



Assembly Bill 95 – Intradistrict and interdistrict transfer of pupils

SUMMARY

AB 95 (Hoover) would allow students to transfer to another school within a district or to another school outside of the district, if the school the student attends is in the red or orange performance band in two or more of the state measures for three consecutive years on the school dashboard. Establishing this accountability will allow the students affected by a struggling school to choose another school within the district or in another school district, which will improve educational outcomes for students who will otherwise suffer if they are forced to remain in struggling schools.

BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Legislature passed SBx5 4 (Romero/Huff) which established the Open Enrollment Act (OEA), with the stated goal to improve student achievement and to enhance parental choice in education by providing additional options to pupils to enroll in public schools throughout the state without regard to the residence of the parents. This act allowed students in the lowest 10% of schools to enjoy the option of transferring to another public school of their choice; however, the complexity of the legislation hampered implementation.

PROBLEM

Complexity in the statute and subsequent changes to the school accountability system have rendered the original OEA obsolete. Students in persistently failing schools are forced to remain in those schools due to inter-district policies and statutes that restrict parents from transferring to another district without first receiving permission from the very district that is failing their child. Without being overly punitive, this

proposal merely requires districts to inform parents of children in the lowest performing schools their right to transfer their children to a better school and establishes an easy process by which parents may do so. Open enrollment will promote school accountability by establishing the right to exit failing schools.

SOLUTION

AB 95 strengthens parental choice by giving them the tools to move their children into better performing schools. Furthermore, it will advance better educational outcomes, narrow the achievement gap, and bring more accountability to school districts, as it ensures the most vulnerable students are provided an opportunity to exit failing schools in order to access a better education.

SUPPORT

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