

Testimony Regarding HB 2967
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Each school district shall prepare an annual report that describes: (a) The amounts that the school district expended for students in average daily membership who are eligible for and enrolled in an English as a second language program;

The intention of this language is most likely to make sure that districts are spending the money received for ELL students on ELL students. While I am very much in favor of this, I'm concerned about the quality of data you will receive with the above language. A list of qualified expenditures needs to be defined and the district coding done in a more consistent manner before comparisons can be made.

The progress and proficiency of students in programs funded by expenditures described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

Districts already file a report with the ODE with this information. Can the ODE merely forward this information to the Superintendent without legislation and the extra step that makes more work for districts? We already have plenty of information that documents the widening achievement gap. A better question is, "What are we going to do about it?" This should not include cutting funding and services.

If we are looking for successful programs, the ODE has a Statewide ELL Plan that could use some support for its implementation. This would be exactly the type of data that could be gathered under the plan.

I would suggest changing this bill to put some teeth into implementation of the Statewide ELL Plan.

Thanks for your consideration.