

284.11 Pilot program for team-based variable pay for student achievement.

1. It is the intent of the general assembly to create a statewide team-based variable pay program to reward individual attendance centers for improvement in student achievement. A pilot program is established to give Iowa school districts with one or more participating attendance centers the opportunity to explore and demonstrate successful methods to implement team-based variable pay and to compare student achievement gains in school districts participating in the program with gains in school districts similar in nature that are not participating in the program. The department shall develop and administer the pilot program and shall provide technical assistance in the areas of goal setting and student assessments to school districts approved to participate in the pilot program. Preference shall be given to school districts that were previously approved to participate in a pilot program administered by the department in accordance with this section. Each school district approved by the department to participate in the pilot program shall administer valid and reliable standardized assessments at the beginning and end of the school year to demonstrate growth in student achievement.

2. All licensed practitioners employed at a participating attendance center that has demonstrated improvement in student achievement shall share in a cash award paid from moneys received by a school district pursuant to section 284.13, subsection 1. However, the school district is encouraged to extend cash awards to other staff employed at the attendance center.

3. The principal, with the participation of a team of licensed practitioners appointed by the principal, at each participating attendance center within a school district shall annually submit district attendance center student performance goals to the school board for approval. The attendance center goals must be aligned with the school improvement goals for the district developed in accordance with section 256.7, subsection 21. The district shall determine the designation of an attendance center for purposes of this section. The attendance center student performance goals may differ from attendance center to attendance center and may contain goals and indicators in addition to the comprehensive school improvement plan. An attendance center shall demonstrate student achievement through the use of multiple measures that are valid and reliable.

4. Each participating district shall create its own design for a team-based variable pay plan linked to the district's comprehensive school improvement plan. The plan must include attendance center student performance goals, student performance levels, multiple indicators to determine progress toward attendance center goals, and a system for providing financial rewards. The team-based variable pay plan shall be approved by the local board.

5. Each district team-based variable pay plan shall be reviewed by the department. The department shall include a review of the locally established goals, targeted levels of improvement, assessment strategies, and financial reward system.

6. A district electing to initiate a team-based variable pay plan according to this section during the school year beginning July 1, 2003, shall notify the department of its election in writing no later than August 1, 2003. The department shall certify the school district plan by October 1, 2003.

7. The district team-based variable pay plan shall specify how the funding received by the district for purposes of this section is to be awarded to eligible staff in attendance centers that meet or exceed their goals. The district shall provide all attendance centers equal access to the available funds. Moneys shall be released by the department to the district only upon certification by the school board that an attendance center has met or exceeded its goals.

8. Moneys received for purposes of this section shall not be used for payment of any collective bargaining agreement or arbitrator's decision negotiated or awarded under chapter 20.

