

School Choice Directory Act

Summary

This legislation requires the state department of education to produce a catalogue of educational options available in the state. The catalogue will provide a brief description of all educational choices for students in K-12 as they apply to the state, including (as applicable) open enrollment, charter schools, vouchers, education savings accounts, homeschooling, and tax credit scholarships.

Model Legislation

{Title, enacting clause, etc.}

Section 1. {Definitions}

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(A) “Department” means the department of education.

(B) “Parent” means a resident of this state who is the parent or legal guardian of a qualified student.

Section 2. {Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of XXXX:}

(A) Notwithstanding any other law, the department shall produce a handbook of educational options available for parents of K-12 students and provide copies via regular mail to all state residents.

(1) The catalogue shall describe the educational choices available to students in the state, including but not limited to {as applicable} open enrollment, charter schools, private schools, homeschooling, tuition tax credit scholarships, vouchers, and education savings accounts. The handbook’s content shall provide instructions on how parents can access each of the different options.

(2) The description of each education choice shall include contact information for the state office that administers each program.

(B) The department shall make these directories available at all public offices, including the Post Office, public libraries, and at all public schools.

(C) The department shall post the catalogue on the World Wide Web.

(D) The department shall make the catalogue available in Spanish.

Section 3. {Severability Clause.}

Section 4. {Repealer clause.}

Section 5. {Effective date.}

Obtained and released by:
Common Cause and
The Center for Media and Democracy

Executive Committee Recommendations

Summary: All ALEC Model Bills passed before 2008 are undergoing review to determine whether they will remain ALEC policy, require amendments, or be allowed to sunset. The Education Task Force's Executive Committee provides the following recommendations for each bill: **Retain**, **Retain with Technical Amendments**, **Review or Amend**, and **Sunset**.

For reference purposes, each bill is labeled with a number—for example, Model Bill 1 is the 140 Credit Hour Act (2001)—that corresponds to the bill's order in the **Report to the Task Force: Pre-2008 Model Legislation with Summaries**, which is available in the drop box.

Retain – The following 11 policies fit within ALEC principles and are generally up-to-date. By unanimous consent, the Executive Committee voted to retain these model bills, transmitting them directly to the Board for consideration. No Task Force vote is necessary since the model bill or resolution is existing policy.

I. Higher Education

- a. **Model Bill 1:** 140 Credit Hour Act (2001)
- b. **Model Bill 6:** College Opportunity Fund Act (2004)
- c. **Model Bill 12:** Resolution Supporting Training & Continuing Education for Higher Ed. Governing Boards (2006)

II. School Choice

- a. **Model Bill 25:** School Board Freedom to Contract Act (1999)
- b. **Model Bill 26:** Smart Start Scholarship Program (2005)

III. Student Curriculum and Protection

- a. **Model Bill 32:** Civic Literacy Act (1995)
- b. **Model Bill 47:** Student Protection Act (1987-88)

IV. Teacher Certification, Quality, and Right to Know

- a. **Model Bill 52:** Alternative Certification Act (2005)
- b. **Model Bill 53:** Career Ladder Opportunities Act (1995)
- c. **Model Bill 56:** School Collective Bargaining Agreement Sunshine Act (2007)

V. Digital Learning

- a. **Model Bill 60:** Alternate Certification for Distance Learning Instructors Act (1995)

Retain with Technical Amendment- These two policies are mostly up-to-date, but require technical amendments. The Executive committee recommends retaining with the suggested amendments.

I. Higher Education

- a. **Model Bill 5:** College Funding Accountability Act (1999)
 - i. Executive Committee Recommendation (ECR): Section 3(A) and (B) are exactly the same. Remove the repetitive language in (B).

II. Resolutions Urging Congress

- a. **Model Bill 17:** Resolution on Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1999)
 - i. ECR: Update the language: Replace “Whereas, after 34 years the Title 1 programs” with “Since 1965, the Title 1 programs.”

Review or Amend– The Executive Committee recommends the following 16 policies undergo further review by the subcommittee and task force.

I. Higher Education

- a. **Model Bills 2, 3, 9, 10:** Academic Bill of Rights for Public Higher Education Act (2004), Academic Bill of Rights for Higher Education Resolution (2004), Higher Education Sunshine Act (2007), and Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act (2006)
 - i. Michael Poliakoff (American Council of Trustees and Alumni) will review the four bills and provide recommendations to combine them into one bill.
- b. **Model Bill 13:** Resolution Supporting United States History (2005)
 - i. ECR: Retain, but update with new facts. Michael Poliakoff (American Council of Trustees and Alumni) is set to provide suggestions.

II. School Choice

- a. **Model Bill 18 and 22:** Charter Schools Act (1995) and Next Generation Charter Schools Act (2007)
 - i. ECR: Review in the Preliminary Review Meeting. Consider combining the two acts.
 - ii. Staff will provide amendment suggestions and also welcomes suggestions from TF members.
- b. **Model Bill 30:** Virtual Public Schools Act (2004)
 - i. ECR: Review further in the Preliminary Review Meeting.
 - ii. ECR: Consider folding some of the Distance Learning: Wiring the Public Schools Act into this bill.
 - iii. ECR: Remove the repetitive language in (A) (2)

- iv. Staff will provide amendment suggestions and also welcomes suggestions from TF members.

III. Student Curriculum and Protection

- a. **Model Bill 38:** Longitudinal Student Growth Act (2005)
 - i. ECR: Review and discuss further in the Preliminary Review Meeting.
 - ii. Dr. Ladner is set to provide recommendations.
- b. **Model Bill 43:** Resolution Supporting the Principles of No Child Left Behind (2005)
 - i. ECR: Consider an amendment or changing the name.
 - ii. Staff will provide amendment suggestions and also welcomes suggestions from TF members.

IV. Teacher Certification, Quality, and Right to Know

- a. **Model Bill 54:** National Teacher Certification Fairness Act (2001)
 - i. ECR: Make the legislation more open ended, allowing other certifiers to as additional options.
 - ii. ECR: In Section 2 (A) and 3 (A) insert “American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence” as an additional option.
 - iii. Staff will provide amendment suggestions and also welcomes suggestions from TF members.
- b. **Model Bill 55 and 59:** Public School Employee Union Release Time Act (2007) and Teachers’ Right to Know (1999)
 - i. ECR: Attempt to combine the two bills.
 - ii. Staff will provide amendment suggestions and also welcomes suggestions from TF members.
- c. **Model Bill 57 and 58:** Teacher Choice Compensation Act (2002) and Teacher Quality and Recognition Demonstration Act (2002)
 - i. ECR: Review in the Preliminary Review Meeting and attempt to combine the two bills.
 - ii. Staff will provide amendment suggestions and also welcomes suggestions from TF members.

V. Digital Learning

- a. **Model 62:** Distance Learning: Wiring the Public Schools Act
 - i. ECR: Consider updating with Wifi.

Sunset – These 33 policies are outdated or do not fit within ALEC principles. The Executive Committee recommends that they sunset.

I. Higher Education

- a. **Model Bill 4:** Act to Ensure English Fluency among Lecturers in State Institutions of Higher Education (1995)

- b. **Model Bill 7:** College Savings Act (1999)
- c. **Model Bill 8:** Drug-Free Post-Secondary Education Act (1993-1994)
- d. **Model Bill 11:** Prohibiting Aid to Draft Resisters (1985-86)

II. Resolutions Urging Congress

- a. **Model Bill 14:** Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Resolution (2003)
- b. **Model Bill 15:** Proposed Resolution on Straight A's: Academic Achievement for All (1999)
- c. **Model Bill 16:** Resolution for Educational Improvement (1991-92)

III. School Choice

- a. **Model Bill 19:** Education Enterprise Zone Act (1995)
- b. **Model Bill 20:** Family Choice in Education Act (1981-82)
- c. **Model Bill 21:** Family Savings for Education Act (1980)
- d. **Model Bill 23:** Parental Rights Amendment (1995)
- e. **Model Bill 24:** Resolution Supporting Private Scholarship Tax Credits (2001)
- f. **Model Bill 27:** Tuition Certificate Act (1991-92)
- g. **Model Bill 28:** Education Tax Credit Act (1979)
- h. **Model Bill 29:** Parental Notification and Choice in Bilingual Education Act

IV. Student Curriculum and Protection

- a. **Model Bill 31:** Channel One Resolution (2002)
- b. **Model Bill 33:** Common Sense in Medicating Students Act (2001)
- c. **Model Bill 34:** Drug-Free Schools Act (1993-1994)
- d. **Model Bill 35:** Education Accountability Act (1995)
- e. **Model Bill 36:** English Language Education Act (2000)
- f. **Model Bill 37:** Honor America Act (1980)
- g. **Model Bill 39:** No Pass/No Play Act (1987-88)
- h. **Model Bill 40:** One-to-One Reading Improvement Act (2002)
- i. **Model Bill 41:** Protection of Minors' and Students Rights Act (2001)
- j. **Model Bill 42:** Resolution on Non-Verified Science Curriculum Funding (2000)
- k. **Model Bill 44:** Resolution Urging Health, Nutrition, and Physical Education (2003)
- l. **Model Bill 45:** Student Citizenship Act (1987-88)
- m. **Model Bill 46:** State Proficiency Act (1978-79)
- n. **Model Bill 48:** Student Right to Learn Act (1999)
- o. **Model Bill 49:** Textbook Content Standards Act (1980)
- p. **Model Bill 50:** Model Curriculum Act (1989-90)
- q. **Model Bill 51:** Bilingual Education Reform (1985-86)

V. Digital Learning

- a. **Model Bill 61:** Distance Learning Commission Act