

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 196 (HB 280)

2021 Regular Session

Edmonds

Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, Generally

Existing law provides for the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, through which students attend participating schools through state-funded scholarships. Provides for administration by the state Dept. of Education (DOE).

Dept. of Education Responsibilities

Existing law provides for DOE's responsibilities relative to program administration. New law requires DOE to conduct annual site visits at schools that fail to meet minimum standards for academic performance or that are otherwise not in good standing with the program.

Enrollment Cap

Prior law limited enrollment of scholarship recipients to a maximum of 20% of the school's total enrollment in a school approved for less than two years. New law removes this enrollment cap.

Eligibility of Participating Nonpublic Schools

Existing law provides eligibility criteria for nonpublic schools to participate in the program, including being BESE-approved and being in compliance with nondiscrimination requirements in federal law (*Brumfield vs. Dodd*). New law, applicable to schools joining the program in the 2022-2023 school year or thereafter, provides that such schools must also be either:

- (1) Accredited by an accrediting entity specified in new law.
- (2) Designated as a provisionally accredited approved school, which means that it is working toward meeting accreditation requirements and has met all other criteria for BESE approval; requires removal of such a school from the program if it fails to receive accreditation within four years.

Ineligibility

New law adds that a school that fails to meet minimum standards for academic performance for three consecutive school years shall not be eligible for program participation; provides that measurement of three consecutive years for this purpose shall commence with the 2021-2022 school year.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 17:4021(A); Adds R.S. 17:4015(10), 4021(D), and 4021.1)