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House Bill 4945 (Substitute S-1)
Sponsor: Representative Pamela Hornberger
House Committee: Education
Senate Committee: Education and Career Readiness

Date Completed: 6-22-21

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to do the following:

- **Modify the definition of "authorizing body" to include a board of a school district that did not operate grades K to 12, beginning on the bill's effective date and for three years after that date.**
- **Allow the board of school district that did not operate grades K through 12 to issue a contract to operate a strict discipline academy under the conditions prescribed in the bill.**
- **Require a strict discipline academy to assess pupil progress using at least the Michigan Student Test of Education Progress (M-STEP) or the Michigan Merit Exam, as applicable.**

Authorizing Bodies

Strict discipline academies are a type of public school authorized under the Michigan Constitution. The powers granted to a strict discipline academy are provided for under the Code. Under the Code, specified entities may act as an authorizing body to issue a contract to organize a strict discipline academy. "Authorizing body" means any of the following entities that issues a contract as provided in the Code:

- The board of a school district that operates grades K to 12
- An intermediate school board.
- The board of a community college.
- The governing board of a State public university.

Under the bill, beginning on the bill's effective date and before three years after that date, the term also would mean the board of a school district that did not operate grades K to 12. A contract issued by the board of an applicable school district would not be effective after three years after the bill's effective date.

The Code specifies that certain entities may act as an authorizing body to issue a contract to organize and operate one or more strict discipline academies, including the board of a school district that operates grades K to 12 is one of those bodies. However, the board of a district may not issue a contract for a strict discipline academy to operate outside the district's boundaries, and a strict discipline academy authorized by the board of school district may not operate outside that district's boundaries.

Under the bill, beginning on its effective date and before three years after that date, the board of a school district that did not operate grades K to 12 could issue a contract to organize and operate a strict discipline academy. Both of the following would apply:

- The board of the school district could not issue a contract for a strict discipline academy to operate outside the district's boundaries, and a strict discipline academy authorized by the board could not operate outside that district's boundaries.
- A contract issue by the board of an applicable school district would not be effective after three years after the bill's effective date.

"Certificated teacher" means an individual who holds a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board under Section 1531. Under the bill, the term would mean an individual who holds a valid teaching certificate issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction under Section 1531.

Strict Discipline Academies; Pupil Progress

Under the Code, in order to obtain a contract to organize and operate one or more strict discipline academies, one or more people or an entity may apply to an authorizing body. An application must include the documentation meeting the application requirements of the authorizing body, including a copy of the educational goals of the strict discipline academy and the curricula to be offered and methods of pupil assessment to be used by the academy. To the extent applicable, the progress of the pupils in the academy must be assessed using at least a Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) test or an assessment instrument developed under the Code for a State-endorsed high school diploma.

Under the bill, pupil progress instead would have to be assessed using at least the M-STEP or the Michigan merit exam, as applicable.

MCL 380.1311 et al.

Legislative Analyst: Dana Adams

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the State or local intermediate school districts, school districts, or public school academies.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.