



BILL SUMMARY

On-Line Learning Programs HF 204

Status of Bill: House Floor
Committee: Education 14-9
Lead Democrats: Representatives Gaines, Mascher and Winckler
Floor Manager: Representative Jones
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Background

After the Department of Education (DE) allowed the CAM (Anita area) school district and Clayton Ridge (Guttenberg and Garnavillo area) school district to operate an on-line program, and allowed students to open enroll to those districts, the 2012 Legislature passed limits to these programs. The legislation was contained in SF 2284.

The law limits only those two districts to operating a program, caps the student funding to those districts for the program to not more than eighteen one-hundredths of 1% of the statewide enrollment, and caps the total number of students to no more than 1% from any individual school district. The law also provided reporting requirements, and DE is to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the programs. The program is to sunset, July 1, 2015.

Agreements

The following information is provided from the Fiscal Services Division for the districts on school aid:

- There are currently 426 out of 441 students that have open enrolled on-line to CAM. Including property taxes, CAM is receiving \$2,711,916 in on-line open enrollment funding.
- There are currently 304 out of 599 students that have open enrolled on-line to Clayton Ridge. Including property taxes, Clayton Ridge is receiving \$1,935,264 in on-line open enrollment funding.

An audit of the programs under each school district shows that nearly all of that total funding is going to Iowa Virtual Academy, and K12 Inc. These are the private on-line vendors contracted to provide the on-line services. CAM has agreed for five years to pay 97% of the revenue generated for each student participating. The remaining 3% of the revenues retained by district are considered oversight fees of Connections Academy. Per the agreement, the oversight fee paid to the district cannot be less than \$50,000. For Clayton Ridge they also have a five year contract that retains \$50,000 for administration, and K12 Inc. is provided the rest of the funding received in school aid from the program.

Annual Report

The latest annual report from the department shows the following:

Clayton Ridge

- For the 2013-14 school year, the withdraw rate for Clayton Ridge was 30%.
- 30% of the 3rd graders, 36% of the 8th graders and 33% of the 11th graders were not proficient in reading.
- 20% of the 3rd graders, 50% of the 8th graders and 17% of the 11th graders were not proficient in math.
- 0% of the 3rd graders, 36% of the 8th graders and 50% of the 11th graders were not proficient in science.

CAM

- 8% of the 3rd graders, 14% of the 8th graders and 18% of the 11th graders were not proficient in reading.
- 31% of the 3rd graders, 25% of the 8th graders and 11% of the 11th graders were not proficient in math.
- 23% of the 3rd graders, 9% of the 8th graders and 17% of the 11th graders were not proficient in science.

In addition the department is required to survey not less than 10% of all students in the program, and 100% of the students on Free and Reduced Priced Lunch about their educational instruction. The department had unlimited ability to develop the survey questions. Here are some of the results of the survey:

- Almost half the students surveyed took five classes.
- Of all the possible people that taught the students during their school day, 93% responded that their parents teach them while 30% responded that their teacher teaches them.
- 65% of students said that they do not work in groups during or outside class.
- If a student needs help with their work, 93% said they asked their parent, while 31% said they ask their teacher.
- 32% of the students said that they did not need to tell a teacher or a principal if they would be late or absent.
- 21% of the students said that their teacher does not spend time talking to them and showing them how to do the things they are learning.

Bill Summary

Under the bill, the student funding cap and the 1% limitation cap on how many students could open enroll to the districts would be lifted if a sending district determines that an on-line program would best serve their emotional needs of a "physically or emotionally fragile student." A "physically or emotionally fragile student" is not defined in the bill.

The survey requirements for surveying 100% of the FRL students are removed in the bill, so the department would only survey 10% of all students. The bill adds requirements to districts providing on-line instruction through the program. Those additional requirements in the bill include:

- A. Monitor and verify fulltime students, completion of graduation requirements, course credit accrual, and course completion.
- B. Verify student progress and school based assessment plan, including the submission of coursework and security and validity testing.
- C. Conduct parent-teacher conferences.
- D. Administering assessments required by state law to all students in a proctored setting.

Sunset Eliminated

HF 204 eliminates the sunset to the program of July 1, 2015, so the school districts operating the on-line learning programs could continue on indefinitely.