

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Wardlow and others

Subject: Denying students' promotion to the next grade under certain circumstances

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Overview

Requires public schools to provide students with differentiated instruction in a subsequent grade or not promote students to the subsequent grade when the students are frequently absent, receive below grade level scores on reliable state or district tests, and fail to master academic skills needed in the subsequent grade. Allows parents to appeal schools' decisions.

Section

1 Student academic progress.

Subd. 1. Grade promotion. Requires public schools to provide differentiated instruction in a subsequent grade or not promote students to the subsequent grade when (1) students are absent from class for more than 20 percent of the time over at least 120 school days, (2) students receive below grade level scores on reliable state or district tests, and (3) schools determine that the students failed to master academic skills needed in the next grade.

Subd. 2. Notice; appeal. Directs schools to notify students and parents that the student will either receive differentiated instruction in the subsequent grade or not be promoted to the subsequent grade in the next school year. Allows a student or parent to submit a written request for a hearing with the school principal within 15 days of receiving the notice. Requires the school principal to issue a written decision within five days of the hearing. Allows a parent to appeal the principal's decision to the

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school board within 15 days of receiving the principal's decision. Requires the school board to issue a final written decision within five days of the hearing.

Subd. 3. Exemption. Exempts a student with an individualized education plan from this section.

Subd. 4. Report. Requires school districts to annually report to the commissioner by July 1 on the number and grade levels of students who receive differentiated instruction and the number of students who are not promoted to the subsequent grade in the next school year.

Makes this section effective for the 2004-2005 school year.