

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Makes available competitive grants to enable school districts and charter schools to develop and expand advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses and programs.

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1 Raised academic achievement; advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs.

Subd. 1. Establishment; eligibility. Establishes a program to improve K-12 academic achievement through increased student participation in advanced placement and international baccalaureate programs. Requires eligible school districts and charter schools to be (1) authorized by the international baccalaureate organization to teach the international baccalaureate curriculum or (2) a college board-approved site for providing advanced placement courses and exams or participating in the pre-advanced placement and (3) propose to further raise students' academic achievement by: (i) increasing the availability and students' access to advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses or programs; (ii) expanding the breadth of advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs available to students; (iii) increasing the number and diversity of students who participate in advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs and succeed; (iv) providing low income and other disadvantaged students with increased access to

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advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs; or (v) increasing the number of students who receive college credit by successfully completing advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs and achieving satisfactory scores on related exams.

Subd. 2 Application and review process; funding priority. (a) Allows eligible school districts and charter schools to submit an application to the education commissioner for competitive grant funding that details the applicant's specific efforts in raising students' achievement, consistent with this section, and includes a proposed budget. Requires the budget to show that the applicant's efforts will supplement but not supplant current advanced placement and international baccalaureate expenditures. Limits administrative costs to five percent. Allows the commissioner to require additional information.

(b) Directs the commissioner to determine whether the applicant satisfied the requirements in subdivisions 1 and 2. Allows the commissioner to give funding priority to an otherwise qualified applicant that demonstrates: (1) a focus on developing or expanding advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs or increasing all students' participation in and success with such courses and programs; (2) a compelling need for access to advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs; (3) an effective ability to involve community-based organizations in student activities that are integral to advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs; (4) access to additional funding sources; or (5) an intent to implement activities that target low-income and other disadvantaged students.

Subd. 3. Funding; permissible funding uses. (a) Directs the commissioner to award grants to applicants that meet the requirements of subdivisions 1 and 2 and to distribute the awards on an equitable geographic basis to the extent feasible. Limits grant award amounts to the lesser of: (1) \$85 times the number of enrolled pupils on October 1 of the previous fiscal year; or (2) the approved supplemental expenditures in the applicant's proposed budget. Calculates the maximum grant award for charter schools by using the number of enrolled pupils on October 1 of the current fiscal year. Allows the commissioner to adjust the maximum grant award amount based on certain circumstances.

(b) Requires successful grant applicants to use the grant award to: (1) provide teacher training and instruction; (2) further develop advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs; (3) improve the transition between grade levels to better prepare students for succeeding in advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs; (4) purchase books and supplies; (5) pay course or program application fees; (6) increase students' participation in and success with advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses or programs; (7) expand students' access through on-line learning options; (8) hire appropriately licensed personnel to teach additional courses or programs; or (9) engage in other related activity.

Subd. 4. Annual reports. (a) Directs grant recipients to annually collect and report to the commissioner student demographic data that show the extent of students' increased academic achievement. Directs the commissioner annually by February 15

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to report summary data to the legislature.

(b) Directs grant recipients to annually report to the commissioner, consistent with UFARS standards, their expenditures and demonstrate that they maintained their effort from other sources for advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses and programs and expended all grant funds consistent with their approved budget.

Makes this section immediately effective and applicable to the 2006-2007 school year and later.