

## **2016 Legislature: Bill Summary**

Updated: March 29, 2016

### **Bill Summary**

**SB 5** – This bill revises the procedure to initiate a boundary change of a school district. Highlights include: changes are initiated by school boards, not individuals; children do not need to reside within the area of the land to be moved; and nothing in the bill compels a school board to approve an exchange of land. The bill lays out a new process for the exchange of land and indicates that a board's decision does not constitute grounds for an appeal.

**SB 28** – SB 28 adds meningococcal infection to the list of diseases for which vaccination is required for school entry. The Department of Health will be drafting administrative rules to require both Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) and MCV4 (Meningococcal ACYW) vaccines for entry into 6<sup>th</sup> grade, beginning with the 2016-17 school year. Vaccine requirements for kindergarten entry have been in place for many years; this will be the first such requirement for middle school entry.

**SB 73** – This bill clarifies the definition of official meetings of a public body to include both in-person meetings and meetings conducted via teleconference. It states: "A teleconference is information exchanged by any audio, video, or electronic medium, including the Internet."

**SB 81** – SB 81 creates a scholarship program for paraprofessionals working in targeted public school districts: those with high Native student populations (at least 50%) and low state test scores (below state average in ELA and math). The scholarships are designed to help individuals already living and working in these districts to earn their teaching degrees. This bill is a result of the Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council's work.

**SB 82** – SB 82 establishes the Native American achievement schools grant program. The grant would allow for the start-up of three pilot schools, located within targeted public school districts, aimed at improving academic outcomes for students, with a focus on infusing language and culture into the educational experience. This bill is a result of the Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council's work.

**SB 90** – This is another bill related to open meetings. It allows for public meetings to be recorded by any person, as long as the recording is reasonable, obvious and not disruptive.

**SB 129** – This bill requires applicants for certification – both initial and renewal – to complete one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training. The requirement applies to teachers, administrators and other education professionals. The requirement begins July 1, 2017. It charges the Board of Education with creating rules and curating evidence-based resources to fulfill the requirement.

**SB 159** – SB 159 provides a tax credit to insurance companies that make contributions to a scholarship granting organization that provides scholarships to certain students who attend private schools in the state.

**HB 1013** – HB 1013 removes the requirement to test students who receive alternative instruction (i.e., homeschool) at the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

**HB 1061** – This bill extends the 50 percent tuition-reduction benefit currently available to educators taking courses at the Board of Regents' institutions to educators enrolled in distance education courses at these same institutions. Currently, the benefit only applies to face-to-face courses.

**HB 1090** – This bill requires any pool arrangement established by one or more public agencies to have an annual audit of its financial statements and to file a copy with the Department of Legislative Audit.

**HB 1096** – This bill applies to a limited number of districts that fall under a tuition regulation program between South Dakota and Iowa. It removes the limit on the rate of tuition paid by the sending SD district to the receiving Iowa district.

**HB 1118** – HB 1118 limits the amount of time that may be spent on administering state-required assessments to 2 percent of total instructional time. The current state-required tests fall below that percentage.

**HB 1145** – This bill requires any accredited SD school to accept transfer credits earned by a student for coursework taken from another SD accredited school outside the regular school term. If a student fails to provide advance notice, the school may refuse to accept the credits. The bill also requires each district to establish a policy for accepting transfer credits, and provides some flexibility for the district to determine whether the course/credits in question will count towards state and local graduation requirements.

**HB 1169** – This bill allows a school district to operate an attendance center within another school district only when both districts have entered into a joint powers agreement. It grandfathers in any such situations that existed prior to Jan. 1, 2016. The bill does not impact the operation of any cooperative educational learning unit or virtual school.

**HB 1188** – This bill exempts certain operations of school buses from commercial motor vehicle fees.

**HB 1189** – The bill provides for the parent of a student who takes a state-required assessment to have access to their student's assessment in a secured environment. The Department of Education is required to post information about this process on its website.

**HB 1203** – HB 1203 allows for paying or pre-paying of certain state obligations, in order to support a tuition freeze at Board of Regents' institutions and the state's four Technical Institutes.

**HB 1214** – This bill regulates conflicts of interest for targeted organizations, including state boards and commissions, as well as school districts, cooperative education service units, education service agencies, and others. It provides these organizations some flexibility to authorize a board member, fiscal agent, officer or executive to have an interest in a contract if certain conditions are met.