



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 241

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. LaRose, Burke, Gardner, Uecker, Tavares, Yuko

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires each city, exempted village, and local school district to provide students in grades K-12 with (1) an education that includes fine arts, music, and physical education and (2) the comprehensive services of counselors, librarians or library media specialists, school nurses, and school social workers.
- Specifically permits districts to employ education professionals in the following positions: (1) counselor, (2) librarian or library media specialist, (3) school nurse, (4) school social worker, (5) teacher of fine arts, (6) music teacher, and (7) physical education teacher.
- Requires education professionals to hold a license or certification issued by the State Board of Education in the appropriate subject area and grade level or the appropriate content area or specialty.
- Requires the Department of Education, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, to include on each school district's annual state report card as an ungraded, reported-only measure the number of education professionals per 1,000 students employed in each of the seven positions.
- Requires the State Board to establish a system to recognize, on district report cards, each district that employs at least five education professionals per 1,000 students in specified positions.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Provision of education and comprehensive services

The bill requires each city, exempted village, and local school district to provide students in grades K-12 with (1) an education that includes fine arts, music, and physical education and (2) the comprehensive services of counselors, librarians or library media specialists, school nurses, and school social workers.¹ Currently, a separate provision of law, unchanged by the bill, requires each district's general curriculum to include both "fine arts, including music" and physical education.² Another separate provision, also unchanged by the bill, generally requires students to take one-half unit of physical education during high school as a requirement for graduation.³

Employment of specified education professionals

In order to provide the education and comprehensive services described above, the bill specifically permits school districts to employ education professionals in the following positions: (1) counselor, (2) librarian or library media specialist, (3) school nurse, (4) school social worker, (5) teacher of fine arts, (6) music teacher, and (7) physical education teacher. The bill further specifies that each education professional so employed must either:

(1) Hold a license issued by the State Board of Education in the appropriate subject area and grade level, if assigned to the position of fine arts, music, or physical education teacher; or

(2) Hold the appropriate content area or specialty certification or license required by the State Board, if assigned to the position of counselor, librarian or library media specialist, school nurse, or school social worker.⁴

Reported measure on state report cards

Under the bill, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Department of Education must include as an ungraded, reported-only measure on each school district's state report card the number of education professionals employed per 1,000

¹ R.C. 3319.078(A).

² R.C. 3313.60(A)(6) and (7), not in the bill.

³ R.C. 3313.603(C)(4), not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 3319.078(B) and (C).



students in each of the seven positions described above. If a district's student population is fewer than 1,000 students, the Department must report the total number of professionals employed in each of those positions.⁵

Additionally, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the State Board must establish a system to recognize on the state report cards each district that employs at least five of these education professionals per 1,000 students (or, if a district has fewer than 1,000 students, five for the total student population). To qualify for recognition, the education professionals must be assigned to at least five of the seven positions specified by the bill (see above).⁶ For example, a district with 1,020 students that employs five such professionals would qualify, only if they are assigned to five of the seven positions (such as one counselor, one school nurse, one teacher of fine arts, one music teacher, and one physical education teacher). However, if the five professionals are assigned to only three of the seven positions (such as one counselor, two music teachers, and two physical education teachers), the district would not qualify for recognition.

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 11-10-15 |

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⁵ R.C. 3302.03(M)(1).

⁶ R.C. 3302.03(M)(2).

