

House File 2189 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2189

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act directing school districts to prioritize resources in
2 order to meet the goal of increasing the minimum days or
3 hours of instructional time offered in a school year.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 279.10, subsection 1, Code 2009, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. The school year shall begin on the first day of July
4 and each regularly established elementary and secondary school
5 shall begin no sooner than a day during the calendar week
6 in which the first day of September falls but no later than
7 the first Monday in December. However, if the first day of
8 September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day during
9 the calendar week which immediately precedes the first day of
10 September. School shall continue for at least one hundred
11 eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, and may be
12 maintained during the entire calendar year. However, if the
13 board of directors of a district extends the school calendar
14 because inclement weather caused the district to temporarily
15 close school during the regular school calendar, the district
16 may excuse a graduating senior who has met district or school
17 requirements for graduation from attendance during the extended
18 school calendar. A school corporation may begin employment
19 of personnel for in-service training and development purposes
20 before the date to begin elementary and secondary school.

21 b. The board of directors of a school district shall
22 prioritize the allocation of federal, state, and local moneys
23 appropriated or levied and other resources available for the
24 purposes of extending the school calendar or the instructional
25 hours in a school day, including but not limited to federal
26 race to the top fund moneys available from the United States
27 department of education under the federal American Recovery
28 and Reinvestment Act of 2009, state appropriations and state
29 foundation aid, and local instructional support program
30 revenues. The primary goal of school districts shall be to
31 increase the instructional time required pursuant to this
32 subsection or the instructional hours in a day for purposes
33 that include but are not limited to closing the achievement gap
34 and turning around persistently lowest-achieving schools.

1 EXPLANATION

2 This bill directs the boards of directors of school
3 districts to prioritize the allocation of federal, state,
4 and local moneys appropriated or levied and other resources
5 available for the purposes of extending the school calendar
6 or the instructional hours in a school day, including but
7 not limited to federal race to the top fund moneys available
8 from the United States department of education under the
9 federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
10 state appropriations and state foundation aid, and local
11 instructional support program revenues. The bill provides
12 that the primary goal of school districts shall be to increase
13 the number of days in the school calendar or the instructional
14 hours in a day for purposes that include but are not limited
15 to closing the achievement gap and turning around persistently
16 lowest-achieving schools.