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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Reynolds

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SUMMARY

- Requires a dropout prevention and recovery (DOPR) community school to administer end-of-course exams in an online format throughout the school year based on the needs of the student, in addition to the testing windows established under continuing law.
- Requires the State Board of Education to consult with stakeholder groups and use data from prior school years and simulations in establishing benchmarks and performance levels for performance indicators on the DOPR community school report card.
- Requires the newly established Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council to review, in collaboration with the State Board, all existing rules and guidance previously developed or adopted by the Department of Education.
- Requires the Department to adopt any requirement imposed on a DOPR as a rule under the Administrative Procedure Act and prohibits the Department from developing guidelines, rather than rules, imposing requirements on a DOPR.
- Requires that any new rule related to DOPR community school requirements be reviewed prior to adoption by the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

End-of-course exams for DOPR community schools

Under the bill, a dropout prevention and recovery (DOPR) community school must do both of the following with regard to the administration of end-of-course exams:

1. In addition to the annual testing windows established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, administer the exams in an online format at any time of year based on the needs of the student;
2. Adhere to security requirements prescribed under continuing law for those exams.¹

DOPR report cards

The bill requires the State Board of Education to base its rules for DOPR community schools prescribing the expected performance levels and benchmarks for performance indicators, in part, on simulations created by the Department of Education.² The bill also requires the Department to gather and analyze data from prior school years, rather than leaving that to the Department's discretion. It removes several requirements related to developing the rating and report card systems, the timelines for which have passed.³

DOPR Advisory Council

The bill establishes the DOPR Advisory Council to provide a forum for communication and collaboration between the Department and parties involved in the establishment and operation of DOPR community schools, including sponsors and operators.⁴ The Council consists of the following members appointed by the State Board of Education:

1. Two members of the State Board;
2. One employee of the Department who works directly with DOPR community schools;
3. Seven individuals with experience in DOPR community schools, their operators, and their sponsors that represent a diverse array of schools in terms of enrollment, programs, learning models, and methods of instruction.

The Advisory Council is required to collaborate with the State Board to review all existing rules and guidance previously developed or adopted by the Department imposing on a DOPR community school.

Rules and guidelines from DOPR community schools

The bill requires the Department to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to impose any requirement on a DOPR community school. It prohibits the Department from developing guidelines – rather than a formally adopted rule – imposing requirements on their general and uniform operation. Prior to adoption of any rules, the newly created DOPR Advisory Council must review those rules. On the bill's effective date, it voids any

¹ R.C. 3301.0727.

² R.C. 3314.017(D)(1).

³ R.C. 3314.017(G).

⁴ R.C. 3314.381.

guidance document previously developed by the Department that establishes general and uniform operations for DOPRs.⁵

Background

Under continuing law, a dropout recovery community school is a community school in which a majority of the students are enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program that is operated by the school.⁶ Unlike standard community schools that receives grades based on a star system for report card measures, DOPR community schools receive ratings of “exceeds standards,” “meets standards,” “does not meet standards,” or “not reported.”⁷

DOPR schools must prepare students to meet the same requirements as students in traditional public school districts and must administer assessments in English language arts and mathematics twice per year to generate student growth reports. They must test all students in grades 9-12 at regular intervals established by the Department of Education.⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-07-23

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⁵ R.C. 3314.382(B), (C), and (D).

⁶ R.C. 3319.301, not in bill.

⁷ R.C. 3314.017(D).

⁸ [Dropout Prevention and Recovery Assessments](#), available at education.ohio.gov.