

Submitter: JL Wilson  
On Behalf Of: Baker Web Academy  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB3204

Dear Chair Neron & members of the House Education Committee -

Baker Web Academy supports HB 3204 with the -1 amendment.

The base bill accomplishes two primary objectives. First, it reduces the amount of time that students can potentially fall through the cracks in their education. It does this by cutting down the amount of time that a school district can approve or deny an application for a student to attend a virtual charter school from 14 days to 5 days. It also reduces the amount of time allowed for an appeal decision from 30 days to 14 days.

The second primary objective is that it requires current updating of student population numbers that districts file with the state. HB 3204 assumes that the 3% cap will stay in place, but it requires districts to keep their numbers updated and that the ODE maintain a database of current district numbers. This ensures the accuracy of the district's determination to deny an application based on the 3% cap.

The -1 amendment makes six important modifications to the base bill, including:

1. The -1 places a similar statutory requirement for the virtual charter school to submit updated enrollment data
2. The -1 allows current practice of a school district remaining silent on an application. It removes the proactive requirement for a district to approve an application. Current practice assumes that an application is approved if a district does not deny within 14 days.
3. The -1 requires a school district to give a reason for denial of the application that includes why the denial is in the best educational interests of the student.
4. If a student's appeal of a school district's rejection is denied, the -1 requires the appeals rejection to include a reason for the denial of the appeal.
5. The -1 specifies that the information submitted to the ODE database be the most recently available information.
6. The -1 ensures that a student enrolled in a virtual charter school that transfers to another district cannot lose enrollment in the virtual charter even if the receiving district is above the 3% cap.

It is important to reiterate that HB 3204 does not affect the 3% cap. What it does is tighten up procedures and require that a district's decision is based on updated public numbers and that a district's consideration of an application does not take so long as to cause at-risk students to fall through the cracks and become disenfranchised.

Please support HB 3204 with the -1 amendment.