

1 Language for House Education; S.287
2 Evaluation and Reporting; English Learners

3 * * * English language learners * * *

4 Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 4017 is added to read:

5 § 4017. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICES; STATE AID

6 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

7 (1) “Applicable federal laws” mean the Equal Education Opportunity
8 Act (20 U.S.C. § 1703), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC §
9 2000), and Titles I and III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
10 1965 (20 USC § 6301), each as amended.

11 (2) “EL services” mean instructional and support personnel and services
12 that are required under applicable federal laws for EL students and their
13 families.

14 (3) “EL students” mean students who have been identified as
15 English language learners through the screening protocols required under Title
16 III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Sec. 3113(b)(2)).

17 (b) Required EL services. Each school district shall:

18 (1) screen students to determine which students are EL students and
19 therefore qualify for EL services;

20 (2) assess and monitor the progress of EL students;

21 (3) provide EL services;

1 (4) budget sufficient resources through a combination of State and
2 federal categorical aid and local education spending to provide EL services;

3 (5) report expenditures on EL services annually to the Agency of
4 Education through the financial reporting system as required by the Agency;
5 and

6 (6) evaluate the effectiveness of their EL programs and report
7 educational outcomes of EL students as required by the Agency and applicable
8 federal laws.

9 (c) Agency of Education support and quality assurance. The Agency of
10 Education shall:

11 (1) provide guidance and program support to all school districts with EL
12 students as required under applicable federal law, including:

13 (A) professional development resources for EL teachers and support
14 personnel; and

15 (B) information on best practices and nationally recognized language
16 development standards; and

17 (2) prescribe, collect, and analyze financial and student outcome data
18 from school districts to ensure that districts are providing high quality EL
19 services and expending sufficient resources to provide these services.

20 (d) Categorical aid. A school district that has, as determined annually on
21 October 1 of the year:

1 (1) one to five EL students enrolled, shall receive State aid of
2 \$25,000.00 for that school year; or

3 (2) six to 25 EL students enrolled, shall receive State aid of \$50,000.00
4 for that school year.

5 (e) Annual appropriation. Annually, the General Assembly shall include in
6 its appropriation for statewide education spending under subsection 4011(a) of
7 this title an appropriation to provide aid to school districts for EL services
8 under this section.

9 (f) Payment. On or before November 1 of each year, the State Treasurer
10 shall withdraw from the Education Fund, based on warrant of the
11 Commissioner of Finance and Management, and shall forward to each school
12 district the aid amount it is owed under this section.

13 Sec. 12. JOINT FISCAL OFFICE REPORT; ENGLISH LANGUAGE
14 SERVICES; CATEGORICAL AID

15 (a) On or before December 15, 2022, the Joint Fiscal Office shall issue a
16 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House
17 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance on the
18 advantages and disadvantages of:

19 (1) changing the cost adjustment amount for EL students under 16
20 V.S.A. § 4017, as added by this act, to reflect the cost of providing different

1 levels of required EL services, such different services levels based on the
2 degree of English-proficiency of EL students; and

3 (2) changing the amount or eligibility, or both, for the categorical aid
4 provided to school districts with 25 or fewer EL students under 16 V.S.A.
5 § 4017(d) as added by this act.

6 (b) The Joint Fiscal Office shall consult with the Agency of Education in
7 drafting its report under subsection (a) of this section.

8 * * * Education Quality Standards; Evaluation and Reporting * * *

9 Sec. 14. 16 V.S.A. § 165 is amended to read:

10 * * *

11 (g) In addition to the education quality standards provided in section (a) of
12 this section, each Vermont school district shall meet the school district quality
13 standards adopted by rule of the State Board of Education regarding the
14 business, facilities management, and governance practices of school districts.
15 These standards shall include a process for school district quality reviews to be
16 conducted by the Agency of Education. Annually, the Secretary shall publish
17 metrics regarding the outcomes of school district quality reviews.

18 Sec. 15. EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS; RULEMAKING

19 On or before February 1, 2023, the State Board of Education shall initiate
20 rulemaking to update education quality standards as required under Sec. 1 of
21 this act. Prior to the filing of the draft updated rules with the Interagency

1 Committee on Administrative Rules, the Agency of Education shall engage
2 stakeholders for input on the draft rules in accordance with a written plan
3 approved by the State Board of Education.

4 Sec. 16. EVALUATION AND REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
5 ACT

6 On or before July 1, 2031, the Joint Fiscal Office shall design and contract
7 for an evaluation of the impact of the changes called for in this act in achieving
8 the act's goals under Sec. 2 of this act. On or before December 15, 2031, the
9 Joint Fiscal Office shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on
10 Education, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate
11 Committee on Finance its written evaluation report.