

CHAPTER 1262
SCHOOL STANDARDS
S.F. 2278

AN ACT relating to school standards, providing for implementation of educational standards developed and adopted by the state board of education, enactment of educational standards, providing a waiver procedure, providing for additional study of certain standards, and providing delayed effective dates for certain standards.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 256.11, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code Supplement 1987, is amended by striking the unnumbered paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 17A and a procedure for accrediting all public and nonpublic schools in Iowa offering instruction at any or all levels from the prekindergarten level through grade twelve. The rules of the state board shall require that a multicultural, nonsexist approach is used by school districts. The educational program shall be taught from a multicultural, nonsexist approach. Global perspectives shall be incorporated into all levels of the educational program.

The rules adopted by the state board pursuant to section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, to establish new standards shall satisfy the requirements of this section to adopt rules to implement the educational program contained in this section.

The educational program shall be as follows:

Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsections 1 through 9, Code Supplement 1987, are amended by striking the subsections and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1. If a school offers a prekindergarten program, the program shall be designed to help children to work and play with others, to express themselves, to learn to use and manage their bodies, and to extend their interests and understanding of the world about them. The prekindergarten program shall relate the role of the family to the child's developing sense of self and perception of others. Planning and carrying out prekindergarten activities designed to encourage cooperative efforts between home and school shall focus on community resources. A prekindergarten teacher shall hold a certificate certifying that the holder is qualified to teach in prekindergarten. A nonpublic school which offers only a prekindergarten may, but is not required to, seek and obtain accreditation.

2. The kindergarten program shall include experiences designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits and growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and protect and increase physical well-being with attention given to experiences relating to the development of life skills and human growth and development. A kindergarten teacher shall be certificated to teach in kindergarten. An accredited nonpublic school must meet the requirements of this subsection only if the nonpublic school offers a kindergarten program.

3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one through six: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, physical education, traffic safety, music, and visual art. The health curriculum shall include the characteristics of communicable diseases including acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary program.

4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and eight: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, physical education,

music, and visual arts. The health curriculum shall include the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades seven and eight.

5. In grades nine through twelve, a unit of credit consists of a course or equivalent related components or partial units taught throughout the academic year. The minimum program to be offered and taught for grades nine through twelve is:

a. Five units of science including physics and chemistry; the units of physics and chemistry may be taught in alternate years.

b. Five units of the social studies including instruction in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting machines in the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting an absentee ballot.

The county auditor, upon request and at a site chosen by the county auditor, shall make available to schools within the county voting machines or sample ballots that are generally used within the county, at times when these machines or sample ballots are not in use for their recognized purpose.

c. Six units of English-language arts.

d. Four units of a sequential program in mathematics.

e. Two units of general mathematics.

f. Four sequential units of one foreign language. The department may waive the third and fourth years of the foreign language requirement on an annual basis upon the request of the board of directors of a school district or the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school if the board or authorities are able to prove that a certificated teacher was employed and assigned a schedule that would have allowed students to enroll in a foreign language class, the foreign language class was properly scheduled, students were aware that a foreign language class was scheduled, and no students enrolled in the class.

g. All students physically able shall be required to participate in physical education activities during each semester they are enrolled in school except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. A minimum of one-eighth unit each semester is required. A twelfth grade student who meets the requirements of this paragraph may be excused from the physical education requirement by the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled if the parent or guardian of the student requests in writing that the student be excused from the physical education requirement. A student who wishes to be excused from the physical education requirement must be enrolled in a cooperative or work-study program or other educational program authorized by the school which requires the student to leave the school premises for specified periods of time during the school day. The student must seek to be excused from the physical education requirement in order to enroll in academic courses not otherwise available to the student. The principal of the school shall inform the superintendent of the school district or nonpublic school that the student has been excused. Physical education activities shall emphasize leisure time activities which will benefit the student outside the school environment and after graduation from high school.

h. Five units of occupational education subjects, which may include, but are not limited to, programs, services, and activities which prepare students for employment in office and clerical, trade and industrial, consumer and homemaking, agriculture, distributive, and health occupations.

i. Three units in the fine arts which shall include at least two of the following: dance, music, theatre, and visual art.

j. One unit of health education which shall include personal health; food and nutrition; environmental health; safety and survival skills; consumer health; family life; human growth and development; substance abuse and nonuse; emotional and social health; health resources; and prevention and control of disease, including sexually transmitted diseases and acquired immune

deficiency syndrome. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum standards for implementing the program in grades nine through twelve.

6. A pupil is not required to enroll in either physical education or health courses if the pupil's parent or guardian files a written statement with the school principal that the course conflicts with the pupil's religious belief.

7. Programs that meet the needs of each of the following:

- a. Pupils requiring special education.
- b. Gifted and talented pupils.
- c. Programs for at-risk students. Rules adopted by the state board to implement this paragraph shall be based upon the definition of at-risk student developed by the child coordinating council established in section 256A.2 and the state board shall consider the recommendations of the child coordinating council in developing the rules.

8. Upon request of the board of directors of a public school district or the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school, the director may, for a number of years to be specified by the director, grant the district board or the authorities in charge of the nonpublic school exemption from one or more of the requirements of the educational program specified in subsection 5. The exemption may be renewed. Exemptions shall be granted only if the director deems that the request made is an essential part of a planned innovative curriculum project which the director determines will adequately meet the educational needs and interests of the pupils and be broadly consistent with the intent of the educational program as defined in subsection 5.

The request for exemption shall include all of the following:

- a. Rationale of the project to include supportive research evidence.
- b. Objectives of the project.
- c. Provisions for administration and conduct of the project, including the use of personnel, facilities, time, techniques, and activities.
- d. Plans for evaluation of the project by testing and observational measures of pupil progress in reaching the objectives.
- e. Plans for revisions of the project based on evaluation measures.
- f. Plans for periodic reports to the department.
- g. The estimated cost of the project.

9. a. Effective July 1, 1989, through June 30, 1990, to facilitate the implementation and economical operation of the educational program defined in subsections 4 and 5, each school offering any of grades seven through twelve, except a school which offers grades one through eight as an elementary school, shall meet the media center requirements specified in section 256.11, subsection 9, paragraph "a", Code Supplement 1987.

b. Effective July 1, 1990, unless a waiver has been obtained under section 256.11A, each school or school district shall have a qualified school media specialist who shall meet the certification and approval standards prescribed by the department and shall be responsible for supervision of the media centers. Each school or school district shall establish a media center, in each attendance center, which shall be accessible to students throughout the school day.

10. Each school or school district shall provide an articulated sequential guidance program for grades kindergarten through twelve. Until July 1, 1991, a school or school district may obtain a waiver from meeting the requirements of this subsection pursuant to section 256.11A. The guidance counselor shall meet the certification and approval standards of the department.

Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256.11A IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS.

1. Schools and school districts are not required to meet the standard adopted by the state board under section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, requiring that ten units of vocational education be offered and taught in grades nine through twelve unless the general assembly enacts legislation relating to the requirements stated in the standard. Until the time schools and school districts are required to meet the standard, the occupational education requirements stated in section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "h", apply.

2. Schools and school districts are not required to meet the requirement stated in the standards adopted by the state board under section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, that prohibits an individual who is employed or contracted as superintendent from also serving as a principal in that school or school district until July 1, 1990, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. Not later than January 1, 1990, for the school year beginning July 1, 1990, the board of directors of a school district or authorities in charge of a nonpublic school, may file a written request with the department of education that the department waive the requirement for that district or school. The procedures specified in subsection 5 apply to the request.

3. Schools and school districts unable to meet the standard adopted by the state board under section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, and contained in section 256.11, subsection 9, effective July 1, 1989, requiring that on July 1, 1989, each board operating a kindergarten through grade twelve program provide an articulated sequential elementary-secondary guidance program may, not later than January 1, 1989, for the school year beginning July 1, 1989, file a written request to the department of education that the department waive the requirement for that school or school district. The procedures specified in subsection 5 apply to the request. Not later than January 1, 1990, for the school year beginning July 1, 1990, the board or authorities may request a one-year extension of the waiver.

If a waiver is approved under subsection 5, the school or school district shall meet the requirements of section 256.11, subsection 9, paragraph "b", Code Supplement 1987, for the period for which the waiver is approved.

4. Schools and school districts are not required to meet the standard adopted by the state board of education under section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, and contained in section 256.11, subsection 9, paragraph "b", effective July 1, 1990, that requires the board to establish and operate a media services program to support the total curriculum until July 1, 1990, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. Not later than January 1, 1990, for the school year beginning July 1, 1990, the board of directors of a school district, or authorities in charge of a nonpublic school, may file a written request with the department of education that the department waive the requirement for that district or school. The procedures specified in subsection 5 apply to the request.

If a waiver is approved under subsection 5, the school district or school shall meet the requirements of section 256.11, subsection 9, paragraph "a", Code Supplement 1987, for the period for which the waiver is approved.

5. A request for a waiver filed by the board of directors of a school district or authorities in charge of a nonpublic school shall describe actions being taken by the district or school to meet the requirement for which the district or school has requested a waiver. The state board of education shall adopt rules under chapter 17A to implement a procedure and criteria for the department to use in making a decision to approve a waiver under subsections 2, 3, and 4.

Sec. 4. The legislative council is requested to establish a study committee composed of members of the house and senate committees on education from both political parties to conduct a comprehensive study of the provision of vocational education courses for secondary school students. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the vocational education requirements contained in the rules adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section 256.17, the courses offered by school districts, the costs of offering the various areas of vocational education courses, enrollment trends, and the feasibility of alternative means of offering vocational education courses, including but not limited to, requiring that secondary school vocational education courses be provided by the area schools in either the high school or area school setting or an alternative setting.

The study committee shall submit a report of its recommendations to the legislative post-secondary education task force if one is established, the legislative council, and the general assembly meeting in 1989.

Sec. 5. If the general assembly adopts a concurrent resolution during the 1989 legislative session requesting a survey, the legislative fiscal bureau shall conduct a survey of school districts to determine the feasibility of requiring that the kindergarten program operate a minimum of one hundred eighty days and meet a minimum school day time requirement of four and one-half hours. The survey shall include an inventory of additional space requirements and the availability of vacant classrooms in school district facilities, additional staff requirements, factors affecting pupil/teacher ratios, availability of educational materials, and transportation needs.

The legislative fiscal bureau shall report the results of the survey to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house committees on education not later than January 1, 1990.

Sec. 6. It is the intent of the general assembly to develop a standard relating to kindergarten requirements which is based on the unique needs of young children in school settings. The legislative council is requested to appoint an interim study committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the needs of young children for all day, every day kindergarten as well as the need for additional care and activities in the school environment, including but not limited to recreation, child care, health, developmental, and latchkey programs. The committee shall consider the preliminary findings of the legislative fiscal bureau space study. The committee shall be composed of members of the house and senate, from both political parties, and persons knowledgeable in the field of child development, including members of the state child development coordinating council. The committee shall develop recommendations and submit the recommendations in a report to the legislative council and the general assembly not later than March 1, 1989.

Sec. 7. Section 331.502, subsection 23, Code 1987, is amended to read as follows:

23. Make available to schools, voting machines or sample ballots for instructional purposes as provided in section 256.11, subsection 6 5.

Sec. 8. Section 455E.8, subsection 10, Code Supplement 1987, is amended to read as follows:

10. Develop a program, in consultation with the department of education and the department of environmental education of the University of Northern Iowa, regarding water quality issues which shall be included in the minimum program required in grades seven and eight pursuant to rules adopted by the state board of education under section 256.11, subsection 4.

Sec. 9. Section 467A.7, subsection 18, Code Supplement 1987, is amended to read as follows:

18. To encourage local school districts to provide instruction in the importance of and in some of the basic methods of soil conservation, as a part of the course work relating to conservation of natural resources and environmental awareness required in rules adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, and to offer technical assistance to schools in developing such instructional programs.

Sec. 10. Section 622.10, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1987, is amended to read as follows:

No qualified school guidance counselor, who has met the certification and approval standards of the department of education as provided in section ~~257.25~~ 256.11, subsection ~~9~~ 10, who obtains information by reason of the counselor's employment as a qualified school guidance counselor shall be allowed, in giving testimony, to disclose any confidential communications properly entrusted to the counselor by a pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian in the counselor's capacity as a qualified school guidance counselor and necessary and proper to enable the counselor to perform the counselor's duties as a qualified school guidance counselor.

Sec. 11. Sections 1, 2, and 7 through 10 of this Act take effect July 1, 1989.

Sec. 12. Section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, is repealed effective July 1, 1989.

Approved May 16, 1988