

- (2) Unused funds in an account shall remain in the account for the following school year.
- (3) The account shall be closed and the funds in the account shall be returned to the state general fund if a student is no longer eligible, if an account has been inactive for two consecutive years, or if a parent fails to comply with program requirements. Further provides an exception that if the legislature has not appropriated funds for the program for two consecutive years, a participating student's account will not be closed due to inactivity.

Proposed law provides that a school shall meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to participate:

- (1) Be approved by BESE.
- (2) Comply with criteria set forth in federal nondiscrimination requirements.
- (3) Any other criteria set by BESE.

Proposed law requires BESE to set eligibility criteria for schools and service providers in a way that maximizes school and provider participation. Provides that to be eligible to participate in the program, both schools and service providers shall apply to DOE and, if determined to be eligible, accept ESA funds for providing services covered as qualified education expenses.

Proposed law provides for sanctions relative to admitting additional students and participation in the program if a school or service provider fails to meet continuing eligibility requirements.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall be deemed to limit the independence or autonomy of any participating school or service provider.

Proposed law requires:

- (1) DOE to develop a process for the annual administration of either of the following to participating students:
 - (a) Any examination required pursuant to the school and district accountability system at the prescribed grade level.
 - (b) A nationally norm-referenced test or a statewide assessment.
- (2) DOE to develop a process for the collection and aggregate reporting of results and ensure results are provided to parents.

Proposed law requires DOE, by April 30th annually, to submit a report to the House and Senate education committees and the Jt. Legislative Committee on the Budget regarding program implementation. Provides for required report content, including the results of a parental satisfaction survey and certain financial information relative to the program.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:236(A); adds R.S. 17:4037.1-4037.7)