

SESSION OF 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 16

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 16, as amended, would amend law related to the evidence-based best practices for at-risk programs and instruction of students receiving at-risk program services identified and approved by the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE), and appropriations for certain eligible programs.

Best Practices

The bill would require, on and after July 1, 2019, the best practices identified and approved by KSBE for at-risk programs and instruction of students receiving at-risk program services to include, but not be limited to, programs and services provided by state-based national nonprofit organizations that focus on students who are identified as at-risk or who face other identifiable barriers to success; provide peer-reviewed, evidence-based instruction and support services to such students inside and outside the school setting; and show proven and consistent effectiveness through outcomes data, including, but not limited to, school attendance, academic progress, graduation rates, pursuit of postsecondary education, or career advancement.

The bill would require the KSBE to review and update these best practices as necessary.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Appropriations for Certain Eligible Programs

The bill would also specify Jobs for America's Graduates and Boys and Girls Club as programs eligible to receive state appropriations for providing individualized support to students enrolled in unified school districts and assisting with student achievement goals. (*Note:* Communities in Schools is a listed program under continuing law.)

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Jobs for America's Graduates – Kansas (JAG-K). In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of JAG-K provided proponent testimony, noting the bill would clarify “at-risk” funding may be used to support evidence-based programs with measurable successful outcomes that help at-risk students graduate from high school. The representative noted it is important to clarify how at-risk funds may be used, because “at-risk” typically refers to those students eligible for free and reduced lunch, but 28 percent of students who do not qualify for free and reduced lunch are also “at risk.” The representative stated programs such as JAG-K should not be ineligible for state funding simply because these students do not qualify for free and reduced lunch. (*Note:* At-risk funding is tied to free lunch, but students not receiving free lunch can receive at-risk services if they meet the criteria of “at-risk.”)

A representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards provided neutral testimony, noting concern with including a specific program in statute. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include Boys and Girls Club as a program eligible to receive state appropriations.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Education indicated enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.