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SENATE FILE 175  
BY CONNOLLY

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a grant process to provide school districts  
2 with resources to implement volunteer student mentoring pilot  
3 projects, making an appropriation, and providing emergency  
4 rulemaking authority.

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

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1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. There is appropriated  
2 from the general fund of the state to the department of  
3 education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and  
4 ending June 30, 2002, the following amount, or so much thereof  
5 as is necessary, to be used for the purpose designated:

6 For grants to school districts for volunteer student  
7 mentoring pilot projects:  
8 ..... \$ 500,000

9 Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered or unobligated  
10 funds remaining on June 30, 2002, shall not revert but shall  
11 be available for grants to school districts for volunteer  
12 student mentoring pilot projects in the following fiscal year.

13 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.24 VOLUNTEER STUDENT MENTORING  
14 PILOT PROJECTS.

15 1. The department shall administer and approve grants to  
16 school districts to implement proven, research-based  
17 structured volunteer student mentoring pilot projects, with  
18 the funds appropriated by the general assembly for purposes of  
19 volunteer student mentoring pilot project grants. Grant  
20 moneys shall be allocated on a competitive basis to school  
21 districts, or to a collaboration of school districts, that  
22 submit to the department a plan for implementation of a  
23 volunteer student mentoring program. Grants shall be  
24 equitably distributed geographically to three large school  
25 districts, three medium-sized school districts, and three  
26 small school districts. For purposes of this section, a large  
27 school district is a district with an actual enrollment of  
28 five thousand or more pupils; a medium-sized school district  
29 is a district with an actual enrollment of two thousand or  
30 more pupils, but less than five thousand pupils; and a small  
31 school district is a district with an actual enrollment of  
32 less than two thousand pupils.

33 2. Priority shall be given to plans that meet the  
34 following criteria:

35 a. Provide for structured mentoring and systematic

1 intervention in a technology-based program that assists  
2 teachers in addressing accountability issues by aligning  
3 curriculum and connecting teaching materials to student  
4 achievement goals, and include a database that organizes and  
5 manages student and mentor data as well as generating  
6 individualized lesson plans that address the instructional and  
7 developmental level, learning style, and learning objectives  
8 for a specific student or group of students.

9     b. Are recognized as promising educational practices for  
10 accelerating student achievement and increasing a student's  
11 self-esteem and interest in school.

12     c. Include a statement of purpose and a long-range plan.

13     d. Include a volunteer recruitment plan targeting, among  
14 others, parents, retired persons, students, and the local  
15 business and labor community.

16     e. Provide for eligibility screening, orientation, and  
17 training of mentors.

18     f. Include a mentor and student matching strategy,  
19 monitoring, and evaluation process.

20     g. Provide a support, recognition, and retention  
21 component.

22     3. Grant amounts shall be distributed as determined by the  
23 department.

24     4. A school district or collaboration of districts  
25 receiving moneys under this section shall submit with the  
26 report to the department required under section 256.7,  
27 subsection 21, paragraph "c", a report describing the impact  
28 the volunteer student mentoring pilot project funded under  
29 this section had on the school district's progress in  
30 attaining student achievement goals on the academic and other  
31 core indicators and on districtwide progress made in attaining  
32 locally established student learning goals. The department  
33 shall summarize annually the school district reports and  
34 submit the summary and any recommendations regarding the  
35 grants and projects to the chairpersons and ranking members of

1 the senate and house standing education committees by January  
2 1 of the school year succeeding the fiscal year in which the  
3 appropriation is made.

4 Sec. 3. EMERGENCY RULES. The department of education may  
5 adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection 2, and  
6 section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the  
7 provisions of this Act and the rules shall be effective  
8 immediately upon filing unless a later date is specified in  
9 the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance with this section  
10 shall also be published as a notice of intended action as  
11 provided in section 17A.4.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill appropriates \$500,000 for FY 2001-2002 from the  
14 general fund of the state to the department of education for  
15 grants to school districts for implementation of volunteer  
16 student mentoring pilot projects.

17 The department of education is directed to administer and  
18 approve grants on a competitive basis. To qualify for grant  
19 moneys, school districts must submit to the department a  
20 project plan. Grants are to be equitably distributed  
21 geographically to three large, three medium-sized, and three  
22 small school districts. Priority shall be given to plans that  
23 meet the following criteria:

24 1. Provide for structured mentoring and systematic  
25 intervention in a technology-based program that assists  
26 teachers in addressing accountability issues.

27 2. Are recognized as promising educational practices for  
28 accelerating student achievement and increasing a student's  
29 self-esteem and interest in school.

30 3. Include a statement of purpose and a long-range plan.

31 4. Include a volunteer recruitment plan targeting parents,  
32 retired persons, students, and the local business and labor  
33 community.

34 5. Provide for eligibility screening, orientation, and  
35 training of mentors.

1 6. Include a mentor and student matching strategy,  
2 monitoring, and evaluation process.

3 7. Provide a support, recognition, and retention  
4 component.

5 School districts that receive grants are required to submit  
6 a report describing the impact the pilot project had on the  
7 school district's progress in attaining student achievement  
8 goals.

9 The department must submit a summary of the school district  
10 reports annually along with any recommendations regarding the  
11 projects to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate  
12 and house standing education committees.

13 The bill gives the department of education emergency  
14 rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of the bill.

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