the state. The interest rate shall be adjusted annually and shall be equal to one percentage point over the prevailing United States prime rate in effect on January first of such year.
(2) In order to provide for the servicing of such loans, the department of elementary and secondary education may sell such loans to the higher education loan authority of the state of Missouri created pursuant to sections 173.350 to 173.445. For each year the student teaches, up to eight years, one-eighth of the amount received pursuant to this section shall be applied against the total amount received and shall not be subject to the repayment requirement of this section; provided that twenty-five percent of such amount, not subject to repayment, shall be repaid by the local school district to the department.
(3) The department of elementary and secondary education shall have the power to and shall defer interest and principal payments under certain circumstances, which shall include, but need not be limited to, the enrollment in a graduate program or service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States.
7. There is hereby established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "[Urban Flight and Rural Needs] Teacher Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program

Fund", which shall consist of all moneys that may be appropriated to it by the general assembly, and in addition may include any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal, state, private, or other sources. The fund shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary education. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, moneys in the fund shall not be transferred to the credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the biennium. Interest and moneys earned on the fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of awarding scholarships under the provisions of this section. 8. An individual who has qualified as an eligible student under this section shall continue to qualify as an eligible student for purposes of paragraph (c) of subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section as long as such individual remains employed by the school district in which such individual agrees to teach regardless of whether such individual's employing school no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff school, such class taught by such individual no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff subject area, or such individual's position within the school district changes.
210.167. If an investigation conducted by the children's division under section 210.145 reveals that the only basis for action involves a question of an alleged violation of section 167.031, then the local office of the division shall send the report to the school district in which the child resides. The school district shall immediately refer all private, parochial, parish [or], home school, or FPE school matters to the prosecuting attorney of the county wherein the child legally resides. The school district may refer public school violations of section 167.031 to the prosecuting attorney.
210.211. 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a child-care facility for children, or to advertise or hold himself or herself out as being able to perform any of the services as defined in section 210.201, without having in effect a written license granted by the department of elementary and secondary education; except that nothing in sections 210.203 to 210.245 shall apply to:
(1) Any person who is caring for six or fewer children, including a maximum of three children under the age of two, at the same physical address. For purposes of this subdivision, children who live in the caregiver's home and who are eligible for enrollment in a public kindergarten, elementary, or high school shall not be considered in the total number of children being cared for;
(2) Any person who receives free of charge, and not as a business, for periods not exceeding ninety consecutive days, as bona fide, occasional and personal guests the child or children of personal friends of such person, and who receives custody of no other unrelated child or children;
(3) Any graded boarding school that is conducted in good faith primarily to provide education;
(4) Any summer or day camp that is conducted in good faith primarily to provide recreation;
(5) Any hospital, sanitarium, or home that is conducted in good faith primarily to provide medical treatment or nursing or convalescent care for children;
(6) Any residential facility or day program licensed by the department of mental health under sections 630.705 to 630.760 that provides care, treatment, and habilitation exclusively to children who have a primary diagnosis of mental disorder, mental illness, intellectual disability, or
developmental disability, as those terms are defined in section 630.005;
(7) Any school system as defined in section 210.201 ;
(8) Any Montessori school as defined in section 210.201;
(9) Any business that operates a child care program for the convenience of its customers or its employees if the following conditions are met:
(a) The business provides child care for customers' or employees' children for no more than four hours per day; and
(b) Customers or employees remain on site while their children are being cared for by the business establishment;
(10) Any home school [as defined in section 167.031];
(11) Any religious organization academic preschool or kindergarten for four- and five-year-old children;
(12) Any weekly Sunday or Sabbath school, a vacation bible school, or child care made available while the parents or guardians are attending worship services or other meetings and activities conducted or sponsored by a religious organization;
(13) Any neighborhood youth development program under section 210.278;
(14) Any religious organization elementary or secondary school;
(15) Any private organization elementary or secondary school system providing child care to children younger than school age. If a facility or program is exempt from licensure based upon this exception, such facility or program shall submit documentation annually to the department to verify its licensure-exempt status;
(16) Any nursery school as defined in section 210.201 ; [and]
(17) Any child care facility maintained or operated under the exclusive control of a religious organization. If a nonreligious organization having as its principal purpose the provision of child care services enters into an arrangement with a religious organization for the maintenance or operation of a child care facility, the facility is not under the exclusive control of the religious organization; and
(18) Any FPE school.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, no child-care facility shall be exempt from licensure if such facility receives any state or federal funds for providing care for children, except for federal funds for those programs which meet the requirements for participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1766. Grants to parents for child care pursuant to sections 210.201 to 210.257 shall not be construed to be funds received by a person or facility listed in [subdivisions (1) and (17) of] subsection 1 of this section.
3. Every child care facility shall disclose the licensure status of the facility to the parents or guardians of children for which the facility provides care. No child care facility exempt from licensure shall represent to any parent or guardian of children for which the facility provides care that the facility is licensed when such facility is in fact not licensed. A parent or guardian utilizing an unlicensed child care facility shall sign a written notice indicating he or she is aware of the unlicensed status of the facility. The facility shall keep a copy of this signed written notice on file. All child care facilities shall provide the parent or guardian enrolling a child in the facility with a written explanation
of the disciplinary philosophy and policies of the child care facility.
4. Up to two children who are five years of age or older and who are related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to, adopted by, or under court appointed guardianship or legal custody of a child care provider who is responsible for the daily operation of a licensed family child care home that is organized as a corporation, association, firm, partnership, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, or any other type of business entity in this state shall not be included in the number of children counted toward the maximum number of children for which the family child care home is licensed under section 210.221. If more than one member of the corporation, association, firm, partnership, limited liability company, or other business entity is responsible for the daily operation of the licensed family child care home, then the related children of only one such member shall be excluded. A family child care home caring for children not counted in the maximum number of children, as permitted under this subsection, shall disclose this to parents or guardians on the written notice required under subsection 3 of this section. If a family child care home begins caring for children not counted in the maximum number of children after a parent or guardian has signed the written notice required under subsection 3 of this section, the family child care home shall provide a separate notice to the parent or guardian that the family child care home is caring for children not counted in the maximum number of children for which the family child care home is licensed and shall keep a copy of the signed notice on file.
5. Nothing in this section shall prevent the department from enforcing licensing regulations promulgated
under this chapter, including, but not limited to, supervision requirements and capacity limitations based on the amount of child care space available.
211.031. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the juvenile court or the family court in circuits that have a family court as provided in chapter 487 shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings:
(1) Involving any child who may be a resident of or found within the county and who is alleged to be in need of care and treatment because:
(a) The parents, or other persons legally responsible for the care and support of the child, neglect or refuse to provide proper support, education which is required by law, medical, surgical or other care necessary for his or her well-being; except that reliance by a parent, guardian or custodian upon remedial treatment other than medical or surgical treatment for a child shall not be construed as neglect when the treatment is recognized or permitted pursuant to the laws of this state;
(b) The child is otherwise without proper care, custody or support;
(c) The child was living in a room, building or other structure at the time such dwelling was found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a public nuisance pursuant to section 195.130; or
(d) The child is in need of mental health services and the parent, guardian or custodian is unable to afford or access appropriate mental health treatment or care for the child;
(2) Involving any child who may be a resident of or found within the county and who is alleged to be in need of care and treatment because:
(a) The child while subject to compulsory school attendance is repeatedly and without justification absent from school;
(b) The child disobeys the reasonable and lawful directions of his or her parents or other custodian and is beyond their control;
(c) The child is habitually absent from his or her home without sufficient cause, permission, or justification;
(d) The behavior or associations of the child are otherwise injurious to his or her welfare or to the welfare of others; or
(e) The child is charged with an offense not classified as criminal, or with an offense applicable only to children; except that, the juvenile court shall not have jurisdiction over any child fifteen years of age who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal traffic ordinance or regulation, the violation of which does not constitute a felony, or any child who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal ordinance or regulation prohibiting possession or use of any tobacco product;
(3) Involving any child who is alleged to have violated a state law or municipal ordinance, or any person who is alleged to have violated a state law or municipal ordinance prior to attaining the age of eighteen years, in which cases jurisdiction may be taken by the court of the circuit in which the child or person resides or may be found or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred; except that, the juvenile court shall not have jurisdiction over any child fifteen years of age who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal traffic ordinance or regulation, the violation of which does not constitute a felony, and except that the juvenile court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the municipal court over any
child who is alleged to have violated a municipal curfew ordinance, and except that the juvenile court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court on any child who is alleged to have violated a state or municipal ordinance or regulation prohibiting possession or use of any tobacco product;
(4) For the adoption of a person;
(5) For the commitment of a child to the guardianship of the department of social services as provided by law;
(6) Involving an order of protection pursuant to chapter 455 when the respondent is less than eighteen years of age; and
(7) Involving a child who has been a victim of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.
2. Transfer of a matter, proceeding, jurisdiction or supervision for a child who resides in a county of this state shall be made as follows:
(1) Prior to the filing of a petition and upon request of any party or at the discretion of the juvenile officer, the matter in the interest of a child may be transferred by the juvenile officer, with the prior consent of the juvenile officer of the receiving court, to the county of the child's residence or the residence of the person eighteen years of age for future action;
(2) Upon the motion of any party or on its own motion prior to final disposition on the pending matter, the court in which a proceeding is commenced may transfer the proceeding of a child to the court located in the county of the child's residence, or the county in which the offense pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of this section is alleged to have occurred for further action;
(3) Upon motion of any party or on its own motion, the court in which jurisdiction has been taken pursuant to
subsection 1 of this section may at any time thereafter transfer jurisdiction of a child to the court located in the county of the child's residence for further action with the prior consent of the receiving court;
(4) Upon motion of any party or upon its own motion at any time following a judgment of disposition or treatment pursuant to section 211.181, the court having jurisdiction of the cause may place the child under the supervision of another juvenile court within or without the state pursuant to section 210.570 with the consent of the receiving court;
(5) Upon motion of any child or his or her parent, the court having jurisdiction shall grant one change of judge pursuant to Missouri supreme court rules;
(6) Upon the transfer of any matter, proceeding, jurisdiction or supervision of a child, certified copies of all legal and social documents and records pertaining to the case on file with the clerk of the transferring juvenile court shall accompany the transfer.
3. In any proceeding involving any child taken into custody in a county other than the county of the child's residence, the juvenile court of the county of the child's residence shall be notified of such taking into custody within seventy-two hours.
4. When an investigation by a juvenile officer pursuant to this section reveals that the only basis for action involves an alleged violation of section 167.031 involving a child who alleges to be [home schooled] receiving instruction at a home school or an FPE school, the juvenile officer shall contact a parent or parents of such child to verify that the child is [being home schooled] receiving instruction at such school and not in violation of section 167.031 before making a report of such a violation. Any report of a violation of section 167.031 made by a
juvenile officer regarding a child who is [being home schooled] receiving instruction at a home school or an FPE school shall be made to the prosecuting attorney of the county where the child legally resides.
5. The disability or disease of a parent shall not constitute a basis for a determination that a child is a child in need of care or for the removal of custody of a child from the parent without a specific showing that there is a causal relation between the disability or disease and harm to the child.
452.375. 1. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
(1) "Custody" means joint legal custody, sole legal custody, joint physical custody or sole physical custody or any combination thereof;
(2) "Joint legal custody" means that the parents share the decision-making rights, responsibilities, and authority relating to the health, education and welfare of the child, and, unless allocated, apportioned, or decreed, the parents shall confer with one another in the exercise of decisionmaking rights, responsibilities, and authority;
(3) "Joint physical custody" means an order awarding each of the parents significant, but not necessarily equal, periods of time during which a child resides with or is under the care and supervision of each of the parents. Joint physical custody shall be shared by the parents in such a way as to assure the child of frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents;
(4) "Third-party custody" means a third party designated as a legal and physical custodian pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection 5 of this section.
2. The court shall determine custody in accordance with the best interests of the child. There shall be a
rebuttable presumption that an award of equal or approximately equal parenting time to each parent is in the best interests of the child. Such presumption is rebuttable only by a preponderance of the evidence in accordance with all relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the factors contained in subdivisions (1) to (8) of this subsection. The presumption may be rebutted if the court finds that the parents have reached an agreement on all issues related to custody, or if the court finds that a pattern of domestic violence has occurred as set out in subdivision (6) of this subsection. When the parties have not reached an agreement on all issues related to custody, the court shall consider all relevant factors and enter written findings of fact and conclusions of law, including, but not limited to, the following:
(1) The wishes of the child's parents as to custody and the proposed parenting plan submitted by both parties;
(2) The needs of the child for a frequent, continuing and meaningful relationship with both parents and the ability and willingness of parents to actively perform their functions as mother and father for the needs of the child;
(3) The interaction and interrelationship of the child with parents, siblings, and any other person who may significantly affect the child's best interests;
(4) Which parent is more likely to allow the child frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with the other parent;
(5) The child's adjustment to the child's home, school, and community. The fact that a parent sends his or her child or children to a home school[, as defined in section 167.031,] or FPE school shall not be the sole factor that a court considers in determining custody of such child or children;
(6) The mental and physical health of all individuals involved, including any history of abuse of any individuals involved. If the court finds that a pattern of domestic violence as defined in section 455.010 has occurred, and, if the court also finds that awarding custody to the abusive parent is in the best interest of the child, then the court shall enter written findings of fact and conclusions of law. Custody and visitation rights shall be ordered in a manner that best protects the child and any other child or children for whom the parent has custodial or visitation rights, and the parent or other family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence from any further harm;
(7) The intention of either parent to relocate the principal residence of the child; and
(8) The unobstructed input of a child, free of coercion and manipulation, as to the child's custodial arrangement.
3. (1) In any court proceedings relating to custody of a child, the court shall not award custody or unsupervised visitation of a child to a parent if such parent or any person residing with such parent has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any of the following offenses when a child was the victim:
(a) A felony violation of section 566.030, 566.031, 566.032, 566.060, 566.061, 566.062, 566.064, 566.067, 566.068, 566.083, 566.100, 566.101, 566.111, 566.151, 566.203, 566.206, 566.209, 566.211, or 566.215;
(b) A violation of section 568.020;
(c) A violation of subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 568.060;
(d) A violation of section 568.065;
(e) A violation of section 573.200;
(f) A violation of section 573.205; or
(g) A violation of section 568.175.
(2) For all other violations of offenses in chapters 566 and 568 not specifically listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection or for a violation of an offense committed in another state when a child is the victim that would be a violation of chapter 566 or 568 if committed in Missouri, the court may exercise its discretion in awarding custody or visitation of a child to a parent if such parent or any person residing with such parent has been found guilty of, or pled guilty to, any such offense.
4. The general assembly finds and declares that it is the public policy of this state that frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with both parents after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage is in the best interest of the child, except for cases where the court specifically finds that such contact is not in the best interest of the child, and that it is the public policy of this state to encourage parents to participate in decisions affecting the health, education and welfare of their children, and to resolve disputes involving their children amicably through alternative dispute resolution. In order to effectuate these policies, the general assembly encourages the court to enter a temporary parenting plan as early as practicable in a proceeding under this chapter, consistent with the provisions of subsection 2 of this section, and, in so doing, the court shall determine the custody arrangement which will best assure both parents participate in such decisions and have frequent, continuing and meaningful contact with their children so long as it is in the best interests of the child.
5. Prior to awarding the appropriate custody arrangement in the best interest of the child, the court shall consider each of the following as follows:
(1) Joint physical and joint legal custody to both parents, which shall not be denied solely for the reason that one parent opposes a joint physical and joint legal custody award. The residence of one of the parents shall be designated as the address of the child for mailing and educational purposes;
(2) Joint physical custody with one party granted sole legal custody. The residence of one of the parents shall be designated as the address of the child for mailing and educational purposes;
(3) Joint legal custody with one party granted sole physical custody;
(4) Sole custody to either parent; or
(5) Third-party custody or visitation:
(a) When the court finds that each parent is unfit, unsuitable, or unable to be a custodian, or the welfare of the child requires, and it is in the best interests of the child, then custody, temporary custody or visitation may be awarded to a person related by consanguinity or affinity to the child. If no person related to the child by consanguinity or affinity is willing to accept custody, then the court may award custody to any other person or persons deemed by the court to be suitable and able to provide an adequate and stable environment for the child. Before the court awards custody, temporary custody or visitation to a third person under this subdivision, the court shall make that person a party to the action;
(b) Under the provisions of this subsection, any person may petition the court to intervene as a party in interest at any time as provided by supreme court rule.
6. If the parties have not agreed to a custodial arrangement, or the court determines such arrangement is not in the best interest of the child, the court shall include a
written finding in the judgment or order based on the public policy in subsection 4 of this section and each of the factors listed in subdivisions (1) to (8) of subsection 2 of this section detailing the specific relevant factors that made a particular arrangement in the best interest of the child. If a proposed custodial arrangement is rejected by the court, the court shall include a written finding in the judgment or order detailing the specific relevant factors resulting in the rejection of such arrangement.
7. Upon a finding by the court that either parent has refused to exchange information with the other parent, which shall include but not be limited to information concerning the health, education and welfare of the child, the court shall order the parent to comply immediately and to pay the prevailing party a sum equal to the prevailing party's cost associated with obtaining the requested information, which shall include but not be limited to reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.
8. As between the parents of a child, no preference may be given to either parent in the awarding of custody because of that parent's age, sex, or financial status, nor because of the age or sex of the child. The court shall not presume that a parent, solely because of his or her sex, is more qualified than the other parent to act as a joint or sole legal or physical custodian for the child.
9. Any judgment providing for custody shall include a specific written parenting plan setting forth the terms of such parenting plan arrangements specified in subsection 8 of section 452.310. Such plan may be a parenting plan submitted by the parties pursuant to section 452.310 or, in the absence thereof, a plan determined by the court, but in all cases, the custody plan approved and ordered by the
court shall be in the court's discretion and shall be in the best interest of the child.
10. After August 28, 2016, every court order establishing or modifying custody or visitation shall include the following language: "In the event of noncompliance with this order, the aggrieved party may file a verified motion for contempt. If custody, visitation, or third-party custody is denied or interfered with by a parent or third party without good cause, the aggrieved person may file a family access motion with the court stating the specific facts that constitute a violation of the custody provisions of the judgment of dissolution, legal separation, or judgment of paternity. The circuit clerk will provide the aggrieved party with an explanation of the procedures for filing a family access motion and a simple form for use in filing the family access motion. A family access motion does not require the assistance of legal counsel to prepare and file.".
11. No court shall adopt any local rule, form, or practice requiring a standardized or default parenting plan for interim, temporary, or permanent orders or judgments. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a court may enter an interim order in a proceeding under this chapter, provided that the interim order shall not contain any provisions about child custody or a parenting schedule or plan without first providing the parties with notice and a hearing, unless the parties otherwise agree.
12. Unless a parent has been denied custody rights pursuant to this section or visitation rights under section 452.400, both parents shall have access to records and information pertaining to a minor child including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and school records. If the parent without custody has been granted restricted or
supervised visitation because the court has found that the parent with custody or any child has been the victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.010, by the parent without custody, the court may order that the reports and records made available pursuant to this subsection not include the address of the parent with custody or the child. A court shall order that the reports and records made available under this subsection not include the address of the parent with custody if the parent with custody is a participant in the address confidentiality program under section 589.663. Unless a parent has been denied custody rights pursuant to this section or visitation rights under section 452.400, any judgment of dissolution or other applicable court order shall specifically allow both parents access to such records and reports.
13. Except as otherwise precluded by state or federal law, if any individual, professional, public or private institution or organization denies access or fails to provide or disclose any and all records and information, including, but not limited to, past and present dental, medical and school records pertaining to a minor child, to either parent upon the written request of such parent, the court shall, upon its finding that the individual, professional, public or private institution or organization denied such request without good cause, order that party to comply immediately with such request and to pay to the prevailing party all costs incurred, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees and court costs associated with obtaining the requested information.
14. An award of joint custody does not preclude an award of child support pursuant to section 452.340 and applicable supreme court rules. The court shall consider the factors contained in section 452.340 and applicable
supreme court rules in determining an amount reasonable or necessary for the support of the child.
15. If the court finds that domestic violence or abuse as defined in section 455.010 has occurred, the court shall make specific findings of fact to show that the custody or visitation arrangement ordered by the court best protects the child and the parent or other family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.010, and any other children for whom such parent has custodial or visitation rights from any further harm.
Section 1. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in addition to all funds distributed to school districts pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031, the department of elementary and secondary education shall, after rendering all calculations required pursuant to the provisions of such section, remit an amount equal to one percent for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, or two percent for fiscal year 2028 and all subsequent fiscal years, of each district's preceding year's annual state aid entitlement as calculated in June in accordance with the provisions of such section for any district with a preceding year school term that provided for one hundred and sixty-nine school days or more. For districts in which one or more charter schools operate, and for all charter schools located therein, the department shall, after rendering all calculations required pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031 and section 160.415, remit an amount equal to one percent for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, or two percent for fiscal year 2028 and all subsequent fiscal years, of each district's and charter school's preceding year's annual state aid entitlement as calculated in June, prior to any required adjustment pursuant to subsections 4 and 15 of Section 160.415, for any district or charter school with a preceding year school term
that provided for one hundred and sixty-nine school days or more.
2. Any funds received as provided in this section
shall be used by school districts and charter schools
exclusively to increase teacher salaries. Any school district or charter school that receives funds as provided in this section but fails to utilize such funds solely to increase teacher salaries shall have an amount equal to the amount of such funds received withheld from such district's or charter school's state aid payments pursuant to the provisions of section 163.031 or 160.415 . [167.071. 1. In school districts having seven or more directors the school board may appoint and remove at pleasure one or more school attendance officers and shall pay them from the public school funds.
2. Each attendance officer has the powers of a deputy sheriff in the performance of his duties. He shall investigate the claims of children for exemptions under section 167.031 , and report his findings to the person authorized by that section to grant the exemption sought. He shall refer all cases involving an alleged violation of section 167.031 involving a public school to the superintendent of the public school of the district where the child legally resides and all cases involving an alleged violation of section 167.031 involving a private, parochial, parish or home school to the prosecuting attorney of the county wherein the child legally resides. When reasonable doubt exists as to the age of any such child he may require a properly attested birth certificate or an affidavit stating the child's age, date of birth, physical characteristics and bearing the signature of the child. He may visit and enter any mine, office, factory, workshop, business house, place of amusement, or other place in which children are employed or engaged in any kind of service, or any place or building in which children loiter or idle during school
hours; may require a properly attested
certificate of the attendance of any child at
school; may arrest, without warrant, any truant,
or nonattendants or other juvenile disorderly
persons, and place them in some school or take
them to their homes, or take them to any place
of detention provided for neglected children in
the county or school district. He shall serve
in the cases which he prosecutes without
additional fee or compensation. Each attendance
officer appointed by a school board shall carry
into effect the regulations lawfully prescribed
by the board by which he was appointed.
met In any urban school district, any
mistricilitan school district and in school
districh having seven or more directors and
a charter form of government, any duly
commissioned city or county police officer shall
be ex officio school attendance officers. Any
police officer exercising duties of ex officio
school attendance officer need not refer any
child apprehended pursuant to the provisions of
this section to juvenile court or a juvenile
officer, but nothing in this subsection shall be
construed to limit the police officer's regular
powers and duties as a peace officer.]
Section B. The repeal and reenactment of sections
160.011, 160.041, 163.021, 171.031, and 171.033 of this act
shall become effective July 1, 2026.

