



# SREB

## 2017 Legislative Briefing

### *Summary*

All SREB states met in regular sessions in 2017 and several required extra time to complete budgets or other legislative actions prior to the new fiscal year. For 2017-18, most legislatures adopted small to moderate increases for state operations, K-12 and higher education, though budgets in several states reflect reductions of up to almost 5 percent.

Bills support the provision of a strong educational foundation for young learners. Georgia and Maryland authorized grants — Georgia for public-private partnerships to strengthen early learning and Maryland for full-day programs. Maryland and Texas will limit suspensions and expulsions of students through grade two. Maryland will study universal access to prekindergarten, while North Carolina will create an interagency council to plan birth through grade three educational services.

States continue to focus on the teaching profession. Laws call for teacher preparation programs to address several areas: reading and literacy development (Arkansas, Florida and Oklahoma), dyslexia and other learning disabilities (North Carolina), and digital or computer science training (Oklahoma and Virginia). Relative to licensure, Georgia and West Virginia will permit military spouses to teach on a temporary basis, while Texas and Virginia exempt teachers licensed in other states from certain assessment requirements. Louisiana and Oklahoma permit the re-employment of retired personnel (nurses, school psychologists or teachers) and North Carolina will permit higher education faculty to serve as adjunct instructors in core subjects with specified time limits.

Laws in several states address high school graduation and student progression. Alabama, Arkansas and Kentucky soon will require students to pass the civics portion of the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test. North Carolina students must receive a passing grade on the founding principles of the state and of the United States of America. Delaware and Texas will permit computer science courses to satisfy certain

mathematics graduation credits. Bills in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia promote dual enrollment opportunities. Actions in Kentucky and Maryland aim to help adults earn their diplomas. Work-based learning, career pathways, and industry credentials were the subjects of bills in Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Standards, assessments and accountability continue to garner legislative attention. Delaware will develop standards for computer science and Kentucky will regularly review its standards. West Virginia requires the state Board of Education to engage a legislative committee when adopting or revising standards or assessments. Arkansas, Florida and Georgia will revise state assessment systems. Louisiana and Maryland limit instructional time devoted to state assessments. Texas will study how assessment impacts students with disabilities. Bills addressing accountability reporting and rating systems passed in Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. Actions in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi and Tennessee target improvement in low-performing schools.

### *State and education budgets*

Relative to statewide general funds in 2017-18, legislators passed budgets that increase up to 2 percent in Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Oklahoma, Virginia and West Virginia. Increases of 2 percent to 3 percent were passed in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina, while legislatures approved greater increases in South Carolina (4.9 percent) and Tennessee (8.6 percent). State budgets in Alabama, Mississippi and Texas (for the biennium) declined by up to 3.4 percent.

K-12 budgets saw small increases of up to 1 percent in Alabama, Arkansas, Maryland, Oklahoma and West Virginia. Increases of 2 percent to 4 percent were adopted in Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Georgia and Tennessee received larger increases of 4.4 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively. K-12 budgets decreased slightly in Kentucky, Mississippi and Texas (for the biennium).

Higher education budgets saw much wider variation in funding from state to state. Decreases of 4 percent to 7.5 percent were approved in Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma and West Virginia. Funding for Alabama, Arkansas and Virginia remains flat. Legislators adopted increases of 1 percent to 3 percent in Delaware, North Carolina and Texas (for the biennium) as well as for the Florida College System and the Technical College System of Georgia. The University System of Georgia and colleges and universities in Louisiana, Maryland, South Carolina and Tennessee received increases of 5 percent to 7 percent, while institutions in the State University System of Florida operate with 12 percent more.

Relative to bills passed during the 2017 sessions, Arkansas Act 148 (HB 1209) calls for the adoption of policies to implement a productivity-based funding model for public higher education.

Arkansas Act 1105 (HB 1575) limits the amount of fund balances school districts may maintain.

Georgia HB 139 requires the state Department of Education to make available on its website specified school system and school level budget information. School districts, schools, and charter schools with websites must post a link to this information.

Kentucky SB 153 changes the state's postsecondary education funding mechanism by allocating a portion of funds in 2017-18 based on student success measures and course completion rates, with the

remainder to vital campus operations and student support. In later years, institutions will receive all state funding in this manner — with some exceptions.

Maryland HB 684 and SB 1024 provide, through 2019-20, supplemental grants to school districts with declining enrollments.

Maryland SB 317 establishes income tax credits for businesses that employ apprentices.

North Carolina SB 78 requires the Department of Public Instruction to study and report on the cost to local school districts of complying with federal education funding mandates.

North Carolina SB 257 includes pay raises for certified and non-certified staff, and bonuses for high-performing third-grade reading teachers.

Oklahoma HB 1201 directs the state Department of Education to make school district expenditure information available on its website.

Oklahoma HB 1202 defines per-pupil expenditures and specifies what aggregate current expenditures exclude.

Oklahoma HB 1578 establishes a task force on improving the state education funding formula.

Oklahoma HB 1837 requires the Lottery Commission to transfer \$50 million of net proceeds (previously 35 percent) to the Oklahoma Education Lottery Trust Fund. Proceeds over \$50 million deposited into the fund will be appropriated by the Legislature for allocation to public schools.

Oklahoma SB 514 creates a task force on eliminating administrative costs and improving efficiency in school district operations.

West Virginia HB 2561 provides districts with more financial flexibility.

### *At-risk students*

Florida HB 7069 expands the early warning system for students at risk of failure in grades six through eight to cover students in kindergarten through grade eight.

Louisiana HB 79 prohibits a school from administering corporal punishment to a disabled student, but excludes seclusion and restraint.

Maryland HB 174 and SB 710 require an individualized education program (IEP) team to obtain written parental consent to enroll a student in a non-credit-bearing alternative education program, to designate a student for alternative assessment, or to include seclusion or restraint in a student's IEP.

Maryland HB 1240 requires the state Department of Education (MSDE) to study the IEP process.

Maryland SB 786 establishes a task force to examine behavioral intervention policies and practices, including restraint, seclusion and trauma-informed interventions.

North Carolina SB 257 provides funding for grants to nonprofit organizations for high-quality, evidence-based extended learning and support programs that improve the academic outcomes of at-risk students.

Oklahoma HB 1623 prohibits school district personnel from using corporal punishment on a student with severe cognitive disabilities unless it is addressed in the student's IEP.

Tennessee SB 1195 requires the adoption of rules to ensure that a school district educates students incarcerated in a licensed detention center located within the district.

Texas HB 1886 requires schools to screen students for dyslexia at the end of kindergarten and the first grade, and requires each regional education service center to employ a dyslexia specialist.

### *Postsecondary student financial assistance*

Alabama SB 315 modifies the higher education benefits provided to military veterans who served during wartime or under extra-hazardous conditions, and to the children and spouses of veterans who were disabled or killed in the line of duty.

Arkansas Act 316 (HB 1426) creates a grant program to provide last-dollar assistance to eligible students seeking a two-year degree or certification in a STEM or high-demand field.

Arkansas Act 613 (SB 528) creates a scholarship program to provide up to \$800 per year to eligible students seeking an associate degree or certification in certain high-demand fields.

Georgia SB 186 gives a student who earned a high school diploma through dual coursework eligibility to receive a HOPE Grant toward an associate degree.

Kentucky HB 312 ends several student loan repayment programs and establishes student loan cancellation for high school dual credit coursework teachers.

Maryland SB 317 establishes the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship for students in job skills programs at community colleges.

Mississippi HB 1046 expands the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia program through grade 12 (previously through grade six).

Oklahoma SB 529 modifies the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program to mandate students receiving awards to meet retention and degree completion requirements (previously GPA requirements), to prohibit the use of award monies for remedial coursework and to increase the parental income cap for students who apply in the eighth, ninth or tenth grade.

Tennessee HB 53 expands Tennessee Reconnect to include adults returning to community college (previously limited to those returning to colleges of applied technology) to earn two-year degrees.

Tennessee SB 720 creates the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship and expands eligibility for the HOPE scholarship to students who complete middle college — a program that permits high school juniors to enter a postsecondary institution and earn both a diploma and an associate degree in two years.

Tennessee SB 1216 replaces an existing National Guard assistance program and provides members with last-dollar assistance toward a first bachelor's degree.

Virginia HB 1965 and SB 1026 extend eligibility for the Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program to students whose Expected Family Contribution is no more than \$12,000 (up from \$8,000).

## Postsecondary tuition and required fees

Louisiana HB 113 extends college and university management boards' authority to increase student fees without legislative approval through the 2019-20 academic year.

Virginia SB 1376 requires governing boards of public colleges and universities to notify students and the public 30 days in advance of a vote to increase tuition or fees.

### Estimated Changes to Tuition and Required Fees In-State Undergraduates at Public Institutions, SREB States, 2017-18

	Two-year colleges	Four-year colleges
Alabama	1.3% to 10.3%	1% to 20%
Arkansas	4.1% average	3.9% average
Delaware	4.0%	2.6% to 5%
Florida	-1.8% to 0%*	0%
Georgia	2.3% average	1.4% average
Kentucky	3.7%**	0% to 5%
Louisiana	-2.9% to 3.5%	0% to 8.3%
Maryland	1.6% average***	1.4% to 3.1%
Mississippi	7.1% to 19.7%	5% to 9.2%**
North Carolina	0%**	2.4%
Oklahoma	7.1%	4.4% average
South Carolina	3.9% average	3% average
Tennessee	2.5% average	Up to 3%
Texas	5.2% average	2.6% average
Virginia	2.7%****	4.7% average
West Virginia	0% to 7%	0% to 9%

\* One of 28 institutions lowered fees; some two-year institutions offer four-year degrees

\*\* Tuition only

\*\*\* One institution changed its tuition policy during 2016-17 to permit students to take more than 12 credit hours per semester without incurring additional cost above 12 credit hours

\*\*\*\* Community college system only, does not include the 9.7 percent increase at Richard Bland College

## Early learning

Georgia HB 463 authorizes the Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning to promote educational excellence through grant-funded public-private partnerships.

Maryland HB 425 and SB 651 prohibit schools from suspending or expelling a student in kindergarten through grade two, except under certain circumstances.

Maryland HB 516 and SB 581 establish the Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year-Olds.

Maryland HB 548 and SB 667 permit each county board of education to administer an early learning assessment to prekindergarten students.

Maryland HB 684 and SB 1024 provide grants for districts that offer a full-day prekindergarten program for all enrolled four-year-old students.

North Carolina HB 13 permits for 2017-18 only an increase in the maximum average class size in kindergarten through grade three and specifies the maximum for any individual classroom.

North Carolina SB 257 establishes the B-3 Interagency Council to create a vision and accountability model for a birth through grade three system of early education.

Texas HB 674 permits school districts and charter schools to establish positive behavior programs as an alternative to out-of-school suspensions for students in kindergarten through grade two.

## *Reading and writing*

Arkansas Act 940 (SB 494) requires public school districts to report to the parents or guardians of each student in kindergarten through eighth grade the reading level of the student at least two times per year.

Delaware HB 70 requires public elementary schools to teach cursive writing by the end of grade four.

Florida HB 7069 requires schools to ensure that kindergarten through third-grade students with substantial reading deficiencies have an IEP or a progress monitoring plan. Students retained due to a reading deficiency will receive at least 90 minutes daily of uninterrupted reading instruction.

Mississippi SB 2273 directs the Board of Education to include cursive reading (in addition to cursive writing) as an elementary curriculum standard.

North Carolina SB 257 authorizes the state superintendent to use up to \$200,000 to support the Reading Improvement Commission, which is charged with making recommendations to improve reading comprehension and literacy skills for students in grades four through 12.

Oklahoma HB 1760 and SB 84 add students who score at the unsatisfactory level to the students who must be evaluated for probationary promotion to fourth grade.

## *Choice, charters and educational opportunities*

Arkansas Act 173 (HB 1208) permits a school district or charter school to allow a student who resides in the district and attends a private or home school to enroll in an academic course.

Arkansas Act 742 (HB 1902) permits a public charter authorizer to designate a charter school as a school for agricultural studies and repeals the Agriculture School Pilot Program.

Florida HB 15 expands Gardiner Scholarship Program eligibility to students who suffer from anaphylaxis and rare diseases or are sensory impaired, traumatic brain injured, hospital-bound or homebound.

Florida HB 7069 permits a high-performing charter school to establish a second school campus anywhere in the state if it is in the attendance area of a persistently low-performing school. A high-performing charter system may apply to the state Board of Education to replicate its schools anywhere in the state.

Kentucky HB 520 allows local school boards to authorize charter schools. The mayors of Louisville and Lexington also may authorize charter schools.

Louisiana SB 215 permits a charter school to enroll a faculty member's child and one with a foreign immersion mission to enroll the child of a foreign consular officer who resides in the state without counting against the maximum student capacity.

North Carolina HB 800 permits a charter school to serve as a program site under the statewide pre-kindergarten program.

North Carolina SB 257 establishes the North Carolina Personal Education Savings Accounts Program, which will provide up to \$9,000 per year to each participating disabled student for education and therapeutic expenses.

Oklahoma SB 244 requires each virtual charter school to keep student attendance records and the governing body of each to adopt an attendance policy.

Tennessee HB 267 increases the application fee that a chartering authority may charge to a charter school sponsor for the creation of a new school from \$500 to \$2,500.

Tennessee HB 310 redefines a charter agreement, specifies that an authorizer may revoke a charter agreement for failure to meet the minimum performance requirements in the agreement and requires chartering authorities to adopt national authorizing standards.

Virginia HB 1981 requires the state Board of Education to develop rules for local School Divisions of Innovation that will be exempt from certain regulations and permitted to adopt alternative policies in some areas, as outlined in a plan of innovation.

West Virginia SB 630 permits a county board of education to establish a virtual education program and requires students in these programs to meet the same academic standards and assessments as students in traditional academic programs.

## *Educator preparation, professional development and evaluation*

Arkansas Act 1063 (SB 502) requires persons completing a state-approved educator preparation program and those seeking a teacher license to have proficient knowledge and skills to teach reading. Districts and charter schools will provide professional development in reading instruction, leading to a proficiency credential for elementary teachers and an awareness credential for teachers licensed at other levels.

Florida HB 7069 requires all teacher preparation programs to include scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional strategies.

Florida HB 7069 modifies the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program that rewards teachers who scored in the 80th percentile or higher on the ACT or SAT and are rated as highly effective.



The bill reduces the award amount to \$6,000 (previously up to \$10,000), lowers the required percentile score on the ACT or SAT, and expands the list of tests that determine eligibility.

Florida HB 7069 establishes the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program to provide monetary awards and flexibility for principals at schools with the highest percentages of Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship recipients; principals receiving awards who serve at Title I schools will receive \$5,000, while those at other schools will receive \$4,000.

Kentucky SB 1 gives local school boards control over teacher evaluation.

Louisiana HB 130 establishes as a factor in the teacher evaluation system whether a student is economically disadvantaged (previously limited to students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals).

Louisiana HB 178 establishes that an educator preparation program approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is not subject to regulation by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

North Carolina HB 149 requires teachers and school personnel receive professional development opportunities on the identification of and intervention strategies for students with learning disabilities.

North Carolina SB 599 establishes the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission to ensure high standards for educators, requires educator preparation programs to submit annual performance reports and establishes sanctions for programs that do not meet performance standards.

Oklahoma HB 1576 requires educator preparation programs to provide training in the use of digital and other instructional technologies, and professional development to include digital teaching and learning standards.

Oklahoma HB 1789 requires teacher preparation programs in the state to provide quality education on research-based strategies for literacy development for all students.

Tennessee SB 614 requires education preparation program faculty to have annual direct professional involvement with a public school. Teacher preparation providers must establish partnerships with local education agencies where teacher candidates complete their clinical practice. The state board of education may review program compliance.

Texas SB 179 requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to maintain online resources to assist school employees in working with students with mental health issues.

Texas SB 1839 requires TEA to provide state-gathered data on educator performance to educator preparation programs to help improve program design and the effectiveness of program graduates.

Virginia HB 1663 and SB 1493 require Northern Virginia Community College, working with the state Department of Education, to contract with a partner organization to develop and implement high-quality computer science training and professional development for public school teachers statewide.

## *Educator licensure*

Delaware HB 143 returns the state to a three-tiered teacher licensure system, eliminating the provisional license for teachers in their first year of teaching who have not yet passed the required performance assessment.



Florida HB 7069 authorizes charter schools and charter management organizations to provide competency-based teacher certification programs.

Georgia HB 245 directs the Professional Standards Commission to establish a process by which military spouses may qualify for temporary teaching certificates.

Kentucky SB 117 requires the Education Professional Standards Board to establish standards and procedures for alternative certification based on experience and training.

Tennessee SB 232 requires the creation of an endorsement in computer science for teachers who demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in the course material.

Texas HB 2039 and SB 1839 require the state Board of Education to establish an early childhood certificate for educators teaching students in kindergarten through grade three.

Texas SB 1839 permits the commissioner of education to exempt teachers certified in other states from exams required for Texas teacher certification.

Virginia HB 1770 and SB 1583 permit a school district board or superintendent to waive licensure requirements for career and technical education teachers.

Virginia HB 2352 exempts teachers licensed out of state from certain assessment requirements if approved by the local officials employing the teacher.

Virginia HB 2432 requires a superintendent to conduct an immediate investigation of any complaint against a teacher, and a local school board to conduct a hearing on a superintendent's petition for revocation within 90 days.

West Virginia HB 2704 prohibits an individual convicted of a sexual offense against a child from holding a teaching license or certificate, and automatically revokes the license or certificate held by a teacher convicted of such an offense.

West Virginia HB 2771 allows the state superintendent of education to issue a temporary one-year teaching certificate to a military spouse who holds a teaching certificate or license from another state or U.S. territory.

### *Other actions relating to educators and personnel*

Alabama HB 381 provides legal immunity to local school board members and district employees for acts or omissions relative to providing information to parents on immunizations and infectious diseases.

Kentucky HB 1 prohibits public employees from going on strike.

Kentucky HB 277 will allow a person to serve on a local board of education if the individual has an aunt, uncle, son-in-law or daughter-in-law employed by the school district.

Kentucky SB 6 specifies that an employee cannot be enrolled as a member of a labor organization without having requested membership in writing. School districts may not make mandatory dues deductions without employee permission.

Louisiana HB 4 permits the reemployment of retired school nurses.

Louisiana HB 31 permits the reemployment of retired school psychologists in critical shortage areas.

Maryland HB 1145 protects from reprisal a public school employee who discloses or threatens to disclose employer practices that violate laws or regulations, provides information or testimony regarding such violations, or objects to or refuses to participate in such a violation.

Mississippi SB 2398 increases the experience requirements for persons wishing to serve as a school superintendent and requires the state Board of Education to issue regulations with an alternative set of qualifications.

North Carolina SB 448 allows a local board of education to employ a higher education faculty member as an adjunct instructor in a core academic subject with specified time limits.

Oklahoma HB 1952 stipulates that school districts cannot prohibit a teacher from, or take disciplinary action against a teacher for, disclosing publicly or reporting a violation of state or federal law or of a state rule. A copy of this law must be posted in a conspicuous place.

Oklahoma SB 15 provides for the implementation of teacher recruitment programs by the state Department of Education and the Board of Regents, and establishes a recruitment revolving fund that will receive each \$20 license plate fee generated by the Oklahoma License to Education license plates.

Oklahoma SB 45 authorizes the state Department of Education to contract directly with current or retired educators to assist the department with services that require the expertise and qualifications of an Oklahoma certified educator.

Tennessee HB 174 addresses educators' rights and protections from meritless litigation.

Virginia HB 2140 and SB 1523 create a pilot program to administer an exit survey to teachers who leave the profession.

Virginia HB 2332 sets a goal that teacher salaries be competitive with national average teacher pay.

West Virginia HB 2542 allows state colleges and universities to establish classification and compensation systems and requires the governing board of each institution to adopt a rule on the elimination of full-time classified employee positions.

West Virginia HB 2637 permits a county school board to provide a one-time financial incentive to recruit teachers in critical need or shortage areas.

## *Governance and authority*

Delaware HCR 39 creates a task force to study school district consolidation.

Florida HB 7069 provides flexibility to schools that perform in the 80th percentile or better of similar-level schools in the state accountability system for two out of three years.

North Carolina HB 704 establishes a joint legislative study committee to determine the feasibility and advisability of enacting legislation that would permit two previously consolidated school districts to divide into separate school districts.

West Virginia HB 2711 eliminates the eight regional educational service agencies on July 1, 2018 and permits a county board of education to enter into a cooperative agreement with one or more other county boards of education to share services.

West Virginia HB 2815 provides more governance authority to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia University and Marshall University. Other institutions may make a range of governance decisions that the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) may only review for consistency with law and policy.

## *Health, safety and privacy*

Alabama HB 89 requires the development of an electronic notification system for schools to provide information relating to school delays, early releases, shelter-in-place orders, and other emergencies.

Alabama SB 203 grants federal military recruiters the same information and access to students granted to prospective employers or postsecondary institutions.

Arkansas Act 563 (HB 1518) requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a sexual assault prevention plan.

Delaware HB 142 requires school resource officers — law enforcement officers who are not considered public school personnel — to receive annual training regarding interactions with students with disabilities.

Delaware SB 102 consolidates several provisions on required training for school personnel regarding child abuse, child sexual abuse training and detection, suicide prevention, bullying, criminal youth gang detection, and teen dating violence and sexual assault, and establishes the required hours of training.

Maryland HB 669 permits a local board of education to establish a program to allow anonymous electronic reporting of student bullying, harassment or intimidation.

Maryland HB 786 requires the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the state Board of Education to recommend best practices for school district provision of student behavioral needs assessments and behavioral health counseling services.

Maryland HB 920 requires all certified educators, beginning in 2018, to complete annual training on understanding and responding to youth suicide risk.

Maryland HB 1082 adds opioids to the statewide drug addiction and prevention education program. Local boards will require schools to store naloxone and authorize personnel to administer it. Each college or university that receives state funding must establish a policy on opioid addiction and prevention.

Maryland HB 1522 requires the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and MSDE to conduct a needs assessment for school-based behavioral health services for students.

Mississippi HB 263 addresses policies and procedures relating to bullying of a student. It directs school districts to adopt a policy on student suicide prevention and requires that all district employees receive suicide prevention education.

Tennessee HB 45 requires school districts to integrate physical activity into the school week in conjunction with (but not to replace) the school's current physical education program.

Texas HB 2087 prohibits private website and software providers from using student information to target advertising at students or to create profiles of individual students. Private websites may provide information, with parental consent, to help students obtain employment, postsecondary education or financial aid; they also may disclose student information for legal and regulatory compliance purposes or legitimate research purposes.

Texas SB 30 requires the state Board of Education and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to jointly develop instruction for students in grades nine through 12 on proper interaction with police officers.

Texas SB 179 includes cyberbullying in the definition of bullying, and permits school districts to establish bullying prevention and mediation policies.

Texas SB 968 requires all colleges and universities to inform students of the protocol for reporting instances of campus sexual assault and provide an electronic means to report various related offenses. It also prohibits disciplinary action against a student who reports such actions.

Texas SB 2039 requires the commissioner of education to develop instruction on sexual abuse and sex trafficking, and requires school districts and charter schools to adopt policies on sex trafficking prevention.

Virginia HB 1408 permits a local school board to work with a qualified nonprofit vision health organization to test students in grade two or three and in grades seven and 10.

Virginia HB 1437 eliminates the requirement to test the sight and hearing of a student if deficiencies are covered in the student's IEP.

Virginia HB 1661 permits schools to stock and administer injectable medication to treat adrenal crisis in students, per a prescriber's written order.

Virginia HB 1709 requires school board policy to direct principals to notify, within five days of an alleged bullying incident, a parent of the status of the investigation of the incident.

Virginia HB 1829 requires CPR training for teachers.

Virginia HB 2257 permits high school family life education to incorporate effective and evidence-based programs on the law and the meaning of consent.

Virginia HB 2282 requires the state Board of Education to develop guidelines for relevant school staff on the prevention of trafficking of children.

Virginia SB 1116 authorizes school board employees who are nurses or nurse aides, and have received proper training, to assist students who use an insulin pump.

Virginia SB 1359 requires local boards to develop and implement plans to test for lead in schools' drinking water and remediate any problems found.

Virginia SB 1475 requires the family life education curriculum to include information on the value of family relationships, the prevention of sexual violence, and the fact that consent is required before sexual activity.

West Virginia HB 2195 requires each county board of education to implement a comprehensive drug awareness and prevention program to include at least 60 minutes of instruction regarding the dangers of opioid use.

### *High school graduation and student progression*

Alabama SB 32 will require high school students to successfully pass a civics exam with questions drawn from the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test to complete the required high school government course.

Arkansas Act 478 (HB 1539) requires each student to pass the civics portion of the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test as a requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency diploma.

Arkansas Act 872 (HB 1459) permits a school district to submit a plan to the Department of Education to award high school course credit based on demonstrated subject matter competence instead of, or combined with, actual hours of classroom instruction.

Arkansas Act 930 (SB 647) requires the state Department of Education to assist districts' transition to a student-focused learning system to promote success for all students.

Delaware HB 15 permits a student to use a computer science course as a mathematics credit for graduation.

Delaware HJR 4 requires the state Department of Education to develop a certificate of multi-literacy for high school students who attain high levels of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

Kentucky HB 195 allows for the establishment of programs aligned with college- and career-ready standards for adult education or similar standards adopted by the federal Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, at least one of which will include a test aligned with the standards so that a student may earn a high school equivalency diploma.

Kentucky HB 206 establishes the Dual Credit Scholarship Program to provide scholarship funding for each eligible high school student for a maximum of two dual credit courses.

Kentucky SB 159 requires for high school graduation that each student pass a civics test with questions drawn from the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services test.

Maryland HB 1381 and SB 866 establish a pilot program for adults to earn their high school diplomas and possibly postsecondary credits and industry certifications.

Maryland SB 317 requires the state Board of Education to set a goal that, by 2025, 45 percent of high school students complete a career-tech program, earn industry-recognized credentials or complete an apprenticeship prior to graduation.

Mississippi SB 2432 eliminates the special Mississippi Occupational Diploma for students with disabilities for any student entering the ninth grade in the 2017-18 school year or after, pending state Board of Education approval of new graduation options.

North Carolina HB 135 requires students to complete CPR instruction and pass a course on the founding principles of the United States of America and North Carolina to graduate from high school.

North Carolina SB 257 requires each school district to provide at least two work-based learning opportunities related to career and technical instruction.

North Carolina SB 257 establishes the Board of Postsecondary Education Credentials to guide the development of a statewide system that identifies needed workforce skills and training and ensures the availability of education and training to meet those needs.

North Carolina SB 257 requires that a student receive a benchmark score on a nationally normed college admissions test to receive a college and career ready endorsement on his or her high school diploma.

Oklahoma HB 1790 allows school districts to offer remediation for high school students who score below 19 on the ACT or below an equivalent score on the SAT.

Oklahoma HB 2155 requires the state Board of Education to adopt a statewide system of college and career planning tools. Each high school student will have an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) that will help him or her establish personalized academic and career goals, explore postsecondary career and educational opportunities, apply to postsecondary institutions, secure financial aid and enter the workforce.

Oklahoma HB 2156 changes the computer education requirement in the state standards so that it may be satisfied by a unit or set of competencies in a foreign language.

South Carolina HB 3220 establishes a coordinating council to report annually on progress toward implementing career pathways and the ability of those pathways to provide a better prepared workforce and student success in postsecondary education.

South Carolina SB 462 requires schools and districts to provide each student with a personalized high school diploma pathway that allows the student to earn endorsements based on his or her course of study.

Tennessee HB 22 requires each school district to offer high school students the opportunity to take at least four postsecondary courses.

Texas HB 728 will allow high school students to obtain an advanced mathematics or science credit by completing an advanced computer science course.

Texas HB 1638 requires TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to develop statewide goals for dual enrollment programs and a dual enrollment program agreement between a school district and a public college or university to include goals and other program details.

Texas HB 2729 requires TEA to jointly develop with THECB and the Texas Workforce Commission an inventory of industry-recognized credentials and certificates that high school students may earn through career and technology education programs.

Texas SB 1091 restricts the courses that institutions may offer under a dual credit enrollment program.



Virginia HB 1552 requires local school boards to post on their websites information on opportunities to obtain nationally recognized career readiness certificates at public high schools, community colleges and workforce centers.

Virginia HB 1592 and SB 999 require each community college to develop policies for awarding academic credit for the successful completion of state-approved apprenticeship credentials aligned with credit-bearing programs of study.

Virginia HB 1662 and SB 1534 require the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to establish a policy to grant undergraduate credit to any entering student who has successfully completed a dual enrollment course.

Virginia HB 1663 and SB 1493 require the Northern Virginia Community College, working with the state Department of Education, to contract with a partner organization to improve computer science literacy for public school students.

Virginia SB 1159 permits successful completion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to satisfy a career and technical education credential when it is required for high school graduation.

Virginia SB 1234 requires SCHEV and each public postsecondary institution to develop a passport credit program, offered at two-year colleges, that will permit the transfer of certain lower-division course credits to any public college or university.

### *Low-performing schools and districts*

Arkansas Act 930 (SB 647) requires schools to develop improvement plans for district approval and districts to develop support plans for schools in need of improvement.

Florida HB 7069 allows a nonprofit organization to establish, through a performance-based agreement with a local school board, a School of Hope that is designed to improve the academic performance of students at persistently low-performing schools. The schools will have increased flexibility from certain statutes and policies, and will receive funding in the same manner as charter schools.

Florida HB 7069 frees schools with grades of D or F in the state accountability system from personnel contract restrictions and requires a district to annually approve an improvement plan for these schools. Districts must provide the state Department of Education with a district-managed turnaround plan for any school that earns a D or F grade for two consecutive years.

Georgia HB 237 creates the Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation to promote public-private partnerships to improve student achievement. The foundation's competitive grants will give priority to the lowest performing schools. Donors will receive income tax credits.

Georgia HB 338 specifies interventions for chronically low-performing schools and establishes the position of Chief Turnaround Officer.

Maryland HB 978 requires a local board of education to implement a plan to improve student outcomes at each school that is identified for comprehensive support and improvement. If student outcomes have not improved after three years, MSDE and the local board will determine an intervention strategy.



Mississippi HB 347 repeals the existing New Start School program, which required schools rated as failing for three consecutive years to enter a school transformation process.

Mississippi SB 2431 authorizes the state Board of Education to place failing school districts into district transformation status led by an interim superintendent, and specifies a timeline for returning a district to local control.

Tennessee SB 1198 defines criteria to identify low-performing priority schools that are then subject to district-led interventions or other improvement processes, and must establish a support and improvement plan. The commissioner may only assign priority schools to the Achievement School District, and no school may remain there for more than 10 years.

## *Standards, assessment and accountability*

Arkansas Act 744 (HB 1608) specifies the measures the state will use to rate schools as required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Arkansas Act 930 (HB 647) repeals the existing assessment and accountability system and requires the state Board of Education and the Department of Education to develop and implement a system of school accountability, standards and assessments.

Delaware HB 15 requires all public high schools to offer at least one computer science course. The state Department of Education will develop standards for computer science.

Florida HB 7069 requires districts to offer statewide English and mathematics assessments for grades three through six on paper only and provide the results in an easily understandable format. The commissioner of education will contract for an independent study of whether the SAT and ACT may be administered in lieu of high school-level English and mathematics assessments.

Georgia SB 211 establishes a statewide annual assessment program for grades three through 12, and requires school systems to administer reading and math assessments in grades one and two. The state Department of Education is required to apply for flexibility from federal assessment requirements and use a nationally recognized high school assessment if aligned with state standards.

Kentucky SB 1 requires regular reviews of the state's academic standards, establishes school success indicators, provides state funding for school districts to use college admissions tests to assess students' academic success, and establishes new benchmarks for college and career readiness.

Louisiana HB 517 requires the state superintendent of education to annually prepare a report that provides specified information for each school.

Louisiana HB 616 specifies that no more than two percent of students' instructional time in an academic year may be used to take standards-based assessments with some exceptions.

Louisiana SB 233 requires BESE to award points, in its school and district accountability system, on a school's annual performance score for any school with a foreign language immersion program.

Maryland HB 461 requires each local board of education to come to an agreement with the teachers' employee representatives on the amount of time that may be devoted to mandatory assessments in each grade.

Maryland HB 978 requires the statewide educational accountability program to include at least three school quality indicators that measure either the comparative opportunities provided to students or the level of student success in public schools. The state Board of Education will establish a scoring system for schools, consisting of both academic and school quality indicators.

Oklahoma HB 1693 establishes a new A-F school grading system that complies with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The bill allows the state Board of Education to adopt alternative systems of accountability for schools serving only prekindergarten or kindergarten through second grade.

South Carolina HB 3221 requires the development of a statewide program that establishes three levels of fiscal and budgetary concern, and mandates actions that the state superintendent and districts must take to correct the conditions that lead to the level designated.

Tennessee SB 1198 specifies performance goals and measures for schools and districts. The state Board of Education annually must approve performance designations for districts. High-performing districts will receive increased funding flexibility; low-performing districts must create a plan for corrective action.

Texas HB 22 consolidates the areas (known as domains) on which schools and school districts are evaluated from five domains to three and requires the commissioner of education to evaluate the performance on an A-F grading scale in each of the domains and overall.

Texas HB 1553 permits a school district that has failed to satisfy state accreditation criteria or academic or financial accountability standards to enter into an agreement with an institution of higher education to assist the district in improving its performance.

Texas HB 2130 requires TEA to conduct a study of how the statewide student assessment program impacts students with disabilities and whether the administration of alternative assessments to those students complies with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Texas SB 1882 exempts a public school campus, when it has failed to satisfy academic performance standards during its first two years of operations, from state-mandated interventions if the school district contracts with a charter school to operate the campus.

Virginia HB 1664 requires SCHEV to publish on its website the proportion of graduates from each public postsecondary institution and private nonprofit institution who are eligible to participate in the Tuition Assistance Grant Program and who are employed at 18 months and five years after graduation.

West Virginia HB 2494 removes the requirement for each school to mail a copy of the school report card to the parents; schools and school districts must make their report cards available on district websites and in printed form upon request.

West Virginia HB 2711 requires the state Board of Education to engage with the Legislative Oversight Committee on Education Accountability prior to adopting or revising academic standards, adopting a state-wide assessment or implementing a new education accountability system. It also prohibits the state board from implementing Common Core standards or adopting Smarter Balanced or PARCC assessments.

## *Student attendance and school calendar*

Arkansas Act 862 (HB 1457) permits public school districts and charter schools to develop a plan for alternative instruction methods for use on days when school is cancelled.

Delaware HB 23 specifies that a child over the age of 16 may withdraw from school prior to graduation only with written consent from the child's parent or guardian and after completing an exit interview that provides information regarding the detrimental impacts of early withdrawal.

Kentucky SB 50 allows school districts to offer the required 1,062 hours of instructional time in less than the 170 days required for the school year.

Louisiana HB 20 waives requirements for the minimum length of each school day and school year for any public school that shared facilities with another school because of a natural disaster or emergency.

Louisiana SB 170 permits BESE to make allowances in calculating school and district performance scores for 2016-17 for schools that were in declared disaster areas.

West Virginia HB 2711 permits districts to add up to 30 minutes to the school day to make up for instructional time lost due to inclement weather or emergencies and to deliver up to five days of instruction through alternative methods when schools are closed for inclement weather or emergencies.

West Virginia SB 186 moves the date by which a child must reach the specified age to enroll in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade from August 31 to June 30.

## *Instructional materials*

Arkansas Act 561 (SB 519) requires the commissioner of education to update materials and resources relating to the teaching of historical contributions made by African-Americans, and creates a separate holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Florida HB 989 requires each school board to maintain an online list of instructional materials by grade level and permits a district resident to object to specific materials. The bill eliminates the mandate that a district use at least 50 percent of its instructional material allocation for electronic materials.

Maryland HB 967 and SB 424 require a center for innovation at the University System of Maryland and MSDE to explore providing all K-12 students with high-quality, low-cost learning materials such as open-source materials, and to provide findings and recommendations.

Texas HB 3526 requires the commissioner of education to establish a web portal with information on all state-adopted instructional materials, including a repository of open education resources that schools and districts may access at no cost. The bill permits up to \$25 million annually for grants that allow school districts and charter schools to establish programs for lending learning technology to students.

Texas SB 810 requires THECB to provide up to \$200,000 in grants over the 2018-19 biennium to encourage college and university faculty to develop courses that only use open education resources.

### *Education for military personnel and their families*

Georgia HB 224 allows a student from a military family living in base housing to attend any school in a local system determined to have capacity.

North Carolina HB 486 requires the state university and community college system boards to adopt a policy providing a National Guard service member placed into active duty with an excused absence.

Tennessee SB 1232 requires postsecondary institutions to develop and implement uniform procedures for awarding academic credit through course equivalencies for military education training, experience and occupational specialties.

Texas SB 587 permits dependent children of United States armed forces members who are deployed or transferred to Texas to enroll full-time in the state virtual school network.

### *Miscellaneous*

Arkansas Act 562 (HB 1249) permits properly licensed persons with additional training to carry a concealed handgun on college and university campuses, except in limited circumstances.

Florida HB 293 requires the state Department of Education to contract for an independent study of states with high-performing students in grades six through eight.

Florida SB 436 prohibits school districts from discriminating against students, parents or school personnel based on their religious viewpoints and specifies that students may express their religious beliefs in coursework and assignments. School districts must provide religious groups with access to school facilities in the same manner as provided to secular groups.

Georgia HB 37 prohibits private postsecondary institutions eligible to receive state-supported Tuition Equalization Grants from adopting sanctuary policies relating to persons who are violating state or federal laws, residing illegally within the U.S., or reasonably believed to be involved in domestic terrorism.

Georgia HB 280 allows an individual with an appropriate license to have a concealed handgun in any building or on property owned by or leased to any public postsecondary institution, with certain exceptions.

Georgia HB 338 creates a study committee to determine the need for a state accreditation process for public schools and school systems, and another on the establishment of a leadership academy.

Kentucky SB 17 permits public school and public college or university students to express their religious and political views in their school work, artwork, speeches, and in other ways.

Louisiana HB 688 prohibits state colleges and universities from asking on their admissions applications questions regarding an applicant's criminal history, except for convictions for stalking, cyberstalking, rape or sexual battery. The bill allows a college or university to inquire about a student's prior convictions when the criminal conduct bears a direct relationship on the student's participation in campus life.

Maryland SB 908 establishes the Maryland Education Development Collaborative to advise the state Board of Education, General Assembly and local boards of education on policies to promote twenty-first century learning and diversity across the state's public schools.

Mississippi HB 1413 specifies that a student who is suspended for more than 10 days has the right to a hearing with legal counsel, present evidence, cross-examine witnesses at that hearing, and appeal.

North Carolina HB 527 requires the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina to adopt a policy on free expression must provide information on the policies regarding free expression in their freshman orientation programs.

South Carolina SB 213 creates a joint legislative screening commission to consider qualifications and make nominations to the general assembly for trustees at state-supported colleges, universities and schools.

West Virginia HB 2702 permits an excused student absence when the absence was made necessary by a personal injury or illness suffered by the student's parent or guardian.

More information on legislation passed during the 2017 sessions is available in SREB's *2017 Final Legislative Report*. These summaries of SREB states' final legislative actions are available upon request. All SREB reports are available at [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org)

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