

CHAPTER 278**FAMILY, CONSUMER, AND CAREER EDUCATION***S.F. 449*

AN ACT relating to vocational education and requesting a study.

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

Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 1989, is amended to read as follows:

4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics; science; health; human growth and development, family, consumer, career, and technology education; physical education; music; and visual art. 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.

Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph h, Code 1989, is amended by striking the paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

h. A minimum of three sequential units in at least four of the following six vocational service areas: agriculture, business or office occupations, health occupations, consumer and family sciences or home economics occupations, industrial technology or trade and industrial education, and marketing education. Instruction shall be competency-based, articulated with post-secondary programs of study, and include field, laboratory, or on-the-job training. Each sequential unit shall include instruction in a minimum set of competencies established by the department of education that relate to the following: new and emerging technologies; job-seeking, job-adaptability, and other employment, self-employment and entrepreneurial skills that reflect current industry standards and labor-market needs; and reinforcement of basic academic skills. The instructional programs shall also comply with the provisions of chapter 258 relating to vocational education.

The department of education shall permit school districts, in meeting the requirements of this section, to use vocational core courses in more than one vocational service area and to use multi-occupational courses to complete a sequence in more than one vocational service area.

Sec. 3. Section 258.4, subsection 7, Code 1989, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7. Annually review at least twenty percent of the approved vocational programs as a basis for continuing approval to ensure that the programs are compatible with educational reform efforts, are capable of responding to technological change and innovation, and meet the educational needs of students and the employment community. The review shall include an assessment of the extent to which the competencies in the program are being mastered by the students enrolled, the costs are proportionate to educational benefits received, the vocational curriculum is articulated and integrated with other curricular offerings required of all students, the programs would permit students with vocational education backgrounds to pursue other educational interests in a postsecondary institutional setting, and the programs remove barriers for both traditional and nontraditional students to access educational and employment opportunities.

Sec. 4. Section 258.4, Code 1989, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Establish a minimum set of competencies and core curriculum for approval of a vocational program sequence that addresses the following: new and emerging technologies; job-seeking, job-keeping, and other employment skills, including self-employment and entrepreneurial skills, that reflect current industry standards, leadership skills, entrepreneurial, and labor-market needs; and the strengthening of basic academic skills.

NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Establish a regional planning process to be implemented by regional planning boards, which utilizes the services of local school districts, merged area schools, and

other resources to assist local school districts in meeting vocational education standards while avoiding unnecessary duplication of services.

NEW SUBSECTION. 10. Enforce rules prescribing standards for approval of vocational education programs in schools, departments, and classes.

NEW SUBSECTION. 11. Notwithstanding the accreditation process contained in section 256.11, permit school districts, which provide a program which does not meet the standards for accreditation for vocational education, to cooperate with the regional planning boards and contract for an approved program under this chapter without losing accreditation. A school district which fails to cooperate with the regional planning boards and contract for an approved program shall, however, be subject to section 256.11.

Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 258.16 REGIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PLANNING BOARDS ESTABLISHED – DUTIES.

1. Regional planning boards are established to assist school corporations in providing an effective, efficient, and economical means of delivering sequential vocational educational programs for students in grades seven through fourteen, which use both local school district services and merged area school services.

2. A regional planning board shall be established in each merged area, as determined by the state board for vocational education. Each regional planning board shall have as members persons who are representatives from the merged area school board of directors, the area education agency board of directors, the local councils on vocational education, the local school districts' boards of directors, and vocational education certificated instructional personnel.

3. The regional planning boards shall do all of the following:

a. Provide for the participation of merged area schools and the local school districts in the delivery of vocational education in the region, as well as for the participation of representatives of the business and industry community.

b. Determine the occupational needs of students based on labor-market, entrepreneurial, and self-employment opportunities and demand within the region, the state, the nation, and in other countries.

c. Provide for development of a five-year plan addressing the delivery of quality vocational education instructional programs pursuant to section 256.11, subsection 4, and subsection 5, paragraph "h", and section 280A.23, subsection 1. The plan shall be updated annually.

d. Implement the procedures and contract, at the request of the director of the board of vocational education, for the delivery of vocational education programs and services pursuant to section 256.11, subsection 4, and subsection 5, paragraph "h", and section 280A.23, subsection 1.

Sec. 6. Section 280A.23, subsection 1, Code 1989, is amended to read as follows:

1. Determine the curriculum to be offered in such school or college subject to approval of the state board and ensure that all vocational offerings are competency-based, provide any minimum competencies required by the department of education, comply with any applicable requirements in chapter 258, and are articulated with local school district vocational education programs. If an existing private educational or vocational institution within the merged area has facilities and curriculum of adequate size and quality which would duplicate the functions of the area school, the board of directors shall discuss with the institution the possibility of entering into contracts to have the existing institution offer facilities and curriculum to students of the merged area. The board of directors shall consider any proposals submitted by the private institution for providing such facilities and curriculum. The board of directors may enter into such contracts. In approving curriculum, the state board shall ascertain that all courses and programs submitted for approval are needed and that the curriculum being offered by an area school does not duplicate programs provided by existing public or private facilities in the area. In determining whether duplication would actually exist, the state board shall consider the needs of the area and consider whether the proposed programs are competitive

as to size, quality, tuition, purposes, and area coverage with existing public and private educational or vocational institutions within the merged area. If the board of directors of the merged area chooses not to enter into contracts with private institutions under this subsection, the board shall submit a list of reasons why contracts to avoid duplication were not entered into and an economic impact statement relating to the board's decision.

Sec. 7. Section 282.7, subsection 2, Code 1989, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

2. If the vocational program offered by a school district does not meet the state board of vocational education's standards for program approval, the district shall be granted one year to meet the standards for approval. If a district chooses to waive the one-year grace period, or the district fails to meet the approval standards after one year, the director of the board of vocational education shall delegate the authority to the regional planning board established pursuant to section 258.16 to direct the district to contract with another school district or a merged area school which has an approved program, for the provision of vocational education for students of the district. The district that has waived the one-year grace period or has failed to meet the approval standards shall pay to the district or merged area school that has an approved program an amount equal to the percent of the school day in which a pupil is receiving vocational education in the approved program times the district cost per pupil of the district of residence of the pupil. The regional planning board established pursuant to section 258.16 shall contract with an approved program for delivery of vocational education in the district which has failed to meet the approval standards or has waived the one-year grace period. Transportation to and from the approved program shall be provided by the school district that has waived the one-year grace period or has failed to meet approval standards. Reasonable effort shall be made to conduct the approved program at an attendance center in the district that has failed to meet the approval standards or has waived the one-year grace period.

Sec. 8. POSTSECONDARY HANDICAPPED EDUCATION STUDY. The department of education in conjunction with the board of educational examiners shall conduct a survey of courses and programs offered at the community college and vocational technical school level which are designated for handicapped students. The department shall review the criteria currently being used to designate a course or program as appropriate for the handicapped, as well as the curriculum offered, and the certification of instructional personnel, to determine if modifications of the current standards and certification requirements are needed to provide an appropriate education to the students served by the programs.

The department shall summarize the results of the study and any conclusions and recommendations in a report to be submitted to the general assembly by January 1, 1990.

Sec. 9. Sections 1 through 3 and sections 5 through 7 are effective July 1, 1992.

Approved June 1, 1989