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BILL: House Bill 286
TITLE: Education – Specialized Intervention Services – Reports
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POSITION: SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 286 requires county boards of education, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, to report specified information relating to the provision of specialized intervention services to the State Department of Education and the General Assembly on or before December 1 each year; requiring county boards and the Department to publish annually this same information on their Web sites.

PSSAM places a top priority on ensuring that students receive high quality intervention services when necessary. However, House Bill 286 is ambiguous regarding the specificity and clear requirements on the collection of data. There is a wide variety of intervention services that can be provided to students at the individual school level. Without clear direction as to the collection of data, House Bill 286 would result in twenty-four different data reports being submitted.

In addition, the collection of data would place an extreme burden on teachers at all grade levels, including elementary, middle and high school. PSSAM believes that the data collection should be more narrowly defined and focused on early intervention services at the K-3 grade level. We often find that after the 3rd grade level, students that continue to struggle with learning are often identified as needing an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan to accommodate their individual needs.

PSSAM would like to suggest that House Bill 286 be amended to provide for a broad-based workgroup that would delve into the multiple issues regarding the intent of this bill. PSSAM would love the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the education subcommittee to rewrite House Bill 286. We believe the objective of House Bill 286 could be better achieved with a workgroup that focused on the lower grades. The workgroup would provide precise parameters on the collection of the data and explicit details on the purpose and use of the data after it has been collected.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM respectfully **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 286 and urges a **favorable** committee report.