

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Proposes to remove certain statutory mandates affecting K-12 education policy and finance.

Section

- 1** **Required academic standards.** Reduces the number of art offerings K-12 schools must provide to coincide with the art areas students are required to complete. Requires public elementary and middle schools to offer and require at least two of four art areas and public high schools to offer and require at least one of five art areas.

Makes this section effective for the 2009-2010 school year and later.
- 2** **Report.** Requires school board reports on local reviews of curriculum and instruction to be consistent with the state performance report card. Strikes language requiring a school board to make a copy of the report available to the public and the commissioner, and establishing a title for the report.

Makes this section effective for the 2009-2010 school year and later.
- 3** **Budgets; form of notification.** Directs a school board to publish a summary of its truth in taxation information and the address of the school district's official Web site in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the district.

Makes this section effective immediately.
- 4** **Contract; duties.** Strikes language requiring school superintendents to annually submit a report to the commissioner identifying expenditures the school district needs to make to ensure high student pass rates on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments.
- 5** **Health and safety program.** Eliminates the requirement that health and safety projects with a value in excess of \$500,000 be transferred from the health and safety program into

the alternative facilities program.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2009.

- 6 Facility plan.** Removes the requirement that a school district that has a health and safety project with a total cost in excess of \$500,000 adopt a separate five facilities year plan.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2009.

- 7 Review and comment.** Increases the dollar amount that triggers a mandatory review and comment of a proposed school construction project by the commissioner of education from \$500,000 to \$1.4 million.

Makes this section effective for review and comments beginning July 1, 2009.

- 8 Expenditures by building.** Requires that a school district directly account for expenditures at a building level only to the extent that the Uniform Financial and Reporting Standards (UFARS) accounting system already accommodates building level data.

Makes this section effective for fiscal year 2010 and later.

- 9 Pupil enrollment.** (b) Requires a nonresident school district to approve the application of an eligible student under the graduation incentives program who was expelled from school for possessing a dangerous weapon at school, possessing or using an illegal drug at school, selling or buying a controlled substance at school, or committing a third degree assault that inflicts substantial bodily harm.

Makes this section effective for the 2009-2010 school year and later.

- 10 Safe schools levy.** Modifies the maintenance of effort requirement for school districts that make a safe schools levy. Current law requires districts to maintain at least the same level of spending for licensed school counselors, licensed school nurses, licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, and licensed alcohol and chemical dependency counselors. This section allows the maintenance of effort to be calculated on either a full-time employee basis or a total dollar basis.

Makes this section effective for fiscal year 2010 and later.

- 11 Notice of proposed property taxes.** Modifies the notice of proposed property taxes to reflect the elimination of the mandatory truth in taxation meetings.

Makes this section effective for fiscal year 2010 and later.

- 12 Adoption of budget and levy.** Eliminates the truth in taxation public hearing requirements.

Makes this section effective for taxes payable in 2010 and later.

- 13 Capital account transfers.** Extends the one-year authority for school districts to transfer up to \$51 per pupil unit per year from the reserved for operating capital account to the unreserved general fund balance for another two years.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 14** **Repealers.** (a) Immediately repeals provisions governing uniform state exam forms (Minn. Stat. § 120B.39), unfunded school mentoring program (Minn. Stat. § 122A.628), and a duplicative administrators' academy (Minn. Stat. § 122A.75).
- (b) Repeals for taxes payable in 2010 and later truth in taxation provisions on local property taxes related to public advertising, joint public hearings in metro and non-metro areas and in various counties (Minn. Stat. § 275.065, subds. 5a, 6b, 6c, 8, 9, and 10).