

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; miscellaneous amendments

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) amend  
5 the education laws to reflect the requirements of the federal Every Student  
6 Succeeds Act; (2) make certain clarifying and technical changes; (3) clarify the  
7 division of responsibility for conducting criminal record checks on employees  
8 and contractors retained by public schools, approved and recognized  
9 independent schools, and providers of prekindergarten programs as among the  
10 Agency of Education, superintendents, headmasters of approved or recognized  
11 schools, and the Department for Children and Families, and the process for  
12 conducting those background checks; and (4) require that a school principal be  
13 given notice of his or her contract renewal status earlier than under current law.

14 An act relating to making miscellaneous changes to education law

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 \* \* \* Postsecondary Schools \* \* \*

17 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A § 176(d) is amended to read:

18 (d) Exemptions. The following are exempt from the requirements of this  
19 section except for the requirements of subdivision (c)(1)(C) of this section:

20 \* \* \*



1 in improving student performance in relation to the standards for student  
2 performance set forth in subdivision 164(9) of this title, he or she shall  
3 describe in writing actions that a district must take in order to meet either or  
4 both sets of standard and shall provide technical assistance to the school. If the  
5 school fails to meet the standards or make sufficient progress ~~by the end of the~~  
6 ~~next two year period~~ within two years of the determination, the Secretary shall  
7 recommend to the State Board one or more of the following actions:

8 \* \* \*

9 \* \* \* Local Education Agency \* \* \*

10 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 563 is amended to read:

11 § 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE

12 The school board of a school district, in addition to other duties and  
13 authority specifically assigned by law:

14 \* \* \*

15 (26) ~~Shall carry out the duties of a local education agency, as that term~~  
16 ~~is defined in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(26), for purposes of determining student~~  
17 ~~performance and application of consequences for failure to meet standards and~~  
18 ~~for provision of compensatory and remedial services pursuant to 20 U.S.C.~~  
19 ~~§§ 6311-6318. [Repealed.]~~

20 \* \* \*



1 is in the student’s best interest to attend the school of origin, the Commissioner  
2 for Children and Families shall make the final decision. As used in this  
3 section, “school of origin” means the school in which the child was enrolled at  
4 the time of placement into custody of the Commissioner for Children and  
5 Families, or in the case of a student already in the custody of the  
6 Commissioner for Children and Families, the school the student most recently  
7 attended.

8 (2) If a student is a State-placed student pursuant to subdivision  
9 11(a)(28)(D)(i)(I) of this title, then the Department for Children and Families  
10 shall ~~assume responsibility~~ be responsible for the student’s transportation to  
11 and from school, unless the receiving district chooses to provide transportation.

12 (3) A State-placed student not in the legal custody of the Commissioner  
13 for Children and Families, other than one placed in a 24-hour residential  
14 facility and except as otherwise provided in this subsection, shall be educated  
15 by the school district in which the student is living unless an alternative plan or  
16 facility for the education of the student is agreed upon by the Secretary. In the  
17 case of dispute as to where a State-placed student is living, the Secretary shall  
18 conduct a hearing to determine which school district is responsible for  
19 educating the student. The Secretary’s decision shall be final.

20 ~~(3)~~(4) A student who is in temporary legal custody pursuant to  
21 33 V.S.A. § 5308(b)(3) or (4) and is a State-placed student pursuant to

1 subdivision 11(a)(28)(D)(i)(II) of this title, shall be enrolled, at the temporary  
2 legal custodian's discretion, in the district in which the student's parents reside,  
3 the district in which either parent resides if the parents live in different  
4 districts, the district in which the student's legal guardian resides, or the district  
5 in which the temporary legal custodian resides. If the student enrolls in the  
6 district in which the temporary legal custodian resides, the district shall  
7 provide transportation in the same manner and to the same extent it is provided  
8 to other students in the district. In all other cases, the temporary legal  
9 custodian is responsible for the student's transportation to and from school,  
10 unless the receiving district chooses to provide transportation.

11 ~~(4)~~(5) If a student who had been a State-placed student pursuant to  
12 subdivision 11(a)(28) of this title is returned to live in the district in which one  
13 or more of the student's parents or legal guardians reside, then, at the request  
14 of the student's parent or legal guardian, the Secretary may order the student to  
15 continue his or her enrollment for the remainder of the academic year in the  
16 district in which the student resided prior to returning to the parent's or  
17 guardian's district and the student will continue to be funded as a State-placed  
18 student. Unless the receiving district chooses to provide transportation:

19 \* \* \*

20 (e) For the purposes of this title, the legal residence or residence of a child  
21 of homeless parents is ~~where the child temporarily resides~~ the child's school

1 of origin, as defined in subdivision (c)(1) of this section, unless the parents  
2 and another school district agree that the child's attendance in school in that  
3 school district will be in the best interests of the child ~~in that continuity of~~  
4 ~~education will be provided and transportation will not be unduly burdensome~~  
5 ~~to the school district.~~ A "child of homeless parents" means a child whose  
6 parents:

7 \* \* \*

8 \* \* \* Early College \* \* \*

9 Sec. 5. REPEAL

10 16 V.S.A § 4011(e) (early college) is repealed.

11 Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A § 946 is added to read:

12 § 946. EARLY COLLEGE

13 (a) For each grade 12 Vermont student enrolled, the Secretary shall pay an  
14 amount equal to 87 percent of the base education amount to:

15 (1) the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST); and

16 (2) an early college program other than the VAST program that is  
17 developed and operated or overseen by the University of Vermont, by one of  
18 the Vermont State Colleges, or by an accredited private postsecondary school  
19 located in Vermont and that is approved for operation by the Secretary;  
20 provided, however, when making a payment under this subdivision (2), the  
21 Secretary shall not pay more than the tuition charged by the institution.

1        (b) The Secretary shall make the payment pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
2        section directly to the postsecondary institution, which shall accept the amount  
3        as full payment of the student’s tuition.

4        (c) A student on whose behalf the Secretary makes a payment pursuant to  
5        subsection (a) of this subsection:

6            (1) shall be enrolled as a full-time student in the institution receiving the  
7            payment for the academic year for which payment is made;

8            (2) shall not be enrolled concurrently in a secondary school operated by  
9            the student’s district of residence or to which the district pays tuition on the  
10          student’s behalf; and

11          (3) shall not be included in the average daily membership of any school  
12          district for the academic year for which payment is made; provided, however,  
13          that if more than five percent of the grade 12 students residing in a district  
14          enroll in an early college program, then the district may include the number of  
15          students in excess of five percent in its average daily membership; but further  
16          provided that a student in grade 12 enrolled in a college program shall be  
17          included in the percentage calculation only if, for the previous academic year,  
18          the student was enrolled in a school maintained by the district or was a student  
19          for whom the district paid tuition to a public or approved independent school.



1        (d) A postsecondary institution shall not accept a student into an early  
2        college program unless enrollment in an early college program was an element  
3        of the student’s personalized learning plan.

4        Sec. 7. REPEAL

5        16 V.S.A § 4011a (early college program; report; appropriations) is  
6        repealed.

7        Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A § 947 is added to read:

8        § 947. EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM; REPORT; APPROPRIATION

9        (a) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), any postsecondary institution  
10       receiving funds pursuant to section 946 of this title shall report annually in  
11       January to the Senate and House Committees on Education regarding the level  
12       of participation in the institution’s early college program, the success in  
13       achieving the stated goals of the program to enhance secondary students’  
14       educational experiences and prepare them for success in college and beyond,  
15       and the specific results for participating students relating to programmatic  
16       goals.

17       (b) In the budget submitted annually to the General Assembly pursuant to  
18       32 V.S.A. chapter 5, the Governor shall include the recommended  
19       appropriation for all early college programs to be funded pursuant to section  
20       946 of this title, including the VAST program, as a distinct amount.

1                                   \* \* \* Advisory Council on Special Education \* \* \*

2       Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A § 2945(c) is amended to read:

3           (c) The members of the Council who are employees of the State shall  
4       receive no additional compensation for their services, but actual and necessary  
5       expenses shall be allowed State employees, and shall be charged to their  
6       departments or institutions. The members of the Council who are not  
7       employees of the State shall receive a per diem compensation ~~of \$30.00 per~~  
8       ~~day~~ as provided under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for each day of official business and  
9       reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses at the rate allowed State  
10      employees.

11                                   \* \* \* Dual Enrollment \* \* \*

12      Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A § 944(b)(2) is amended to read:

13           (2) An eligible student may enroll in up to two dual enrollment courses  
14      prior to completion of secondary school for which neither the student nor  
15      parent shall be required to pay tuition, laboratory fees, or other costs and fees  
16      directly related to participating in the course, other than travel costs. A student  
17      may enroll in courses offered while secondary school is in session and during  
18      the summer.



1 conduct the record check at the time of hire pursuant to sections 251a and 255  
2 of this title.

3 (2) If the person is not a Vermont licensed teacher and is employed by  
4 or under contract to an approved or recognized independent school, the  
5 headmaster of that school shall conduct the record check pursuant to sections  
6 251a and 255 of this title.

7 (d) The fingerprint-supported criminal record check shall be initiated for a  
8 prekindergarten program prequalified pursuant to section 829 of this title or in  
9 partnership with a school district pursuant to subdivision 829(e)(1) of this title  
10 as follows:

11 (1) If the person is not a Vermont licensed teacher but is employed by or  
12 under contract to a public school, with the exception of contractors covered in  
13 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, the superintendent of the district  
14 shall request the record check pursuant to sections 251a and 255 of this title.

15 (2) If the person is not a Vermont licensed teacher but is employed by or  
16 under contract to a recognized or approved independent school, the headmaster  
17 shall request the record check pursuant to sections 251a and 255 of this title.

18 (3) If the person is not a Vermont licensed teacher and is not employed  
19 by or under contract to a recognized or approved independent school and is  
20 employed by a private program registered or licensed by the Child  
21 Development Division, the Department for Children and Families shall request

1 the record check pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 152 and rules adopted by the  
2 Department for Children and Families.

3 (e) The Agency of Education, Department for Children and Families,  
4 superintendents, and headmasters shall maintain a registry accessible only to  
5 the other parties named in this subsection for the purpose of sharing  
6 information about whether a person has a qualifying criminal record check  
7 clearance. Each of the parties named in this subsection shall accept qualifying  
8 criminal background check clearances from the other named parties.

9 (f) An individual required to submit to a criminal record check by the  
10 Agency of Education, Child Development Division of the Department for  
11 Children and Families, superintendent, or headmaster shall not be required to  
12 undergo fingerprinting for a criminal record check if the individual underwent  
13 a qualifying background check pursuant to this section within the preceding  
14 five years, subject to the limitations in subsection 251a(d) of this title.

15 (g) The requirements of this section shall not apply with respect to a school  
16 district's flexible pathways partners in any program established under  
17 chapter 23, subchapter 2 of this title, including any student placement for  
18 applied or work-based learning opportunities.

1 Sec. 12. 16 V.S.A. § 251a is added to read:

2 § 251a. BACKGROUND CHECKS AND ACCESS TO RECORDS

3 (a) Pursuant to section 251 of this title, criminal background checks  
4 conducted by the Agency of Education, superintendents, and headmasters shall  
5 include:

6 (1) a fingerprint-supported Vermont Crime Information Center and FBI  
7 criminal record check;

8 (2) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the  
9 Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006;

10 (3) a search of the Vermont Child Protection Registry;

11 (4) a search of the Vermont Adult Abuse Registry;

12 (5) a search of the child abuse and neglect registries, repositories, or  
13 databases, if available, in each state where the person resided during the  
14 preceding five years; and

15 (6) a search of the Vermont Case Access System.

16 (b) The Agency of Education shall deny licensure and superintendents and  
17 headmasters shall deny employment or refuse to contract with a person:

18 (1) who is required to complete a background check and who refuses or  
19 knowingly makes a materially false statement in connection with such  
20 background check;

1           (2) is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender  
2           registry or repository or the National Sex Offender Registry;

3           (3) is convicted of a felony involving:

4                 (A) murder;

5                 (B) child abuse or neglect;

6                 (C) a crime against children, including sexual activity or child  
7           pornography;

8                 (D) spousal abuse;

9                 (E) a crime involving rape or sexual assault;

10                (F) kidnapping;

11                (G) arson;

12                (H) physical assault or battery; or

13                (I) a drug-related offense committed during the preceding five years;

14           (4) is convicted of a misdemeanor offense against a child or another  
15           person involving:

16                 (A) violence;

17                 (B) child abuse or neglect;

18                 (C) child endangerment;

19                 (D) sexual assault or activity;

20                 (E) child pornography; or

21                 (F) other violent bodily injury;

1           (5) is convicted of fraud;

2           (6) is convicted of embezzlement;

3           (7) has been found by a court to have abused, neglected, or mistreated a  
4 child, elderly or disabled person, or animal;

5           (8) has had a report of abuse or neglect substantiated against them under  
6 33 V.S.A. chapters 49 or 69; or

7           (9) has had a report of child abuse or neglect that is substantiated against  
8 them in another state.

9           (c) The Agency of Education, superintendents, and headmasters, in their  
10 sole discretion, may allow for a waiver of the disqualifying convictions and  
11 findings listed in this subsection. The burden of proof shall be on the person  
12 requesting the waiver to prove rehabilitation and that he or she is suitable for  
13 licensure or employment. Waivers may be given for:

14           (1) felony convictions for drug-related offenses under subdivision  
15 (b)(3)(I) of this section;

16           (2) misdemeanor convictions of bodily injury under subdivision  
17 (b)(4)(F) of this section;

18           (3) convictions of fraud under subdivision (b)(5) of this section; or

19           (4) convictions of embezzlement under subdivision (b)(6) of this  
20 section.



1       (d) A person subject to fingerprinting and background checks by a  
2       superintendent or headmaster, or by the Child Development Division of the  
3       Department for Children and Families pursuant to section 251 of this title, shall  
4       not be required to submit to a criminal record check if the person underwent a  
5       qualifying background check pursuant to section 251 of this title within the  
6       preceding five years and the person has not been separated from employment  
7       by a public school, recognized or approved independent school, or a private  
8       child care provider licensed by the Child Development Division in Vermont  
9       for more than 180 consecutive days since the previous qualifying criminal  
10       record check.

11       (e) Criminal background checks required to be initiated by a superintendent  
12       or headmaster shall be requested before a person begins working in a public or  
13       recognized or approved independent school and the person must be supervised  
14       at all times by an individual with a qualifying background check until the  
15       person has been cleared.

16       (f) The Agency of Education, superintendents, and headmasters shall take  
17       all steps necessary to complete criminal record checks within 45 days after a  
18       request has been submitted.

19       (g) Criminal record check results for any person shall not be publicly  
20       released, except that aggregated data by crime from background check results  
21       may be released as long as such data are not personally identifiable. Pursuant

1 to subsection 251(e) of this title, the Agency of Education, Department for  
2 Children and Families, superintendents, and headmasters shall share among  
3 each other criminal record check clearance information, only if necessary for  
4 the requesting entity to perform its lawful duties. The subject of the  
5 background check is entitled to a copy of the background check.

6 (h) Any person subject to a criminal record check pursuant to this section  
7 may challenge the accuracy of the record by appealing to the Vermont Crime  
8 Information Center pursuant to rules adopted by the Commissioner of Public  
9 Safety.

10 Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A § 255 is amended to read:

11 § 255. PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL EMPLOYEES;

12 CONTRACTORS

13 (a) Superintendents, headmasters of recognized or approved independent  
14 schools, and their contractors shall request criminal record information for the  
15 following:

16 (1) the any person, other than a teacher licensed under chapter 51 of this  
17 title or a person cleared by the Department for Children and Families pursuant  
18 to section 251 of this title, a superintendent or headmaster is prepared to  
19 employ or recommend for any full-time, part-time, or temporary employment;

20 (2) any person, other than a teacher licensed under chapter 51 of this  
21 title or a person cleared by the Department for Children and Families pursuant

1 to section 251 of this title directly under contract to an independent school or  
2 school district who may have unsupervised contact with school children;

3 (3) any employee of a contractor under contract to an independent  
4 school or school district, other than a teacher licensed under chapter 51 of this  
5 title or a person cleared by the Department for Children and Families pursuant  
6 to section 251 of this title who is in a position that may result in unsupervised  
7 contact with school children;

8 (4) any student working toward a degree in teaching who is a student  
9 teacher in a school within the superintendent's or headmaster's jurisdiction.

10 (b) After signing a user agreement, a superintendent or a headmaster shall  
11 make a request directly to the Vermont Crime Information Center pursuant to  
12 section 251a of this title. A contractor shall make a request through a  
13 superintendent or headmaster.

14 (c) A request made under subsection (b) of this section shall be  
15 accompanied by a set of the person's fingerprints and a fee established by the  
16 Vermont Crime Information Center that shall reflect the cost of obtaining the  
17 record from the FBI. The fee shall be paid in accordance with adopted school  
18 board policy.

19 (d)(1) Upon completion of a criminal record check, the Vermont Crime  
20 Information Center shall send to the superintendent a notice that no record  
21 exists or, if a record exists, a copy of any criminal record.

1           (2) Upon completion of a criminal record check, the Vermont Crime  
2 Information Center shall send to the headmaster a notice that no record exists  
3 or, if a record exists:

4                   (A) A copy of Vermont criminal convictions.

5                   (B) A notice of any criminal record that is located in either another  
6 state repository or FBI records, but not a record of the specific convictions.

7 However, if there is a record ~~relating to any crimes of a sexual nature involving~~  
8 ~~children~~, the Vermont Crime Information Center shall send this record to the  
9 Secretary who shall notify the headmaster in writing, with a copy to the person  
10 about whom the request was made, that the record includes one or more  
11 convictions for a crime ~~of a sexual nature involving children~~ specified in  
12 subsection 251a(b) of this title or includes a report as specified in that  
13 subsection.

14           (e) Information received by a superintendent or headmaster under  
15 subsection (d) of this section shall be forwarded as follows:

16                   (1) In the case of a request other than one made on behalf of a  
17 contractor, the superintendent or headmaster shall forward a copy of the  
18 information to the person about whom the request was made.

19                   (2) In the case of a request made on behalf of a contractor, the  
20 superintendent or headmaster shall inform the contractor in writing either that  
21 no record exists or that a record does exist but shall not reveal the content of

1 the record to the contractor. The contractor shall then forward a copy of the  
2 information received to the person about whom the request was made.

3 (f) Information sent to a person by the Secretary, a headmaster, a  
4 superintendent, or a contractor under subsection (e) of this section shall be  
5 accompanied by a written notice of the person's rights under subsection ~~(g)~~  
6 251a(h) of this ~~section~~ title, a description of the policy regarding maintenance  
7 and destruction of records, and the person's right to request that the notice of  
8 no record or record be maintained for purposes of using it to comply with  
9 future criminal record check requests pursuant to section 256 of this title.

10 ~~(g)(1) Following notice that a headmaster was notified that a criminal~~  
11 ~~record which is located in either another state repository or FBI records exists,~~  
12 ~~a person may:~~

13 ~~(A) sign a form authorizing the Vermont Crime Information Center~~  
14 ~~to release a detailed copy of the criminal record to the person; or~~

15 ~~(B) decline or resign employment.~~

16 ~~(2) Any person subject to a criminal record check pursuant to this~~  
17 ~~section may challenge the accuracy of the record by appealing to the Vermont~~  
18 ~~Crime Information Center pursuant to rules adopted by the Commissioner of~~  
19 ~~Public Safety.~~

20 ~~(h) A superintendent or headmaster shall request and obtain information~~  
21 ~~from the Child Protection Registry maintained by the Department for Children~~

1 ~~and Families and from the Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation~~  
2 ~~Registry maintained by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent~~  
3 ~~Living (collectively, the Registries) for any person for whom a criminal record~~  
4 ~~check is required under subsection (a) of this section. The Department for~~  
5 ~~Children and Families and the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and~~  
6 ~~Independent Living shall adopt rules governing the process for obtaining~~  
7 ~~information from the Registries and for disseminating and maintaining records~~  
8 ~~of that information under this subsection.~~

9 (i) ~~A person convicted of a sex offense that requires registration pursuant to~~  
10 ~~13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 3 shall not be eligible for employment~~  
11 ~~under this section.~~

12 (j) The board of trustees of a recognized or approved independent school  
13 shall request a criminal record check and a check of the Registries pursuant to  
14 the provisions of this section and section 251a of this title prior to offering  
15 employment to a headmaster candidate.

16 (h) The requirements of this section shall not apply with respect to a school  
17 district's flexible pathways partners in any program established under  
18 chapter 23, subchapter 2 of this title, including any student placement for  
19 applied or work-based learning opportunities.

1 Sec. 14. 33 V.S.A. § 152 is amended to read:

2 § 152. ACCESS TO RECORDS

3 (a) The Commissioner may obtain from the Vermont Crime Information  
4 Center the record of convictions of any person to the extent required by law or  
5 the Commissioner has determined by rule that such information is necessary to  
6 regulate a facility or individual subject to regulation by the Department or to  
7 carry out the Department's child protection obligations under chapters 49-59 of  
8 this title. The Commissioner shall first notify the person whose record is being  
9 requested.

10 (b) The owner or operator of a facility licensed or registered by the  
11 Department may ask the Commissioner for the record of convictions and the  
12 record of substantiated reports of child abuse of a current employee or a person  
13 to whom the owner or operator has given a conditional offer of employment.  
14 The request shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a release signed  
15 by the current or prospective employee. The owner or operator shall inform  
16 the current or prospective employee that he or she has the right to appeal the  
17 accuracy and completeness of the record. Upon receiving a request under this  
18 subsection, the Commissioner shall ask the Vermont Crime Information Center  
19 for the record of convictions of the current or prospective employee.

20 (c) If the person has a record of convictions, the Commissioner shall  
21 provide the owner or operator with a copy of the record, unless otherwise

1 prohibited by law. If the person has a record of substantiated reports of child  
2 abuse, the Commissioner shall inform the requesting owner or operator that  
3 such record exists.

4 (d) Information released to an owner or operator under this section shall not  
5 be released or disclosed by the owner or operator to any other person. Release  
6 or disclosure of such information by an owner or operator may result in the  
7 loss of the license or registration.

8 (e) As used in this section:

9 (1) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner for Children and Families  
10 or the Commissioner’s designee.

11 (2) “Employee” shall include volunteers.

12 (3) “Substantiated reports of child abuse” means reports of child abuse  
13 substantiated under section 4915 of this title.

14 (4) “Volunteer” means an individual who, without compensation,  
15 provides services through a public or private organization.

16 (f) The Commissioner shall accept clearance of criminal record checks  
17 conducted under 16 V.S.A. §§ 251 and 251a by the Agency of Education or a  
18 superintendent of a school district relating to individuals in facilities licensed  
19 or registered by the Department.

20 \* \* \* Renewal of Principal’s contracts \* \* \*

21 Sec.15. 16 V.S.A. § 243(c) is amended to read:



1 (c) Renewal and nonrenewal. A principal who has been continuously  
2 employed for more than two years in the same position has the right either to  
3 have his or her contract renewed, or to receive written notice of nonrenewal ~~at~~  
4 ~~least 90 days before~~ on or before February 1 of the year in which the existing  
5 contract expires. Nonrenewal may be based upon elimination of the position,  
6 performance deficiencies, or other reasons. The written notice shall recite the  
7 grounds for nonrenewal. If nonrenewal is based on performance deficiencies,  
8 the written notice shall be accompanied by an evaluation performed by the  
9 superintendent. At its discretion, the school board may allow a period of  
10 remediation of performance deficiencies prior to issuance of the written notice.  
11 After receiving such a notice, the principal may request in writing, and shall be  
12 granted, a meeting with the school board. Such request shall be delivered  
13 within 15 days of delivery of notice of nonrenewal, and the meeting shall be  
14 held within 15 days of delivery of the request for a meeting. At the meeting,  
15 the school board shall explain its position, and the principal shall be allowed to  
16 respond. The principal and any member of the board may present written  
17 information or oral information through statements of others, and the principal  
18 and the board may be represented by counsel. The meeting shall be in  
19 executive session unless both parties agree in writing that it be open to the  
20 public. After the meeting, the school board shall decide whether or not to offer  
21 the principal an opportunity to renew his or her contract. The school board

1 shall issue its decision in writing within five days. The decision of the school  
2 board shall be final.

3 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

4 Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 (a) This section, Secs. 1–3, Secs. 5–10, and Sec. 15 shall take effect on  
6 passage.

7 (b) Sec. 4 (State-placed students) shall take effect beginning with the  
8 2017–2018 school year.

9 (c) Secs. 11–14 (criminal background checks) shall apply to persons hired  
10 or contracted with after June 30, 2017 and to persons who apply for or renew a  
11 teaching or child care provider license after June 30, 2017.