



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 122

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Sawyer, Brown, Tavares

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the Office of Regional Services and Accountability in the Department of Education to review and make recommendations regarding the Educational Regional Service System.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill creates the Office of Regional Services and Accountability in the Department of Education to evaluate the regional provision of educational services. Under the bill, the new office must do the following:

- (1) Conduct a thorough review of the structure and performance of the Educational Regional Service System (ERSS) (see "**Background**" below);
- (2) Outline a clear mission for ERSS and establish operational and performance standards for the system;
- (3) Identify core services to be provided through ERSS, which may include high-quality educational opportunities, special education, professional development, and assistance in acquiring materials, technology, and transportation;
- (4) Define the roles and responsibilities of the regional service providers that comprise ERSS and monitor those providers to ensure they perform their designated duties;
- (5) Encourage flexibility and entrepreneurship by regional service providers within their roles and responsibilities;

(6) Establish a process for continuous review of ERSS to ensure its alignment with the State Board of Education's priorities and policies and to revise the system as necessary;

(7) Collaborate with the Chancellor of the Board of Regents and other state agencies whose missions impact K-12 public education to coordinate regional outreach efforts and eliminate redundancies;

(8) Encourage public and chartered nonpublic schools to reduce costs by effectively managing their resources and, to the extent permitted by collective bargaining agreements, jointly providing services; and

(9) Make legislative recommendations to (a) improve the operation of ERSS and ensure the provision of core services, (b) align the funding of ERSS with the actual cost of services, and (c) provide incentives for schools and regional service providers to collaborate on the provision of educational services.¹

Background

ERSS is a 16-region system established to provide support services, including special education and related services, to school districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic schools within each region. The stated purpose of the system is to "support state and regional education initiatives and efforts to improve school effectiveness and student achievement." Continuing law also states the intent of the General Assembly that ERSS reduce the unnecessary duplication of programs and provide for a more streamlined and efficient delivery of educational services without reducing the availability of the services districts and schools need.

ERSS consists of educational service centers, information technology centers, and other regional service providers. Each ERSS region is served by an advisory council, which is the policymaking body for the region, and a fiscal agent.²

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-07-13

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¹ R.C. 3312.14.

² R.C. 3312.01 and 3312.02, neither section in the bill.

