

**SB 418**

**Relating to education**

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SB 418 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish two workgroups. The first group is to identify methods for improving the success rates and educational outcomes for students who receive state-administered tuition waiver grants under SB 81. Support services that prepare students for community college classes should also be a focus of this group.

The second group is charged with recommending ways to encourage students to become ready for college, take courses for college credit, and successfully make the transition from high school to post-secondary education. Other areas this group is to focus on include increasing the access to counselors to support participation in college ready activities, and potential funding preference for high schools who have limited access for accelerated college credit and other factors. A \$6.9 million General Fund special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board is included to implement the recommendations of this second group. Both groups are to report to the Legislature by February 1, 2016.

This bill also extends provisions first adopted in 2011 that allow certain foreign exchange students to be considered residents of rural school districts for the purpose of State School Fund distributions.

The Education Subcommittee recommends SB 418 be amended by the -A25 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.