

CHAPTER 206**EARLY CHILDHOOD AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS***S.F. 223*

AN ACT relating to early childhood and kindergarten programs.

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

Section 1. STATEMENT OF GOALS. It is the goal of the general assembly to ensure that early childhood educational opportunities are available to meet the needs of all children in this state through a coordinated early childhood education delivery system. This coordinated system should involve the participation of parents, communities, school districts, and other government agencies and allow each school district to adopt the program which is best suited to the needs of the community, using both local and state resources and expertise. Suitable instructional materials, curricula, and staff should be made available to meet the needs of children with developmental deficiencies and those with special needs, in addition to those needed to fulfill the needs of all children and families of the community.

Sec. 2. Section 234.6, Code 1989, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Provide consulting and technical services to the director of the department of education, or the director's designee, upon request, relating to prekindergarten, kindergarten, and before and after school programming and facilities.

NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Recommend rules for their adoption by the council of human services for before and after school child care programs, conducted within and by or contracted for by school districts, that are appropriate for the ages of the children who receive services under the programs.

Sec. 3. Section 237A.1, subsection 7, paragraph a, Code 1989, is amended to read as follows:

a. An instructional program administered by a public or nonpublic school system ~~approved or~~ accredited by the department of education or the state board of regents, except a program provided under section 279.49.

Sec. 4. Section 237A.22, Code 1989, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 4. Advise and provide technical services to the director of the department of education or the director's designee, upon request, relating to prekindergarten, kindergarten, and before and after school programming and facilities.

Sec. 5. Section 256.7, Code 1989, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

NEW SUBSECTION. 13. By July 1, 1990, adopt rules establishing early childhood and early elementary certification or endorsement standards for teachers, elementary school principals, licensed child care providers, and administrators who work with children from three through eight years of age, which shall require knowledge of aspects of child development from birth through eight years of age.

NEW SUBSECTION. 14. Prescribe guidelines for facility standards, maximum class sizes, and maximum in classroom pupil-teacher and teacher-aide ratios for grades kindergarten through three and before and after school and summer child care programs provided under the direction of the school district. The department also shall indicate modifications to such guidelines necessary to address the needs of at-risk children.

Sec. 6. Section 256.9, Code 1989, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

NEW SUBSECTION. 35. Develop standards and instructional materials to do all of the following:

a. Assist school districts in developing appropriate before and after school programs for elementary school children.

b. Assist school districts in the development of child care services and programs to complement half-day and all-day kindergarten programs.

- c. Assist school districts in the development of appropriate curricula for all-day, everyday kindergarten programs.
- d. Assist school districts in the development of appropriate curricula for the early elementary grades one through three.
- e. Assist prekindergarten instructors in the development of appropriate curricula and teaching practices.

Standards and materials developed shall include materials which employ developmentally appropriate practices and incorporate substantial parental involvement. The materials and standards shall include alternative teaching approaches including collaborative teaching and alternative dispute resolution training. The department shall consult with the child development coordinating council, the state day care advisory committee, the department of human services, the state board of regents center for early developmental education, the area education agencies, the department of child development in the college of family and consumer sciences at Iowa state university of science and technology, the early childhood elementary division of the college of education at the university of Iowa, and the college of education at the university of northern Iowa, in developing these standards and materials.

For purposes of this section "substantial parental involvement" means the physical presence of parents in the classroom, learning experiences designed to enhance the skills of parents in parenting and in providing for their children's learning and development, or educational materials which may be borrowed for home use.

NEW SUBSECTION. 36. By July 1, 1990, develop or direct the area education agencies to develop, a statewide technical assistance support network to provide school districts, or district subcontractors under section 279.49, with assistance in creating developmentally appropriate programs under section 279.49.

NEW SUBSECTION. 37. Administer and approve grants to school districts which provide innovative in-school programming for at-risk children in grades kindergarten through three, in addition to regular school curricula for children participating in the program, with the funds for the grants being appropriated for at-risk children by the general assembly. Grants approved shall be for programs in schools with a high percentage of at-risk children. Preference shall be given to programs which integrate at-risk children with the rest of the school population, which agree to limit class size and pupil-teacher ratios, which include parental involvement, which demonstrate community support, which cooperate with other community agencies, which provide appropriate guidance counseling services, and which use teachers with an early childhood endorsement. Grant programs shall contain an evaluation component that measures student outcomes.

Sec. 7. Section 256A.2, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1989, is amended to read as follows:

Staff assistance for the council shall be provided jointly by the department of education and the division of children, youth, and families of the department of human rights. Members of the council shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in their official duties and shall receive per diem compensation at the level authorized under section 7E.6, subsection 1, paragraph "a".

Sec. 8. Section 256A.3, subsection 4, Code 1989, is amended to read as follows:

4. Make recommendations to the department of education and the general assembly regarding appropriate curricula and staff qualifications and training for early elementary education, ~~and the coordination of the curricula with early child development programs, and the development of an at-risk children definition for use in school-district-sponsored early elementary and before and after school child care programs.~~

Sec. 9. Section 256A.3, subsection 5, paragraph e, Code 1989, is amended to read as follows:

e. The degree to which the program involves and works with the parents, and includes home visits, ~~optional parental instruction for parents on parenting and tutoring skills, on enhancement of skills in providing for their children's learning and development, and the physical, mental, and emotional development of children, and experiential education.~~

Sec. 10. Section 279.49, Code 1989, is amended by striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

279.49 ALL-DAY, EVERYDAY KINDERGARTEN OR CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAMS.

The board of directors of a school corporation may operate or contract for the operation of a program to provide child day care to children not enrolled in school or to students enrolled in kindergarten through grade six before and after school, or to both. The person employed to be responsible for a program operated by a board shall be an appropriately certificated teacher under chapter 260 or the program operated by contract with the board shall be licensed as a child care center under chapter 237A. The board shall require the employment of adequate personnel for a program to meet the personnel standards adopted by the state board of education, pursuant to section 256.7, subsections 13 and 14, or the department of human services, pursuant to section 237A.12, subsection 1.

The board may establish a fee for the cost of participation in a before and after school program. The fee shall be established pursuant to a sliding fee schedule based upon staffing costs and other expenses and a family's ability to pay. If a fee is established, the parent or guardian of a child participating in a program shall be responsible for payment of any agreed upon fee. The board may require the parent or guardian to furnish transportation of the child.

The board may utilize or make application for program subsidies from any existing day care funding streams.

Programs established under this section for before and after school child day care shall include, but are not limited to, parental involvement in program design and direction, activities designed to further children's physical, mental, and emotional development, and a parental education component to educate parents about the physical, mental, and emotional development of children.

Sec. 11. **LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMITTEES.** The boards of the local school districts shall by October 1, 1989, assemble and supervise committees in their respective communities to review the need for all-day, everyday kindergarten, before and after school child care, and child care during school holidays and vacations. The committees shall also consider the need for additional prekindergarten programs for at-risk children and may consider the need for other, school-based prekindergarten programs. As much as is possible, the committee members shall include, but are not limited to, representatives of local businesses, service organizations, educators, head start educators, parents, private child care providers, county home extension economists, area education agencies, the school board, and the community education advisory board, and persons knowledgeable about developmentally appropriate learning. The committee shall hold hearings, and solicit comments from community preschool and day care providers, and report to the state board of education by October 1, 1990, regarding the committee's recommendations on the establishment of child care programs and curricula. A copy of the report shall also be filed with the secretary of the local school district. A summary of any oral, or copies of any written comments made by local preschool or child care providers shall be attached to the reports.

Sec. 12. **REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS.** The child development coordinating council, established under chapter 256A, shall review existing entities providing technical assistance and program development support to early childhood programs, including, but not limited to, resource and referral centers, the county home extension service, and area education agencies. By January 1, 1990, the council shall provide recommendations in a report to the general assembly on the use of existing entities and resources and the development of additional resources to provide assistance in program development for all types of early childhood programs, including, but not limited to, prekindergarten programs, licensed child care centers, registered family day care homes, and unregistered family day care homes.

Sec. 13. Section 10 of this Act is effective January 1, 1992.

Approved May 22, 1989