

UNIFORM SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Footnotes

For student search restrictions, see chapter 808A

280.1 Title.

This chapter may be known and shall be cited as the "*Uniform School Requirements*" chapter.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.1]

280.2 Definitions.

The term "*public school*" means any school directly supported in whole or in part by taxation. The term "*nonpublic school*" means any other school which is accredited or which uses licensed practitioners as instructors.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § 4251; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.2]

91 Acts, ch 200, §1

280.3 Duties of board.

The board of directors of each public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall prescribe the minimum educational program and an attendance policy which shall require each child to attend school for at least one hundred forty-eight days, to be met by attendance for at least thirty-seven days each school quarter, for the schools under their jurisdictions. The minimum educational program shall be the curriculum set forth in section 256.11, except as otherwise provided by law. The board of directors of a public school district shall not allow discrimination in any educational program on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status or place of national origin.

A nonpublic school which is unable to meet the minimum educational program may request an exemption from the state board of education. The authorities in charge of the nonpublic school shall file with the director of the department of education the names and locations of all schools desiring to be exempted and the names, ages, and post office addresses of all pupils of compulsory school age who are enrolled. The director, subject to the approval of the state board, may exempt the nonpublic school from compliance with the minimum educational program for two school years. When the exemption has once been granted, renewal of the exemption for each succeeding school year may be conditioned by the director, with the approval of the board, upon proof of achievement in the basic skills of arithmetic, the communicative arts of reading, writing, grammar, and spelling, and an understanding of United States history, history of Iowa, and the principles of American government, of the pupils of compulsory school age exempted in the preceding year. Proof of achievement shall be determined on the basis of tests or other means of evaluation prescribed by the director of the department of education with the approval of the state board of education. The testing or evaluation, if required, shall be accomplished prior to submission of the request for renewal of the exemption. Renewal requests shall be filed with the director by April 15 of the school year preceding the school year for which the applicants desire exemption. This section shall not apply to schools eligible for exemption under section 299.24.

The board of directors of each public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall establish and maintain attendance centers based upon the needs of the school age pupils enrolled in the school district or nonpublic school. Public school kindergarten programs shall and public and nonpublic school prekindergarten programs may be provided. In addition, the board of directors or governing authority

may include in the educational program of any school such additional courses, subjects, or activities which it deems fit the needs of the pupils.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.3]

85 Acts, ch 212, §21, 22; 89 Acts, ch 210, §7; 91 Acts, ch 200, §2

280.3A Accredited nonpublic school child care programs.

Authorities in charge of accredited nonpublic schools may operate or contract for the operation of child care programs, as defined in section 279.49, subsection 1. The provisions of section 279.49 as they relate to child care programs of a school corporation and its board of directors apply to the child care programs of the accredited nonpublic school and the authority in charge.

94 Acts, ch 1175, §9; 99 Acts, ch 192, §33

280.4 Limited English proficiency weighting.

1. The medium of instruction in all secular subjects taught in both public and nonpublic schools shall be the English language, except when the use of a foreign language is deemed appropriate in the teaching of any subject or when the student is limited English proficient. When the student is limited English proficient, both public and nonpublic schools shall provide special instruction, which shall include but need not be limited to either instruction in English as a second language or transitional bilingual instruction until the student is fully English proficient or demonstrates a functional ability to speak, read, write, and understand the English language. As used in this section, "*limited English proficient*" means a student's language background is in a language other than English, and the student's proficiency in English is such that the probability of the student's academic success in an English-only classroom is below that of an academically successful peer with an English language background. "*Fully English proficient*" means a student who is able to read, understand, write, and speak the English language and to use English to ask questions, to understand teachers and reading materials, to test ideas, and to challenge what is being asked in the classroom.

2. The department of education shall adopt rules relating to the identification of limited English proficient students who require special instruction under this section and to application procedures for funds available under this section.

3. In order to provide funds for the excess costs of instruction of limited English proficient students above the costs of instruction of pupils in a regular curriculum, students identified as limited English proficient shall be assigned an additional weighting of twenty-two hundredths, and that weighting shall be included in the weighted enrollment of the school district of residence for a period not exceeding three years. However, the school budget review committee may grant supplemental aid or modified allowable growth to a school district to continue funding a program for students after the expiration of the three-year period.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § 4254; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, § 280.5; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.4; 82 Acts, ch 1260, § 48]

87 Acts, ch 224, § 52; 89 Acts, ch 135, §80; 91 Acts, ch 193, § 2; 93 Acts, ch 127, § 3; 2002 Acts, ch 1114, §1

280.5 Display of United States flag and Iowa state flag.

The board of directors of each public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall provide and maintain a suitable flagstaff on each school site under its control, and the United States flag and the Iowa state flag shall be raised on all school days when weather conditions are suitable.

[S13, § 2804-a, -b; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § 4253; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, § 280.4; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.5]

95 Acts, ch 1, §4

Footnotes

Display of flags on public buildings, § 1B.3

280.6 Religious books.

Religious books such as the Bible, the Torah, and the Koran shall not be excluded from any public school or institution in the state, nor shall any child be required to read such religious books contrary to the wishes of the child's parent or guardian.

[R60, § 2119; C73, § 1764; C97, § 2805; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § 4258; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, § 280.9; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.6]

280.7 Dental clinics.

Boards of directors in all public school districts may establish and maintain dental clinics for children and offer courses of instruction on mouth hygiene. The boards may employ such legally qualified dentists and dental hygienists as may be necessary to accomplish the purpose of this section. The cost of the dental clinic shall be paid from the general fund.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § 4260; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, § 280.11; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.7]

280.8 Special education.

The board of directors of each public school district shall make adequate educational provisions for each resident child requiring special education appropriate to the nature and severity of the child's disability pursuant to rules promulgated by the department under the provisions of chapters 256B and 273.

[C71, 73, § 280.22; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.8]

96 Acts, ch 1129, §75

280.9 Career education.

The board of directors of each local public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall incorporate into the educational program, in accordance with section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "a", the total concept of career education to enable students to become familiar with the values of a work-oriented society. Curricular and cocurricular teaching-learning experiences from the prekindergarten level through grade twelve shall be provided for all students currently enrolled in order to develop an understanding that employment may be meaningful and satisfying. However, career education does not mean a separate vocational-technical program is required. A vocational-technical program includes units or partial units in subjects which have as their purpose to equip students with marketable skills.

Essential elements in career education shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Awareness of self in relation to others and the needs of society.
2. Exploration of employment opportunities and experience in personal decision making.

3. Experiences which will help students to integrate work values and work skills into their lives.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.9]

2001 Acts, ch 159, §12

280.9A History and government required voter registration.

1. The board of directors of each local public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall require that all students in grades nine through twelve complete, as a condition of graduation, instruction in American history and the governments of Iowa and the United States, including instruction in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting machines in the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting an absentee ballot.

2. At least twice during each school year, the board of directors of each local public school district operating a high school and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school operating a high school shall offer the opportunity to register to vote to each student who is at least seventeen and one-half years of age, as required by section 48A.23.

88 Acts, ch 1129, §1; 90 Acts, ch 1238, § 38; 94 Acts, ch 1169, §57

280.9B Violence prevention curriculum.

The department of education shall develop a statewide violence prevention program based on law-related education. The department shall contract with a law-related education agency that serves the state and provides a comprehensive plan to develop violence prevention curricula for grades kindergarten through twelve, provide training to teachers and school administrators on violence prevention, and develop school-community partnerships for violence prevention.

94 Acts, ch 1172, §29

280.10 Eye-protective devices.

Every student and teacher in any public or nonpublic school shall wear industrial quality eye-protective devices at all times while participating, and while in a room or other enclosed area where others are participating, in any phase or activity of a course which may subject the student or teacher to the risk or hazard of eye injury from the materials or processes used in any of the following courses:

1. Vocational or industrial arts shops or laboratories involving experience with any of the following:

a. Hot molten metals.

b. Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding or stamping of any solid materials.

c. Heat treatment, tempering or kiln firing of any metal or other materials.

d. Gas or electric arc welding.

e. Repair or servicing of any vehicle while in the shop.

f. Caustic or explosive materials.

2. Chemical or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive chemicals or hot liquids or solids when risk is involved. Visitors to such shops and laboratories shall be furnished with and required to wear the necessary safety devices while such programs are in progress.

It shall be the duty of the teacher or other person supervising the students in said courses to see that the above requirements are complied with. Any student failing to comply with such requirements may be temporarily suspended from participation in the course and the registration of a student for the course may be canceled for willful, flagrant or repeated failure to observe the above requirements.

The board of directors of each local public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall provide the safety devices required herein. Such devices may be paid for from the general fund, but the board may require students and teachers to pay for the safety devices and shall make them available to students and teachers at no more than the actual cost to the district or school.

"Industrial quality eye-protective devices", as used in this section, means devices meeting American National Standard, Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection promulgated by the American National Standards Institute, Inc.

[C66, 71, 73, § 280.20; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.10]

280.11 Ear-protective devices.

1. Every student and teacher in any public or nonpublic school shall wear industrial quality ear-protective devices while the student or teacher is participating in any phase or activity of a course which may subject the student or teacher to the risk or hazard of hearing loss from noise in processes or procedures used in vocational or industrial arts shops or laboratories involving experiences with any of the following:

a. Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials.

b. Kiln firing of any metal or other materials.

c. Electric arc welding.

d. Repair or servicing of any vehicle while in shop.

e. Static tests, maintenance or repair of internal combustion engines.

f. Letter press, paper folders, monotype.

2. It shall be the duty of the teacher or other person supervising the students in said courses to see that the above requirements are complied with. Any student failing to comply with such requirements may be temporarily suspended from participation in the course and the registration of a student for the course may be canceled for willful, flagrant or repeated failure to observe the above requirements.

3. The board of directors of each local public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall provide the safety devices required in this section. Such devices may be paid for from the general fund, but the board may require students and teachers to pay for the safety devices and shall make them available to students and teachers at no more than the actual cost to the district or school.

4. a. *"Industrial quality ear-protective devices"*, as used in this section, means devices meeting the American National Standard for Measurement of the Real-Ear Attenuation of Ear Protectors at Threshold promulgated by the American National Standards Institute, Inc.

b. "Noise" as used in this section, means a noise level that meets or exceeds damage-risk criteria established by the present federal standard for occupational noise exposure, Occupational Safety and Health Standards.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.11]

99 Acts, ch 96, §28

280.12 School improvement advisory committee.

The board of directors of each public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall do the following:

1. Appoint a school improvement advisory committee to make recommendations to the board or authorities. The advisory committee shall consist of members representing students, parents, teachers, administrators, and representatives from the local community, which may include representatives of business, industry, labor, community agencies, higher education, or other community constituents. To the extent possible, committee membership shall have balanced representation with regard to race, gender, national origin, and disability.

2. Utilize the recommendations from the school improvement advisory committee to determine the following:

a. Major educational needs.

b. Student learning goals.

c. Long-range and annual improvement goals that include, but are not limited to, the state indicators that address reading, mathematics, and science achievement.

d. Desired levels of student performance.

e. Progress toward meeting the goals set out in paragraphs "*b*" through "*d*".

3. Consider recommendations from the school improvement advisory committee to infuse character education into the educational program.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.12]

85 Acts, ch 212, §8; 2001 Acts, ch 159, §13; 2003 Acts, ch 27, §2

280.13 Requirements for interscholastic athletic contests and competitions.

A public school shall not participate in or allow students representing a public school to participate in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition which is sponsored or administered by an organization as defined in this section, unless the organization is registered with the department of education, files financial statements with the department in the form and at the intervals prescribed by the director of the department of education, and is in compliance with rules which the state board of education adopts for the proper administration, supervision, operation, adoption of eligibility requirements, and scheduling of extracurricular interscholastic athletic contests and competitions and the organizations. For the purposes of this section "*organization*" means a corporation, association, or organization which has as one of its primary purposes the sponsoring or administration of extracurricular interscholastic athletic contests or competitions, but does not include an agency of this state, a public or private school or school board, or an athletic conference or other association whose interscholastic contests or competitions do not include more than twenty-four schools.

[C66, 71, 73, § 257.25(10); C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.13]

85 Acts, ch 212, § 24; 86 Acts, ch 1245, § 1468; 93 Acts, ch 101, § 204

280.13A Sharing interscholastic activities.

If a school district or nonpublic school does not provide an interscholastic activity for its students, the board of directors of that school district or the authorities in charge of the nonpublic school may complete an agreement with another school district or nonpublic school to provide for the eligibility of its students in interscholastic activities provided by that other school district or nonpublic school. A copy of each agreement completed under this section shall be filed with the appropriate organization as organization is defined in section 280.13 not later than April 30 of the school year preceding the school year in which the agreement takes effect, unless an exception is granted by the organization for good cause. An agreement completed under this section shall be deemed approved unless denied by the governing organization within ten days after its receipt. A governing organization shall determine whether an agreement would substantially prejudice the interscholastic activities of other schools. An agreement denied by a governing organization under this section may be appealed to the state board of education under chapter 290.

For the purpose of this section, "*substantial prejudice*" includes, but is not limited to, situations where shared interscholastic activities may result in an unfair domination of an interscholastic activity or substantial disruption of activity classifications and management.

It is not necessary that school districts that are parties to an agreement under this section must be engaged in sharing academic programming and receiving supplementary weighting under section 257.11.

87 Acts, ch 224, § 53; 88 Acts, ch 1134, § 62; 89 Acts, ch 135, § 81; 2002 Acts, ch 1129, § 3

280.13B Taping and broadcast fees restricted.

The Iowa high school athletic association or its successor organization, and the Iowa girls high school athletic union or its successor organization, shall not assess a charge for the videotape retransmission of a high school athletic tournament contest or event if the videotape retransmission does not occur earlier than twenty-four hours after the starting time of the live athletic contest or event.

96 Acts, ch 1190, § 1

280.14 School requirements administration.

1. The board or governing authority of each school or school district subject to the provisions of this chapter shall establish and maintain adequate administration, school staffing, personnel assignment policies, teacher qualifications, certification requirements, facilities, equipment, grounds, graduation requirements, instructional requirements, instructional materials, maintenance procedures, and policies on extracurricular activities. In addition, the board or governing authority of each school or school district shall provide such principals as it finds necessary to provide effective supervision and administration for each school and its faculty and student body.

2. An individual who is employed or contracted as a superintendent by a school or school district may also serve as an elementary or secondary principal in the same school or school district.

[C66, 71, 73, § 257.25(11, 15); C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.14]

93 Acts, ch 4, § 2; 2003 Acts, ch 180, § 34

Footnotes

Credit towards graduation for military basic training, see § 256.11(15)

280.15 Joint employment and sharing.

1. Two or more public school districts may jointly employ and share the services of any school personnel, or acquire and share the use of classrooms, laboratories, equipment and facilities. Classes made available to students in the manner provided in this section shall be considered as complying with the requirements of section 275.1 relating to the maintenance of kindergarten and twelve grades by a school district. If students attend classes in another school district under this section under an agreement that provides for whole grade sharing, the boards of directors of districts entering into these agreements shall provide for sharing the costs and expenses as provided in sections 282.10 through 282.12. If a district that has entered into a whole grade sharing agreement determines that a need exists to hire additional employees because of the whole grade sharing agreement, the district shall determine the nature and number of the necessary new positions. The district terminating employees as a result of a whole grade sharing agreement shall notify any other district, which is a party to the agreement, of the names and addresses of those terminated. Individuals who were employed by a district that entered into a whole grade sharing agreement and who were terminated as a result of the agreement shall be notified that the new positions exist and that they may apply for the new positions. The board shall offer the new position to an applicant from among those who were terminated as a result of the agreement if the applicant is licensed for the new position or, in the case of unlicensed personnel, is otherwise qualified. If two or more individuals from among those terminated as a result of the agreement apply for a single position, the applicant who is best qualified in the opinion of the board shall be offered the new position. However, the board is not required to offer a new position to applicants who were among those who were terminated as a result of the agreement beyond two school years. An employee who accrued benefits before a whole grade sharing agreement resulted in the employee's termination shall not, as a result of reemployment under this section, forfeit accrued vacation, accrued sick leave, longevity, completion of probationary status as defined by section 279.19, or salary or placement on a salary schedule based upon the employee's years of experience.

2. When a special education personnel pooling agreement, which has been entered into between an area education agency and a public school district pursuant to section 273.5, is terminated, the public school district shall assume the contractual obligations for any teachers assigned to the district under the agreement. Teachers, for whom the contractual obligations are assumed by a district, shall be given credit for completion of any probationary status under section 279.19, be placed on the salary schedule and retain all leaves, benefits, and seniority rights accumulated as if the teacher had been originally employed under the agreement which exists between the public school district and the district's collective bargaining unit, consistent with the teacher's education and experience.

A teacher who is employed under a pooling agreement and assigned to special education facilities that are separate from and not part of local school district facilities shall, if the teacher's employment terminates upon termination of the pooling agreement, be offered any teaching position that is similar to the position previously held by the teacher under the pooling agreement, which is vacant in any of the local school districts which participated in the pooling agreement, provided that the teacher possesses the appropriate license for the position. Teachers employed by a local school district under this paragraph shall have the same rights, privileges, and protection as teachers whose contractual obligations are assumed by a district to which the teacher previously had been assigned under a special education personnel pooling agreement.

[C66, 71, 73, § 257.25(16); C75, 77, 79, 81, § 280.15]

85 Acts, ch 212, § 9; 87 Acts, ch 224, § 54; 90 Acts, ch 1219, § 1; 91 Acts, ch 117, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1083, §1

Footnotes

See also § 256.12

280.16 Self-administration of asthma or other airway constricting disease medication.

1. *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

a. "Medication" means a drug that meets the definition provided in section 126.2, subsection 8, has an individual prescription label, is prescribed by a physician for a student, and pertains to the student's asthma or other airway constricting disease.

b. "Physician" means a person licensed under chapter 148, 150, or 150A, or a physician's assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or other person licensed or registered to distribute or dispense a prescription drug or device in the course of professional practice in this state in accordance with section 147.107, or a person licensed by another state in a health field in which, under Iowa law, licensees in this state may legally prescribe drugs.

c. "Self-administration" means a student's discretionary use of medication prescribed by a physician for the student.

2. The board of directors of a school district and the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall permit the self-administration of medication by a student with asthma or other airway constricting disease if the following conditions are met:

a. The student's parent or guardian provides to the school written authorization for the self-administration of medication.

b. The student's parent or guardian provides to the school a written statement from the student's physician containing the following information:

(1) The name and purpose of the medication.

(2) The prescribed dosage.

(3) The times at which or the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered.

c. The parent or guardian and the school meet the requirements of subsection 3.

3. The school district or accredited nonpublic school shall notify the parent or guardian of the student, in writing, that the school district or accredited nonpublic school and its employees are to incur no liability, except for gross negligence, as a result of any injury arising from self-administration of medication by the student. The parent or guardian of the student shall sign a statement acknowledging that the school district or nonpublic school is to incur no liability, except for gross negligence, as a result of self-administration of medication by the student. A school district or accredited nonpublic school and its employees acting reasonably and in good faith shall incur no liability for any improper use of medication as defined in this section or for supervising, monitoring, or interfering with a student's self-administration of medication as defined in this section.

4. The permission for self-administration of medication is effective for the school year for which it is granted and shall be renewed each subsequent school year upon fulfillment of the requirements of this section. However, the parent or guardian shall immediately notify the school of any changes in the conditions listed under subsection 2.

5. Provided that the requirements of this section are fulfilled, a student with asthma or other airway constricting disease may possess and use the student's medication while in school, at school-sponsored activities, under the supervision of school personnel, and before or after normal school activities, such as while in before-school or after-school care on school-operated property. If the student misuses this privilege, the privilege may be withdrawn.

6. Information provided to the school under subsection 2 shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, the school's administrator.

7. The Iowa braille and sight saving school, the state school for the deaf, and the institutions under the control of the department of human services as provided in section 218.1 are exempt from the provisions of this section.

2004 Acts, ch 1059, §1

280.17 Procedures for handling child abuse reports.

The board of directors of a public school and the authorities in control of a nonpublic school shall prescribe procedures, in accordance with the guidelines contained in the model policy developed by the department of education in consultation with the department of human services, and adopted by the department of education pursuant to chapter 17A, for the handling of reports of child abuse, as defined in section 232.68, subsection 2, paragraph "a", "c", or "e", alleged to have been committed by an employee or agent of the public or nonpublic school.

85 Acts, ch 173, §27; 98 Acts, ch 1100, § 36

280.17A Procedures for handling dangerous weapons.

The board of directors of a public school and the authorities in control of a nonpublic school shall prescribe procedures requiring school officials to report to local law enforcement agencies any dangerous weapon, as defined in section 702.7, possessed on school premises in violation of school policy or state law.

95 Acts, ch 191, §21

280.17B Students suspended or expelled for possession of dangerous weapons.

The board of directors of a public school and the authorities in control of a nonpublic school shall prescribe procedures for continued school involvement with a student who is suspended or expelled for possession of a dangerous weapon, as defined in section 702.7, on school premises in violation of state law and for the reintegration of the student into the school following the suspension or expulsion.

95 Acts, ch 191, §22

280.18 Student achievement goals. Repealed by 2001 Acts, ch 159, § 18.

280.19 Plans for at-risk children.

The board of directors of each public school district shall incorporate, into the kindergarten admissions program, criteria and procedures for identification and integration of at-risk children and their developmental needs. This incorporation shall be part of the comprehensive school improvement plan developed and implemented in accordance with section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraphs "a" and "c".

88 Acts, ch 1114, §4; 2001 Acts, ch 159, §14

280.19A Alternative options education programs disclosure of records.

By January 15, 1995, each school district shall adopt a plan to provide alternative options education programs to students who are either at risk of dropping out or have dropped out. An alternative options education program may be provided in a district, through a sharing agreement with a school in a contiguous district, or through an areawide program available at the community college serving the merged area in which the school district is located. Each area education agency shall provide assistance in establishing a plan to provide alternative education options to students attending a public school in a district served by the agency.

If a district has not adopted a plan as required in this section and implemented the plan by January 15, 1996, the area education agency serving the district shall assist the district with developing a plan and an alternative options education program for the pupil. When a plan is developed, the district shall be responsible for the operation of the program and shall reimburse the area education agency for the actual costs incurred by the area education agency under this section.

Notwithstanding section 22.7, subsection 1, records kept regarding a student who has participated in a program under this section shall be requested by school officials of a public or nonpublic receiving school in which the student seeks to enroll, and shall be provided by the sending school. A school official who receives information under this section shall disclose this information only to those school officials and employees whose duties require them to be involved with the student. A school official or employee who discloses information received under this section in violation of this paragraph shall be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to reprimand, suspension, or termination. "*School officials and employees*" means those officials and persons employed by a nonpublic school or public school district, and area education agency staff members who provide services to schools or school districts.

90 Acts, ch 1271, §1102; 94 Acts, ch 1131, §4; 94 Acts, ch 1172, §30

Footnotes

Minimum hours of instruction requirement adopted by state board of education not applicable to alternative programs; 90 Acts, ch 1271, § 1104

280.20 Vocational agriculture education.

It is the intent of the general assembly to encourage the public secondary schools to develop comprehensive programs for vocational education in agriculture technology to meet the diverse needs of Iowa's students and to ensure an adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals in all phases of the agriculture industry. The board of directors of each public school district may develop, as part of the curriculum in grades nine through twelve, programs for vocational education in agriculture technology.

It is also the intent of the general assembly to encourage the development of programs for vocational education in agriculture technology which are structured on a twelve-month basis and which include the following:

1. Provision for twelve-month extended contracts to permit entrepreneurial agricultural experience, summer program planning, and recordkeeping.

Supervision and accountability of vocational agriculture teachers employed for extended contracts are the responsibility of the local school board.

2. Submission of an annual summer program by each vocational agriculture instructor, employed on an extended contract basis.

3. The following reports shall be made available to the council for agricultural education upon request:

a. A summary of summer activities completed for each vocational agriculture instructor employed on an extended contract.

b. A summary of supervised agricultural experience programs conducted during the year in vocational agriculture.

4. Provision for instructional supervision for agricultural occupational experience programs.

88 Acts, ch 1264, §2

280.21 Corporal punishment burden of proof.

1. An employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency shall not inflict, or cause to be inflicted, corporal punishment upon a student. For purposes of this section, "*corporal punishment*" means the intentional physical punishment of a student. An employee's physical contact with the body of a student shall not be considered corporal punishment if it is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances and is not designed or intended to cause pain or if the employee uses reasonable force, as defined under section 704.1, for the protection of the employee, the student, or other students; to obtain the possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control; or for the protection of property. The department of education shall adopt rules to implement this section.

2. A school employee who, in the reasonable course of the employee's employment responsibilities, comes into physical contact with a student shall be granted immunity from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of such physical contact, if the physical contact is reasonable under the circumstances and involves the following:

a. Encouraging, supporting, or disciplining the student.

b. Protecting the employee, the student, or other students.

c. Obtaining possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control.

d. Protecting employee, student, or school property.

e. Quelling a disturbance or preventing an act threatening physical harm to any person.

f. Removing a disruptive student from class or any area of the school premises, or from school-sponsored activities off school premises.

g. Preventing a student from the self-infliction of harm.

h. Self-defense.

i. Any other legitimate educational activity.

3. To prevail in a civil action alleging a violation of this section the party bringing the action shall prove the violation by clear and convincing evidence. Any school employee determined in a civil action to have been wrongfully accused under this section shall be awarded reasonable monetary damages, in light of the circumstances involved, against the party bringing the action.

89 Acts, ch 71, §1; 90 Acts, ch 1218, § 1; 94 Acts, ch 1131, §5; 98 Acts, ch 1195, § 1

280.21A Leave episode of violence.

1. A school employee who, in the course of employment, suffers a personal injury causing temporary total disability, or a permanent partial or total disability, resulting from an episode of violence toward that employee, for which workers' compensation under chapter 85 is payable, shall be entitled to receive workers' compensation, which the district shall supplement in order for the employee to receive full salary and benefits for the shortest of the following periods:

- a. One year from the date of the disability.
- b. The period during which the employee is disabled and incapable of employment.

During the period described in paragraph "a" or "b", the school employee shall not be required to use accumulated sick leave or vacation.

2. The school district may require the employee, as a condition of receiving benefits under this section, to provide a signed statement that justifies the use of this leave and, if medical attention is required, a certificate from a licensed physician that states the nature and duration of the leave.

3. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means a person employed by a nonpublic school or school district, or any area education agency staff member who provides services to a school or school district.

94 Acts, ch 1131, §6

280.21B Expulsion weapons in school.

The board of directors of a school district and the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school which receives services supported by federal funds shall expel from school for a period of not less than one year a student who is determined to have brought a weapon to a school or knowingly possessed a weapon at a school under the jurisdiction of the board or the authorities. However, the superintendent or chief administering officer of a school or school district may modify expulsion requirements on a case-by-case basis. This section shall not be construed to prevent the board of directors of a school district or the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school that have expelled a student from the student's regular school setting from providing educational services to the student in an alternative setting. If both this section and section 282.4 apply, this section takes precedence over section 282.4. For purposes of this section, "weapon" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921. This section shall be construed in a manner consistent with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

95 Acts, ch 191, §23

280.22 Student exercise of free expression.

1. Except as limited by this section, students of the public schools have the right to exercise freedom of speech, including the right of expression in official school publications.

2. Students shall not express, publish, or distribute any of the following:

- a. Materials which are obscene.
- b. Materials which are libelous or slanderous under chapter 659.
- c. Materials which encourage students to do any of the following:

(1) Commit unlawful acts.

(2) Violate lawful school regulations.

(3) Cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

3. There shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except when the material violates this section.

4. Each board of directors of a public school shall adopt rules in the form of a written publications code, which shall include reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of conducting such activities within its jurisdiction. The board shall make the code available to the students and their parents.

5. Student editors of official school publications shall assign and edit the news, editorial, and feature content of their publications subject to the limitations of this section. Journalism advisers of students producing official school publications shall supervise the production of the student staff, to maintain professional standards of English and journalism, and to comply with this section.

6. Any expression made by students in the exercise of free speech, including student expression in official school publications, shall not be deemed to be an expression of school policy, and the public school district and school employees or officials shall not be liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students, unless the school employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression, and then only to the extent of the interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

7. "*Official school publications*" means material produced by students in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.

8. This section does not prohibit a board of directors of a public school from adopting otherwise valid rules relating to oral communications by students upon the premises of each school.

89 Acts, ch 155, §1

280.23 Student health services.

The board of directors of each public school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall not require nonadministrative personnel to perform any special health services or intrusive nonemergency medical services for students unless the nonadministrative personnel are licensed or otherwise qualified and have consented to perform the services.

92 Acts, ch 1033, § 1

280.24 Procedures for reporting drug or alcohol possession or use.

The board of directors of each public school and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall prescribe procedures to report any use or possession of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer or any controlled substance on school premises to local law enforcement agencies, if the use or possession is in violation of school policy or state law. The procedures may include a provision which does not require a report when the school officials have determined that a school at-risk or other student assistance program would be jeopardized if a student self reports.

97 Acts, ch 126, §38

280.25 Information sharing interagency agreements.

1. The board of directors of each public school and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall adopt a policy and the superintendent of each public school shall adopt rules which provide that the school district or school may share information contained within a student's permanent record pursuant to an interagency agreement with state and local agencies that are part of the juvenile justice system. These agencies include, but are not limited to, juvenile court services, the department of human services, and local law enforcement authorities. The disclosure of information shall be directly related to the juvenile justice system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records are being released.
2. The purpose of the agreement shall be to reduce juvenile crime by promoting cooperation and collaboration and the sharing of appropriate information among the parties in a joint effort to improve school safety, reduce alcohol and illegal drug use, reduce truancy, reduce in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and to support alternatives to in-school and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions which provide structured and well-supervised educational programs supplemented by coordinated and appropriate services designed to correct behaviors that lead to truancy, suspension, and expulsions and to support students in successfully completing their education.
3. Information shared under the agreement shall be used solely for determining the programs and services appropriate to the needs of the juvenile or the juvenile's family, or coordinating the delivery of programs and services to the juvenile or the juvenile's family.
4. Information shared by the school district or school under the agreement is not admissible in any court proceedings which take place prior to a disposition hearing, unless written consent is obtained from a student's parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian.
5. Information shared by another party to the agreement with a school district or school pursuant to an interagency agreement shall not be used as a basis for a school disciplinary action against a student.
6. The interagency agreement shall provide, and each signatory agency to the agreement shall certify in the agreement, that confidential information shared among the parties to the agreement shall remain confidential and shall not be shared with any other person, school, school district, or agency, unless otherwise provided by law.
7. Juvenile court social records may be disclosed in accordance with section 232.147, subsection 7.
8. A school or school district entering into an interagency agreement under this section shall adopt a policy implementing the provisions of the interagency agreement. The policy shall include, but not be limited to, the provisions of the interagency agreement and the procedures to be used by the school or school district to share information from the student's permanent record with participating agencies. The policy shall be published in the student handbook.

97 Acts, ch 126, §39; 2000 Acts, ch 1123, §4

280.26 Intervention in altercations.

1. An employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency may intervene in a fight or physical struggle occurring among students or between students and nonstudents that takes place in the presence of the school employee in a school building, on school premises, or at any school function or school-sponsored activity regardless of its location. The degree and force of the intervention may be as reasonably necessary, in the opinion of the school employee, to restore order and protect the safety of the individuals involved in the altercation and others in the vicinity of the altercation.

2. A person who is not an employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency may intervene in a fight or physical struggle occurring among students, or between students and nonstudents, that takes place in the presence of the nonemployee in a school building, on school premises, or at any school function or school-sponsored activity regardless of its location. The intervention may occur in the absence of an employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency, or at the request of such an employee, utilizing the degree and force of intervention reasonably necessary to restore order and protect the safety of the individuals involved in the altercation and others in the vicinity of the altercation. However, a person who intervenes in the absence of an employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency shall report the intervention and all relevant information regarding the situation as soon as reasonably possible to such an employee.

3. An employee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency who intervenes in a fight or physical struggle pursuant to subsection 1 shall be awarded reasonable monetary damages against a party bringing a civil action alleging a violation of this section, if it is determined in the action that the employee has been wrongfully accused. A nonemployee of an accredited public school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency who intervenes in a fight or physical struggle pursuant to subsection 2 shall be limited to the recovery of reasonable attorney fees and court costs, if it is determined in a civil action alleging a violation of this section that the nonemployee has been wrongfully accused.

98 Acts, ch 1195, §2

280.27 Reporting violence immunity.

An employee of a school district, an accredited nonpublic school, or an area education agency who participates in good faith and acts reasonably in the making of a report to, or investigation by, an appropriate person or agency regarding violence, threats of violence, or other inappropriate activity against a school employee or student in a school building, on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored function shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such action, as well as for participating in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from or relating to the report or investigation.

2000 Acts, ch 1162, §1

Footnotes

See §613.21