Nonpublic Alternative High Schools Accreditation

The Act requires the department of education to waive accreditation standards for an accredited nonpublic alternative high school that contracts with a school corporation to provide alternative education services for students who:

- have dropped out of high school
- have been expelled
- have been sent to the nonpublic alternative school due to the students' lack of success in the public school environment to accommodate the nonpublic alternative school's program and student population

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Section 1. [Nonpublic schools.]
(a) It is the policy of the state that the state:
(1) recognizes that nonpublic schools provide education to children in [the state];
(2) has an interest in ensuring that all [state] children are well educated in both curricular and extracurricular programs; and
(3) should facilitate the transferability of comparable academic credit between appropriate nonpublic schools and state supported educational institutions.
(b) The state board shall implement a system of recognition of the educational programs of nonpublic schools to fulfill the policy set forth in subsection (a).
(c) The system of recognition described under subsection (b) must:
(1) be voluntary in nature with respect to the nonpublic school;
(2) recognize the characteristics that distinguish nonpublic schools from public schools; and
(3) be a recognition system that is separate from the accreditation standards required of public schools and available to nonpublic schools under [Insert citation] of this chapter.
(d) This section does not prohibit a nonpublic school from seeking accreditation under section [Insert citation] of this chapter.
(e) The state board shall adopt rules under [Insert citation] to implement this section.
(f) The department shall waive accreditation standards for an accredited nonpublic alternative school that enters into a contract with a school corporation to provide alternative education services for students who have:
(1) dropped out of high school;
(2) been expelled; or
(3) been sent to the nonpublic alternative school due to the students' lack of success in the public school environment; to accommodate the nonpublic alternative school's program and student population. A nonpublic alternative school to which this subsection applies is not subject to being placed in a category or designation under [Insert citation.] However, the nonpublic alternative school must comply with all state reporting requirements and submit a school improvement growth model on the anniversary date of the nonpublic alternative school's original accreditation.

Section 2. [Onsite Education.]
(a) As used in this section, "attend school" means to:
(1) physically attend a school in a building owned and operated by a school corporation; or
(2) be educated onsite at a facility.

(b) If a student resides in a facility and cannot leave the facility based on a medical decision that
the student is a risk to the student or a risk to others, the school corporation in which the facility is
located shall provide the student educational services onsite at the facility.

(c) A student educated onsite at a facility is entitled to the following:

   (1) An educational opportunity comparable to that of a student attending a school operated by
   the school corporation.

   (2) To receive the same level of educational services from the school corporation in which the
   facility is located as received by a student who physically attends school in a school operated by the
   school corporation. Unless provided otherwise in a student's individualized education program,
   educational services must include at least the following:

      (A) An instructional day the meets the requirements of [Insert citation.]

      (B) A school year with a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) student instructional days
      under [Insert citation.]

      (C) Educationally appropriate textbooks and other materials offered to the student at the
      same cost assessed to a student attending a school operated by the school corporation.

      (D) Licensed teachers who are qualified to teach the grade level of the student and the subject
      matter of the student's curriculum.

Section 3. [Tuition under Legal Settlements.]

(a) This section applies to a school corporation that enrolls a student who has legal settlement in
another school corporation for the purpose of the student receiving services from an accredited
nonpublic alternative high school described in Section 1(f).

(b) A school corporation is entitled to receive state tuition support for a student described in
subsection (a) in an amount equal to:

   (1) the amount received by the school corporation in which the student is enrolled for ADM
   purposes; or

   (2) the amount received by the school corporation in which the student has legal settlement;
   whichever is greater.