

Senate File 1213
Education
Hansen, Chairperson 2/22
Sovern
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FILED FEB 25 1976

SENATE FILE 1213

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GRIFFIN, CARR and PLYMAT

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act to provide for the establishment of community school
2 programs and to make an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. TITLE. This Act shall be known
2 and may be cited as the "Community School Act".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of this
4 Act to provide recreational, educational, and other community
5 and social activities through the establishment of the
6 community school as a center for such activities in cooperation
7 with other community groups and pursuant to the needs,
8 interests, and concerns of the community. It is the purpose
9 of the community school Act to promote a more efficient and
10 increased use of existing school buildings and equipment and
11 to provide leadership in working with other entities to
12 mobilize the limited human and financial resources of a
13 community and to provide a wide range of opportunities for
14 all age groups. A related purpose of this Act is to develop
15 a sense of community in which community people cooperate with
16 the school and community agencies and groups to discuss and
17 resolve their school and community problems and to develop
18 a feeling among the community that the school is available
19 for use by the community in the evening, on the weekends,
20 during the summer or any other time when the school is not
21 being used for the regular school program.

22 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. STATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL ADVISORY
23 COUNCIL.

24 1. A state community school advisory council is established
25 consisting of nine members appointed by the governor for
26 three-year terms. The purpose of the community school advisory
27 council is to promote educational, recreational, and social
28 opportunity through the maximum utilization of public school
29 facilities. The state council shall consist of members who
30 are broadly representative of the educational, cultural,
31 social, and community development interests of the state.
32 Members shall be appointed from various geographic locations
33 throughout the state and shall represent various ethnic
34 backgrounds. Terms of office shall commence on July first
35 of the year in which the appointment is made and shall con-

1 tinue until a successor is appointed and qualifies. However,
2 for the initial council, three members shall be appointed
3 for three-year terms, three members for two-year terms, and
4 three members for one-year terms. Vacancies occurring on
5 the state council shall be filled for the unexpired term in
6 the same manner as the original appointment.

7 2. The members of the state council shall serve without
8 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses
9 and travel at the rate prescribed by law incurred while the
10 member is on official business of the state council. Expenses
11 of the state council shall be paid from funds available to
12 the state director of community school programs.

13 3. The members of the council shall meet as soon after
14 July first as possible to organize at a time and place desig-
15 nated by the state director of community school programs.
16 Thereafter, meetings may be called by the chairperson or by
17 a majority of the members. The state council shall elect
18 a chairperson and such other officers as it deems necessary.
19 The state director shall serve as secretary for the state
20 council.

21 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. DUTIES OF STATE COUNCIL. The state
22 council shall:

23 1. Establish and maintain close cooperation and under-
24 standing among the various groups throughout the state af-
25 fected by community school programs.

26 2. Provide a forum for the discussion, development, and
27 recommendation of public policy alternatives for community
28 school programs.

29 3. Serve as a clearinghouse for information on matters
30 relating to community school programs and similar programs
31 throughout the United States.

32 4. Serve as a clearinghouse for resource persons, as-
33 sociations, and groups of all kinds, coordinating assistance
34 to school districts which have specific needs.

35 5. Initiate or receive for review all applications for

1 community school program grants under this chapter and the
2 federal community schools Act (twenty (20) U.S.C. one thou-
3 sand eight hundred sixty-four (1864)).

4 6. Evaluate applications for community school program
5 grants received under this Act and make recommendations to
6 the director of community school programs concerning the ap-
7 proval or disapproval of the applications.

8 7. Perform other functions necessary to insure the or-
9 derly and coordinated development of community school programs
10 in the state.

11 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. STATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOL
12 PROGRAMS. There is established within the department of
13 public instruction the position of state director of community
14 school programs to administer the provisions of this Act.
15 The position may be combined with an already existing position
16 with the department. The state director shall have completed
17 professional training in the field of community education.
18 Rules shall be adopted by the state department of public
19 instruction defining program areas, reimbursement procedures,
20 and any other requirements relevant to the promotion,
21 implementation, and operation of community school programs
22 throughout the state.

23 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. The board
24 of directors of a school district may establish a community
25 school program for the schools in the district and provide
26 for the general supervision of the program. The community
27 school center program may include but shall not be limited
28 to the use of the school after hours, on weekends, and during
29 regular school vacation periods for educational, recreational
30 and social enrichment activities, counseling, civic affairs,
31 meetings and discussions, senior citizen activities, health
32 clinics, and forums. Programs existing on the effective date
33 of this Act may qualify for receipt of state funds.

34 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR AND
35 CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL. A community school coordinator

1 shall be employed by a school district on a full-time or part-
2 time basis to promote, organize, coordinate, and direct the
3 community school program. The coordinator shall have completed
4 professional training in the field of community education.
5 If a community school program is established, the board shall
6 provide for the selection of a citizens advisory committee
7 to consist of persons representing various service
8 organizations in the community, churches, private schools,
9 local governments, and other groups which may participate
10 in the community school program as well as representatives
11 of the general public. The council shall cooperate and assist
12 the board of directors and the community school coordinator.

13 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. APPLICATION AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.
14 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to
15 the department of public instruction for each fiscal year
16 beginning July first and ending June thirtieth, the sum of
17 five hundred thousand (500,000) dollars or so much thereof
18 as is necessary, to provide grants to school districts for
19 the establishment of community school programs as model
20 programs. An approved grant shall include provision for
21 payment of seventy-five percent of the salary of the community
22 school coordinator, such payment not to exceed ten thousand
23 five hundred dollars, and funds for operation of community
24 school programs, not to exceed three thousand dollars. Grants
25 shall not be approved for more than fifty pilot programs.
26 The state director of community school programs shall review
27 and approve, disapprove, or resubmit to the board of directors
28 of school districts applying for grants, all plans submitted,
29 and shall consider the recommendations of the state council.
30 Grants shall be equitably distributed to include rural, urban,
31 and suburban school districts from throughout the state.

32 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. EVALUATION. At the end of a fiscal
33 year, each school district which has received state funds
34 for a model program for a community school program shall
35 conduct an evaluation of the program and shall determine

1 whether the program met the goals set forth at the beginning
2 of the fiscal year. Copies of the evaluation report shall
3 be sent to the state director of community school programs.
4 The state director may also conduct an evaluation of any model
5 program. The state director shall review the evaluations
6 of the community school programs and shall report to the
7 general assembly concerning a statewide evaluation of the
8 community school program and recommendations for improvements
9 in the programs in general. The state director may also make
10 recommendations to individual school districts concerning
11 the evaluations submitted. Exemplary programs shall be
12 identified in an annual report issued by the state director.

13 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. COOPERATION. School districts
14 may jointly exercise the powers authorized under this Act.
15 However, any school district operating jointly with another
16 school district shall be eligible for only a single grant.
17 School districts may also cooperate with area schools and
18 area education agencies in providing community school programs.

19 Funds received for community school programs shall not
20 be used to duplicate services of public agencies whose func-
21 tion is to provide recreational, vocational, or adult basic
22 education services. Funds shall be provided on a grant basis
23 for such services only if the school district is able to docu-
24 ment to the state director that substantive efforts have
25 failed to make such services available from the appropriate
26 public agencies.

27 Sec. 11. Section two hundred ninety-seven point nine
28 (297.9), Code 1975, is amended to read as follows:

29 297.9 USE FOR OTHER THAN SCHOOL PURPOSES. The board of
30 directors of any school district may authorize the use of
31 any schoolhouse and its grounds within such district for the
32 purpose of meetings of granges, lodges, agricultural societies,
33 and similar rural secret orders and societies, for parent-
34 teacher associations, for community recreational activities,
35 for public forums and similar community purposes; provided,

1 however, that the board may not grant such permission to any
2 organization known or believed to hold views that are in
3 conflict with the republican form of government as set forth
4 in the Constitution of the United States; and for election
5 purposes, and for other meetings of public interest; provided
6 that such use shall in no way interfere with school activities;
7 such use to be for such compensation and upon such terms and
8 conditions as may be fixed by said board for the proper
9 protection of the schoolhouse and the property belonging
10 therein, including that of pupils. If a community school
11 program is established under the provisions of sections one
12 (1) through ten (10) of this Act, the schoolhouse may be used
13 for purposes specified under the community school program.

EXPLANATION

14
15 This bill provides for the establishment of community
16 school programs. The department of public instruction is
17 directed to establish the position of state director of
18 community school programs and a state advisory council
19 appointed by the governor is established. Five hundred
20 thousand dollars is appropriated each year for model programs
21 for school districts to establish community school programs
22 and provision is made for local advisory councils. Each
23 district can receive up to \$10,500 for the salary of a
24 community school center coordinator and up to \$3,000 for the
25 programs. Districts may cooperate with each other and with
26 area education agencies and merged area schools.

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