

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2646
Version:	INT
Request Number:	5633
Author:	Rep. Baker
Date:	2/26/2019
Impact:	Estimated \$51 million

Research Analysis

HB2646 creates the “School Turnaround Act” and requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to set criteria for designating schools as in need of intervention. The measure gives the SDE an annual deadline for designating specific schools as in need of intervention, and requires the SDE to determine the criteria a school must meet to exit the program.

HB2646 lists mandates for school boards governing schools that are designated as in need of intervention. Some of those mandates include:

- Establishing a school turnaround committee by a specific date
- Collaborating with the turnaround committee to select an independent school turnaround expert to develop and implement a school turnaround plan
- Submitting a turnaround plan to the SDE for approval
- Prioritizing funding and resources to the school in need of intervention
- Granting the school streamlined authority over staff, schedule, policies, budget and academic programs to implement the school turnaround plan.

The measure details the process a local school board, and the SDE must go through when approving and denying a school turnaround plan.

HB2646 requires the SDE to identify two or more approved independent school turnaround experts by August 30, 2019, lists what criteria the SDE should use when identifying the experts, and also describes what the experts are required to do.

Other provisions of the measure include:

- The requirements for negotiating and awarding contracts to the school turnaround experts.
- A directive for the SDE to provide funding to a school in need of intervention for interventions identified in an approved school turnaround plan if the school district board of education provides matching funds or an in-kind contribution of goods or services in an amount equal to the funding the school in need of intervention would receive from the Department.

Furthermore, HB2646 mandates the procedure a school and the SDE must follow if a school does not meet the exit criteria by a specific deadline.

Lastly, the measure creates the School Recognition and Reward Program to provide incentives to schools and educators to improve the school in need of intervention.

Prepared By: Emily Wendler

Fiscal Analysis

Per OSDE:

The SDE is required under federal law to designate the bottom 5% of low performing schools for intervention. The bill requires that SDE offer an average of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per designated school for the entirety of the project. Amount will be differentiated based on student enrollment and a higher amount will be given to schools that are in the lowest performing one-percent (1%) of schools statewide.

Currently, there are 102 schools designated due to being the lowest performing 5% of schools statewide or as having a graduation rate below 67% as required under federal law. At an average of \$500,000 per school, the estimated cost impact for this bill is \$51 million dollars.

Prepared By: Cole Stout

Other Considerations

None.