

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 525aa

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .200285.1

Short Title: Evaluate Community Schools Act Improvement

Sponsor(s): Representative Jimmie C. Hall

Analyst: David Craig

Date: March 17, 2015

AS AMENDED

The House Floor amendment adds the term “results-based model” to the title of the bill.

The House Education Committee amendments:

- **strike the requirement to establish a model of integrated student services and comprehensive supports; and**
- **require implementation of an evidence-based, or a results-based, model of integrated student services and comprehensive supports.**

Original Bill Summary:

HB 525 changes provisions in current law to:

- remove requirements for the establishment of an evaluation process that measures both the quality and quantity of outcomes;
- add requirements for the establishment of an independently evaluated and evidence-based model of integrated student services and comprehensive supports proven to increase student achievement; and
- clarify that if a school district, a group of public schools, or a public school uses funds provided for in the *Community Schools Act* to transform a school into a research- and evidence-based community schools initiative, then it must use an evidence-based evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the initiative.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 525 does not carry an appropriation.

Fiscal Issues:

Enacted into the *Public School Code* in 2013, the *Community Schools Act* (see “Background,” below) contains provisions to allow, subject to the availability of funding, grants for community schools initiatives available to a school district, a group of public schools, or a public school that has demonstrated partnerships with any lead agency and local, private, and public agencies for the purpose of establishing, operating, and sustaining community schools, and that meets Public

Education Department (PED) requirements. However, since the enactment of the *Community Schools Act*, the Legislature has not appropriated funds for provision of these grants by PED.

According to the PED bill analysis:

- PED provides a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program that helps students to achieve academic success and that assesses programmatic outcomes; and
- funding through the 21st CCLC program may be used to support a community schools initiative concept as long as the goals and objectives of the 21st CCLC are met.

Substantive Issues:

The result of the changes noted under “Bill Summary,” above is to transition from requiring an evaluation process for all community schools to:

- require an independently evaluated and evidence-based model of integrated student services and comprehensive supports proven to increase student achievement; and
- require an evidence-based evaluation system only in instances where funds are being used as provided for in the *Community Schools Act*.

On this point, a difference in effects is worth noting. Whereas current law requires “the establishment of an *evaluation process* that measures both the quality and quantity of outcomes” of community schools (emphasis added), HB 525 requires “the establishment and implementation of an independently evaluated and evidence-based model... that is proven to increase student achievement.” The difference being that HB 525 focuses on the establishment and implementation of certain proven models, rather than on the establishment of an evaluation process by existing community schools.

Background:

Community Schools

According to the Coalition for Community Schools’ website,¹ a community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Community schools have an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement, all of which are intended to lead to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. According to the Department of Health, full service community schools include three primary services:

- extended day learning (such as before- and after-school programming);
- family support activities focused on providing access to economic relief, adult education, and other resources; and
- school-based and school-linked health services.

¹ <http://www.communityschools.org/aboutschools/faqs.aspx>

The Community Schools Act

Enacted in 2013, the *Community Schools Act* created a new section of the *Public School Code* with the purpose of:

- providing a strategy to organize the resources of a community to ensure student success while addressing the needs of the whole student;
- encouraging partnerships between federal, state, and local entities with private community-based organizations to improve the coordination, delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services provided to children and families; and
- coordinating resources, in order to align and leverage community resources and integrate funding streams.

The *Community Schools Act* also:

- establishes requirements for the creation of community schools;
- identifies specific strategies that must be provided at community schools;
- sets forth eligibility criteria for community schools to seek grants; and
- specifies how funds from whatever source may be used by community schools.

Evaluation Toolkit

Provisions of HB 525 require the use of evidence-based evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness of a community schools initiative that uses funds provided from the *Community Schools Act*. The Coalition for Community Schools provides an evaluation toolkit on its website² that provides examples of evidence to include in an evidence-based evaluation system, should these provisions become law. According to the Coalition for Community Schools, the toolkit:

- is designed to help community schools evaluate their efforts so that they learn from their successes, identify current challenges, and plan future efforts;
- provides a step-by-step process for planning and conducting an evaluation at the community school site;
- is a practical, hands-on guide that makes it possible to improve the community school's effectiveness; and
- offers a menu of data collection tools (i.e. surveys, public databases) for evaluating whether and how the school is achieving results.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/SEC

Related Bills:

HM 86 *Southwest Community School Collaborative Day*
SB 15 *ABQ West Mesa High School Health Clinic*
SB 235 *West Mesa High School Health Clinic*
SB 574 *Increase Community School Partnerships*

² http://www.communityschools.org/resources/community_schools_evaluation_toolkit.aspx