

SENATE FILE _____
BY JOHNSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to parent empowerment petitions for
2 implementation of school intervention models by school
3 districts.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **279.69 Parent empowerment petition**
2 **— school intervention model implementation.**

3 1. *a.* A school district attendance center is subject to
4 this section if the attendance center is not identified as
5 a persistently lowest-achieving school by the department of
6 education, but has been subject to corrective action pursuant
7 to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965,
8 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq., as amended by the federal No Child
9 Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110, 20 U.S.C. §
10 6316(b)(7), and continues to fail to make adequate yearly
11 progress.

12 *b.* If a school district attendance center meets the
13 requirements of paragraph “a” and at least fifty percent of
14 the parents or guardians of students attending the attendance
15 center, or a combination of at least one-half of the parents
16 or guardians of students attending the attendance center and
17 the elementary or middle school who normally matriculate into
18 the middle or high school, as applicable, signs and submits
19 to the board of directors of the school district in which the
20 attendance center is located a petition requesting the board of
21 directors of the school district to implement one or more of
22 the four school intervention models identified by the United
23 States department of education for school improvement grants
24 under 75 Fed. Reg. § 66363, the school district shall implement
25 the school intervention model requested and identified in the
26 petition unless, after a regularly scheduled public hearing
27 conducted by the school board, the school board by resolution
28 states the reason the school board cannot implement the
29 specific requested intervention model and designates in writing
30 which of the other school intervention models it deems has
31 substantial promise of enabling the attendance center to make
32 at least adequate yearly progress, as defined in the federally
33 mandated state plan under the federal Elementary and Secondary
34 Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq., as amended
35 by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No.

1 107-110, and which the school board resolves to implement in
2 the subsequent school year. A parent or guardian who signs a
3 petition in accordance with this subsection must be eligible
4 to vote in the school district.

5 2. The board of directors of the school district shall
6 notify the state board of education and the director of the
7 department of education upon receipt of a petition submitted in
8 accordance with subsection 1 and the school board shall submit
9 its final disposition of the petition and any written findings
10 electronically to the state board and the director as soon as
11 practicable.

12 3. A school district shall not be required to implement the
13 school intervention model requested by the petition submitted
14 in accordance with subsection 1 if the request is submitted for
15 reasons other than improving academic achievement or student
16 safety.

17 4. A school district shall notify the parents and guardians
18 of students enrolled in a school district attendance center
19 that meets the requirements of subsection 1, paragraph "a" that
20 the attendance center is eligible for a parent empowerment
21 petition. The notice shall include information about how
22 parents and guardians may initiate or sign a petition in
23 accordance with subsection 1.

24 5. a. The director of the department of education shall
25 recommend rules to the state board of education for the orderly
26 administration of this section. The director shall annually
27 list on the department's internet site the names of all school
28 district attendance centers that meet the requirements of
29 subsection 1, paragraph "a".

30 b. The state board of education shall adopt rules as needed
31 for the administration of this section.

32 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
33 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
34 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
35 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid

1 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
2 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
3 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
4 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
5 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
6 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
7 districts.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This bill provides for a parent empowerment petition
10 that under certain conditions requires a school district to
11 implement one or more school intervention models.

12 Under the bill, a school district must implement one or more
13 school intervention models if a school district attendance
14 center in the district is not identified as a persistently
15 lowest-achieving school by the department of education, but
16 has been subject to corrective action pursuant to the federal
17 law, continues to fail to make adequate yearly progress, and
18 at least 50 percent of the parents or guardians of students
19 attending the attendance center, or a combination of at least
20 one-half of the parents or guardians of students attending
21 the attendance center and the elementary or middle school
22 who normally matriculate into the middle or high school, as
23 applicable, signs and submits to the board of directors of the
24 school district in which the attendance center is located a
25 petition requesting that the school board implement one or more
26 of the four school intervention models identified by the U.S.
27 department of education.

28 The four school intervention models include the turnaround
29 model, in which the principal is replaced, no more than
30 half the teachers may be rehired, and new strategies are
31 implemented; the restart model, in which the attendance
32 center is converted to a charter school; school closure,
33 in which the attendance center is closed and its students
34 sent to higher-achieving schools in the district; and the
35 transformation model, in which the principal is replaced and

1 comprehensive curriculum reform and other strategies are
2 implemented.

3 The petition must identify which of the intervention models
4 the school district must implement in the subsequent school
5 year. However, the school district may implement a model
6 other than the requested model if, after a regularly scheduled
7 public hearing, the school board states in a resolution the
8 reason it cannot implement the requested intervention model and
9 designates in writing which of the other school intervention
10 models it deems has substantial promise of enabling the
11 attendance center to make at least adequate yearly progress.

12 A school district must notify parents and guardians when
13 a school district attendance center is eligible for a parent
14 empowerment petition. The notice shall include information
15 about how parents and guardians may initiate or sign a
16 petition.

17 The school district is not required to implement the school
18 intervention model requested by petition if the request is
19 submitted for reasons other than improving academic achievement
20 or student safety.

21 The school board shall notify the state board of education
22 and the director of the department of education upon receipt
23 of a petition and must submit its final disposition of the
24 petition and any written findings electronically to the state
25 board and the director.

26 The director of the department of education shall annually
27 list on the department's internet site the names of all school
28 district attendance centers that are eligible for a parent
29 empowerment petition.

30 This bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
31 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
32 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
33 district from state school foundation aid received by the
34 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
35 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate

S.F. _____

1 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
2 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
3 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
4 mandates included in the bill.