



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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ACHIEVEMENT INCENTIVES FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

House Bill 4444
Sponsor: Rep. Ted Wallace
Committee: Education

EDUCATION

MAY 23

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A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4444 AS INTRODUCED 3-14-89

The bill would amend the School Code to allow a school district board to annually apply to the Department of Education for an achievement incentive grant as provided for in a portion of the School Aid Act. (Currently, the School Aid Act does not include a funding mechanism for the achievement incentive grant program.) To be eligible for such a grant, a board would have to submit to the department a plan for determining and rewarding improvement in its pupils' academic performance and attendance rates, which would include a reduction in the number of school dropouts. A plan would have to meet the following criteria:

-- use of at least one department-approved standardized academic achievement test;

-- use of a scoring system weighted as follows: 40 percent for statistically significant improvement in pupil academic performance, as defined by the department; 20 percent each for improvement in pupil attendance rates and reductions in the number of school dropouts; and the remaining 20 percent for demonstrating at least one of the following "educational indicators," as approved by the department:

* an increased number of pupils taking a college entrance examination;

* improved college entrance exam scores;

* improved pupil scores on a department-approved academic achievement test other than that used to satisfy requirements in the plan;

* a greater number of pupils participating in formal school support organizations such as school clubs, science fairs, or similar academic or nonacademic functions;

* an increased number of pupils recognized in district, regional, or state competitions of any nature; or

* an increased number of graduates placed in jobs or job training programs.

Further, a district's plan would have to include:

-- the name of each school within the district;

-- a description of criteria to be used to select which school or schools within the district would be monetarily rewarded for improved academic performance and attendance rates. A school within a district would have to achieve at least 80 percent of the potential score of its district's plan to receive a monetary reward;

-- an assurance that each school within a district had an equal chance to be recognized and monetarily rewarded for improved academic performance and attendance rates; and

-- the approval and signature of the board president, district superin-

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tendent, and teachers' labor organization president, if any.

Funds received by a school district under the bill would be expended for discretionary school improvement purposes approved by the school board, but could not supplant regular school funding. A school board that received funds under the bill would have to report to the department within one year after receiving the funds how each of its district schools that received a monetary reward had spent the reward, and which of these schools had improved the most.

The bill is tie-barred to House Bill 4336, the 1989-90 school aid appropriations bill.

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