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Legislative Update

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House Rs Outline Education Plan, Introduce Bills



This week House Republicans outlined an education policy plan it is calling for movement on this fall, comprised of provisions for:

- Providing additional funding for school safety and mental health resources
- Expanding dual enrollment programs to include trade school options in addition to traditional college courses
- Providing more college prep options
- Offering more career and trades-focused class options, such as coding, computer science, construction mathematics, and accounting
- Launching a pilot program for spreading standardized testing throughout the year
- Examining teacher-student ratios
- Calling on the Department of Education to review standards for reading, math, and science
- Streamlining the process for teachers to obtain additional subject area endorsements
- Consolidating administrative services across school districts
- Waiving fees for teaching certificate applications, renewals, and endorsements

Following the September 9th press conference where the plan was unveiled, a package of bills was introduced in the House:

- **House Bill 5926** – provides school aid supplemental funding
- **House Bill 5927** – provides alternative merit curriculum
- **House Bill 5928** – modifies endorsement requirements
- **House Bill 5929** – requires the Department of Education to recommend curriculum and assessment companies
- **House Bill 5930** – requires schools to publicly post student-teacher ratios
- **House Bill 5931** – allows use of funding for consolidation of administrative functions
- **House Bill 5932** – creates certain requirements for the approval of teacher preparation programs
- **House Bill 5933** – requires state board of education members to be selected from districts

Each of the bills were referred to the Government Operations Committee. The timeline for movement is uncertain at this time, given the abbreviated fall session due to campaign activity followed by the lame duck period.