

CHAPTER 1159
EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS
S.F. 2190

AN ACT relating to educational standards, to permit the director of the department of education to waive compliance with the minimum education standards for accredited schools under certain circumstances, and providing a repealer.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 256.9, Code Supplement 1991, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 46. Grant annual exemptions from one or more of the minimum education standards contained in section 256.11 and rules adopted by the state board of education to nonpublic schools or public school districts who are engaging in comprehensive school transformation efforts that are broadly consistent with the current standards, but require exemption from one or more standards in order to implement the comprehensive school transformation effort within the nonpublic school or school district. Nonpublic schools or public school districts wishing to be exempted from one or more of the minimum standards contained in section 256.11 and rules adopted by the state board of education shall file a request for an exemption with the department. Requests for exemption shall include all of the following:

- a. A description of the nonpublic school or public school district's school transformation plan, including but not limited to new structures, methodologies, and creative approaches designed to help students achieve at higher levels.
- b. Identification of the standard or standards for which the exemption is being sought, including a statement of the reasons for requesting the exemption from the standard or standards.
- c. Identification of a method for periodic demonstration that student achievement will not be lessened by the granting of the exemption.

The director shall develop a procedure for application for exemption and receipt, review, and evaluation of nonpublic school and public school district requests, including but not limited to development of criteria for the granting or denying of requests for exemptions and a time line for the submission, review, and granting or denying of requests for exemption from one or more standards.

Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph e, Code Supplement 1991, is amended to read as follows:

- e. Two additional units of ~~general~~ mathematics.

Sec. 3. Section 256.11A, subsection 3, unnumbered paragraph 1, and subsection 4, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1991, are amended to read as follows:

Schools and school districts unable to meet the standard adopted by the state board under section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, and contained in section 256.11, subsection 9A, effective July 1, 1989, requiring that on July 1, 1989, each board operating a kindergarten through grade twelve program provide an articulated sequential elementary-secondary guidance program may, not later than January 1, 1989, for the school year beginning July 1, 1989, file a written request to the department of education that the department waive the requirement for that school or school district. The procedures specified in subsection 5 apply to the request. Not later than ~~January 1, 1990~~ August 1, 1992, for the school year beginning July 1, ~~1990~~ 1992, the board or authorities may request a one-year extension of the waiver. ~~Not later than January 1, 1991, for the school year beginning July 1, 1991, the board or authorities may request an additional one-year extension of the waiver.~~

Schools and school districts are not required to meet the standard adopted by the state board of education under section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987, and contained in section 256.11, subsection 9, paragraph "b", effective July 1, 1990, that requires the board to establish and

operate a media services program to support the total curriculum until July 1, 1990, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. Not later than ~~January~~ August 1, 1990 ~~1992~~, for the school year beginning July 1, ~~1990~~ 1992, the board of directors of a school district, or authorities in charge of a nonpublic school, may file a written request with the department of education that the department waive the requirement for that district or school. The procedures specified in subsection 5 apply to the request. ~~Not later than January 1, 1991, for the school year beginning July 1, 1991, the board of directors of a school district, or authorities in charge of a nonpublic school, may file a request for a one-year extension of the waiver.~~

Sec. 4. **NEW SECTION. 256.37 SCHOOL RESTRUCTURING AND EFFECTIVENESS — POLICY — FINDINGS.**

It is the policy of the state of Iowa to provide an education system that prepares the children of this state to meet and exceed the technological, informational, and communications demands of our society. The general assembly finds that the current education system must be transformed to deliver the enriched educational program that the adults of the future will need to have to compete in tomorrow's world. The general assembly further finds that the education system must strive to reach the following goals:

1. All children in Iowa must start school ready to learn.
2. Iowa's high school graduation rate must increase to at least ninety percent.
3. Students graduating from Iowa's education system must demonstrate competency in challenging subject matter, and must have learned to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in a global economy.
4. Iowa students must be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.
5. Every adult Iowan must be literate and possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
6. Every school in Iowa must be free of drugs and violence and offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

Sec. 5. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORT.** The department of education shall, by January 1, 1993, submit a report to the general assembly which contains proposed statutory language and departmental guidelines or proposed rules which provide for the granting of exemptions to schools and school districts which are engaged in comprehensive school transformation efforts. The proposed statutory language or the departmental guidelines or proposed rules shall include, but are not limited to, the criteria which will be used in determining which schools or school districts qualify for the granting of an exemption and identification of the method which will be used by the department to determine that student achievement in the schools or school districts will not be lessened by the granting of the exemption.

Sec. 6. Section 1 of this Act is repealed on July 1, 1993.

Approved April 28, 1992