

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 277

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 277 would amend the pupil definition section of the School Finance and Quality Performance Act by raising the cap on the number of four-year-old at-risk children who can be counted for purposes of school district budget authority from 5,500 to 6,000.

Background

School districts are authorized to count four-year-old at-risk students as 0.5 full-time-equivalent (FTE) student for school finance purposes, up to a limit of 5,500. For a student to be counted, school districts use the same eligibility guidelines as for the Head Start Program. (Eligibility guidelines for Head Start include children from families whose incomes are at or below the federally defined poverty line, children from migrant families, and children who speak English as a second language.)

In the FY 2006 budget for the State Department of Education, the Governor recommends additional funding to expand the four-year-old at-risk program by 500 students. It is estimated that expanding the program to 6,000 students would allow all eligible four-year-olds who meet the Head Start guidelines to be served by either a Head Start Program or a school district program. The Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee that considered the State Department's budget concurred with the Governor's recommendation and recommended SB 277 in order to raise the limit.

*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>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the impact of raising the limit would be \$1,000,000. The Governor has included this amount in her recommendation for FY 2006 and recommends that the funding come from the Children's Initiatives Fund.