

Senate File 246 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 246
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1101)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the state preschool program for
2 four-year-old children by establishing a preschool expansion
3 incentive, authorizing state aid for the incentive, and
4 addressing program costs.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256C.3, subsection 3, paragraph h, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 *h.* Provision for ensuring that children receiving care from
4 other child care arrangements can participate in the preschool
5 program with minimal disruption due to transportation and
6 movement from one site to another. The children participating
7 in the preschool program may be transported by the school
8 district to and from activities associated with the program
9 along with other children.

10 Sec. 2. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
11 by adding the following new paragraph:

12 NEW PARAGRAPH. *e.* Development and implementation of a plan
13 for the school district's preschool program to have sufficient
14 capacity to operate without a waiting list for school budget
15 years beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

16 Sec. 3. Section 256C.4, subsection 1, paragraphs g and h,
17 Code 2015, are amended to read as follows:

18 *g.* For the fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2011~~ 2015, and
19 each succeeding fiscal year, of the amount of preschool
20 foundation aid received by a school district for a fiscal year
21 in accordance with section 257.16, not more than ~~five~~ ten
22 percent may be used by the school district for administering
23 the district's approved local program. Outreach activities
24 and rent for facilities not owned by the school district are
25 permissive uses of the administrative funds.

26 *h.* For the fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2012~~ 2015, and
27 each succeeding fiscal year, of the amount of preschool
28 foundation aid received by a school district for a fiscal year
29 in accordance with section 257.16, not less than ~~ninety-five~~
30 ninety percent of the per pupil amount shall be passed through
31 to a community-based provider for each pupil enrolled in
32 the district's approved local program. For the fiscal year
33 beginning July 1, ~~2011~~ 2015, and each succeeding fiscal year,
34 not more than ~~five~~ ten percent of the amount of preschool
35 foundation aid passed through to a community-based provider

1 may be used by the community-based provider for administrative
2 costs. The costs of outreach activities and rent for
3 facilities not owned by the school district are permissive
4 administrative costs. The costs of transportation involving
5 children participating in the preschool program and other
6 children may be prorated.

7 Sec. 4. Section 256C.4, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
8 2015, is amended to read as follows:

9 b. The enrollment count of eligible students shall not
10 include a child who is included in the enrollment count
11 determined under section 257.6 or a child who is served by
12 a an existing preschool program already receiving state or
13 federal funds for the purpose of ~~the provision of providing~~
14 four-year-old preschool programming while the child is being
15 served by the existing program. ~~Such preschool programming~~
16 However, the enrollment count of eligible students may include
17 a child being served by an existing preschool program if
18 the preschool programming in the existing program has been
19 enhanced as a result of preschool program expansion incentive
20 state aid provided under section 256C.7. For the purposes
21 of this chapter, an "existing preschool program" includes but
22 is not limited to shared visions and other child development
23 assistance programs provided under chapter 256A and section
24 279.51, special education programs provided under section
25 256B.9, school ready children grant programs and other programs
26 provided under chapter 256I, and federal head start programs
27 and the services funded by Tit. I of the federal Elementary and
28 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

29 Sec. 5. Section 256C.5, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph
30 1, Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

31 For the purposes of this ~~section and section 256C.4~~ chapter,
32 unless the context otherwise requires:

33 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 256C.7 Preschool program expansion
34 incentive.

35 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context

1 otherwise requires:

2 *a.* "Base incentive enrollment" means the average of the
3 actual enrollments of eligible students in the preschool
4 programming provided by a school district on October 1, 2012,
5 October 1, 2013, and October 1, 2014.

6 *b.* "Incentive enrollment" means the amount by which the
7 actual enrollment of eligible students in the preschool
8 programming provided by a school district on October 1 of
9 the base year exceeds the school district's base incentive
10 enrollment.

11 *c.* "Incentive period" means the budget years beginning July
12 1, 2016, July 1, 2017, and July 1, 2018.

13 *d.* "Incentive state aid" means the product of twenty percent
14 of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year
15 multiplied by the school district's incentive enrollment in the
16 base year.

17 2. *a.* A preschool program expansion incentive is
18 established in accordance with this section. In order to be
19 eligible for the incentive, a school district must develop and
20 implement a preschool program expansion plan, approved by the
21 department, to expand enrollment of eligible students in the
22 school district's preschool programming. In addition, the
23 school district shall work with existing preschool program
24 providers to expand hours and otherwise enhance the preschool
25 programming available to the children participating in the
26 programs. The plan's goal shall be that by the end of the
27 incentive period the district's preschool programming will
28 be available without a waiting list to each child wanting to
29 enroll in the programming. After completion of the incentive
30 period, the department shall analyze the growth in access
31 to the preschool program and enhancements made in preschool
32 programming as a result of the incentive, including in
33 the programs provided directly by school districts and in
34 those offered in partnership with community providers. The
35 department shall submit a report to the general assembly that

1 shall include identification of progress made toward the
2 incentive program's goals and documentation of collaboration
3 efforts made with input from participating families, early care
4 providers, and community partners.

5 *b.* The elements addressed in the preschool program expansion
6 plan shall include but are not limited to the following:

7 (1) How the school district will work in collaboration with
8 participating families, early care providers, and community
9 partners, as described in section 256C.3, subsection 3,
10 to provide the preschool programming in as convenient and
11 cost-effective a manner as possible for the families of the
12 four-year-old children who are eligible for the programming.

13 (2) A specification of the roles of the early care providers
14 and community partners in support of the expansion plan.

15 (3) A delineation of the specific steps for expanding hours
16 and otherwise enhancing the preschool programming available to
17 the children participating in the existing preschool programs
18 located in the school district.

19 (4) Identification of specific outcomes and progress
20 measures for the expansion plan.

21 (5) Detailed plans for contacting and soliciting enrollment
22 of eligible students, particularly from low-income families,
23 non-English speaking families, and families from ethnic and
24 racial groups underrepresented in the district's preschool
25 program enrollment.

26 3. The department of education shall provide required
27 elements and recommend best practices for outreach and program
28 expansion under the incentive, including expansion plan models
29 that school districts may consider in developing their local
30 expansion plans, and including but not limited to submission
31 provisions, annual updates, and documentation of collaboration
32 efforts with and input from participating families, early care
33 providers, and community partners.

34 4. During the incentive period, in addition to the
35 regular preschool foundation aid based on the preschool

1 budget enrollment, the school district implementing a
2 preschool expansion plan approved by the department shall
3 receive incentive state aid based on the district's incentive
4 enrollment. The incentive state aid shall be paid as
5 part of the state aid payments made to school districts in
6 accordance with section 257.16 and shall be subject to the
7 same requirements applicable to preschool foundation aid under
8 section 256C.4, subsection 1, paragraph "d".

9 5. A school district shall utilize its incentive state aid
10 to defray increases in costs in connection with the school
11 district's preschool program expansion plan. Such costs shall
12 include but are not limited to renovation and other facility
13 costs connected with expansion, outreach, one-time expenses,
14 and other costs identified as eligible by the department.

15 Sec. 7. Section 257.16, Code 2015, is amended by adding the
16 following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. For the fiscal years in which the
18 preschool program expansion incentive applies in accordance
19 with section 256C.7, the appropriation made in subsection 1
20 shall include the amount necessary to pay incentive state aid
21 in accordance with section 256C.7. This subsection is repealed
22 on July 1, 2019.

23 Sec. 8. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
24 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
25 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
26 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
27 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
28 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
29 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
30 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
31 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
32 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
33 districts.

34

EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill relates to the statewide preschool program for
3 four-year-old children by establishing a preschool program
4 expansion incentive and authorizing state aid for the
5 incentive. The bill also addresses costs allowed under the
6 program.

7 Code section 256C.3, relating to preschool program
8 requirements, is amended to require each school district to
9 implement a plan for the school district's preschool program to
10 have sufficient capacity to operate without a waiting list for
11 school budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

12 To be eligible for the preschool expansion incentive,
13 a school district must develop and implement a preschool
14 expansion plan, approved by the department, in order to expand
15 enrollment of eligible students in the school district's
16 preschool programming. Requirements for the plan are
17 provided in the bill, including how the school district will
18 collaborate with participating families, early care providers,
19 and community partners to expand the district's preschool
20 enrollment. The department of education is to specify other
21 requirements for the plan and for approval of plans by the
22 department. The bill requires the department of education to
23 analyze the enhancements to the preschool program following the
24 incentives period and submit a report to the general assembly.

25 Current law in Code section 256C.4 prohibits inclusion
26 in the preschool program of children already included in a
27 school's enrollment count for purposes of the school aid
28 foundation formula or children who are served by an existing
29 preschool program already receiving state or federal funds for
30 the purpose of providing four-year-old preschool programming
31 while the child is being served by the existing program. The
32 bill allows inclusion of children participating in an existing
33 program if the preschool programming in the existing program
34 has been enhanced as part of the expansion incentive.

35 The incentive program will operate for the three school

1 budget years beginning July 1, 2016, July 1, 2017, and July
2 1, 2018. For those three budget years, a school district is
3 eligible to receive incentive state aid for the increase in
4 the actual enrollment of eligible students in the preschool
5 programming provided by a school district in the immediately
6 preceding school year over the base incentive enrollment.
7 The base incentive enrollment is the average of the actual
8 enrollments of eligible students in the school district's
9 preschool programming on October 1, 2012, October 1, 2013,
10 and October 1, 2014. The amount of incentive state aid is
11 equal to 20 percent of the regular program state cost per pupil
12 multiplied by the school district's incentive enrollment in the
13 base year.

14 The incentive state aid is required to be used to defray
15 increases in costs in connection with the school district's
16 preschool expansion plan. Such costs may include renovation
17 and other facility costs connected with expansion, outreach,
18 one-time expenses, and other costs identified as eligible by
19 the department.

20 The bill also addresses administration and other costs under
21 the preschool program in amendments to Code sections 256C.3 and
22 256C.4. Authorization is provided for a school district to
23 transport the children participating in the preschool program
24 to and from activities associated with the program along with
25 other children. The bill authorizes community-based providers
26 to prorate the costs of transporting children participating in
27 the preschool program. The allowable administrative costs for
28 school districts are increased from 5 to 10 percent. Also, the
29 costs of outreach activities and facility rent are permitted
30 as administrative costs.

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

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