

# SENATE BILL NO. 871

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ESLINGER.

3957S.02I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

## AN ACT

To repeal section 163.018, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to state funding for early childhood education programs.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 163.018, RSMo, is repealed and one new  
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 163.018,  
3 to read as follows:

163.018. 1. (1) Notwithstanding the definition of  
2 average daily attendance in subdivision (2) of section  
3 163.011 to the contrary, pupils [between the ages of three  
4 and five] **who do not otherwise qualify under subdivision (3)**  
5 **of this subsection, are three or four years old, and** who are  
6 eligible for free and reduced price lunch and attend an  
7 early childhood education program:

8 (a) That is operated by and in a district or by a  
9 charter school that has declared itself as a local  
10 educational agency providing full-day kindergarten and that  
11 meets standards established by the state board of education;  
12 or

13 (b) That is under contract with a district or charter  
14 school that has declared itself as a local educational  
15 agency and that meets standards established by the state  
16 board of education;

**EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

17 shall be included in the district's or charter school's  
18 calculation of average daily attendance. The total number  
19 of such pupils included in the district's or charter  
20 school's calculation of average daily attendance shall not  
21 exceed four percent of the total number of pupils who are  
22 eligible for free and reduced price lunch between the ages  
23 of five and eighteen who are included in the district's or  
24 charter school's calculation of average daily attendance.

25 (2) If a pupil described under subdivision (1) of this  
26 subsection leaves an early childhood education program  
27 during the school year, a district or charter school shall  
28 be allowed to fill the vacant enrollment spot with another  
29 pupil [between the ages of three and five who is eligible  
30 for free and reduced price lunch] **who qualifies under this**  
31 **subdivision** without affecting the district's or charter  
32 school's calculation of average daily attendance.

33 (3) **Notwithstanding any provision of law to the**  
34 **contrary, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, in addition**  
35 **to any state aid remitted to school districts and charter**  
36 **schools under section 163.031, the department of elementary**  
37 **and secondary education shall remit to school districts and**  
38 **charter schools an amount equal to the product of the state**  
39 **adequacy target and the dollar-value modifier, as such terms**  
40 **are defined in section 163.011, and the average daily**  
41 **attendance of pupils who are eligible for free and reduced**  
42 **price lunch and who attend, in the year prior to their**  
43 **kindergarten enrollment eligibility, an early childhood**  
44 **education program:**

45 (a) **That is operated by and in a district or by a**  
46 **charter school that has declared itself as a local**  
47 **educational agency providing full-day kindergarten and that**

48 meets standards established by the state board of education;  
49 or

50 (b) That is under contract with a district or charter  
51 school that has declared itself as a local educational  
52 agency and that meets standards established by the state  
53 board of education.

54 This subdivision shall not apply to those pupils receiving  
55 services under section 162.700.

56 2. Any increase in a school district's average daily  
57 attendance that occurs as a result of the provisions of  
58 subsection 1 of this section shall not disqualify such  
59 school district for any state aid payments pursuant to  
60 subdivision (2) of subsection 2 of section 163.031 or any  
61 payments of funds appropriated pursuant to the provisions of  
62 section 163.044.

63 3. In establishing standards for any early childhood  
64 education program that is under contract with a district or  
65 charter school that has declared itself as a local  
66 educational agency, the state board of education shall  
67 consider:

68 (1) Whether a program offers full-day and full-year  
69 programming;

70 (2) Whether a program has teacher-to-child ratios  
71 consistent with reasonable standards set by early childhood  
72 education program accrediting agencies;

73 (3) Whether a program offers professional development  
74 supports for educators and the type of supports offered;

75 (4) Whether a program uses appropriately credentialed  
76 educators;

77 (5) Whether a program uses an early childhood  
78 education curriculum that has been approved by the

79 department of elementary and secondary education and whether  
80 the curriculum is developmentally appropriate; and

81 (6) Any other factor that the state board of education  
82 determines to be significant in ensuring that children  
83 achieve high levels of kindergarten readiness.

84 The state board of education shall require that staff  
85 members of any early childhood education program that is  
86 under contract with a district or charter school that has  
87 declared itself as a local educational agency undergo  
88 background checks as described in section 168.133.

89 [3.] 4. This section shall not require school  
90 attendance beyond that mandated under section 167.031 and  
91 shall not change or amend the provisions of sections  
92 160.051, 160.053, 160.054, and 160.055 relating to  
93 kindergarten attendance.

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