

FINANCING SCHOOL PROGRAMS

257.1 State school foundation program state aid.

1. *Program established.* A state school foundation program is established for the school year commencing July 1, 1991, and succeeding school years.

2. *State school foundation aid foundation base.* For a budget year, each school district in the state is entitled to receive foundation aid, in an amount per pupil equal to the difference between the amount per pupil of foundation property tax in the district, and the combined foundation base per pupil or the combined district cost per pupil, whichever is less. However, if the amount of foundation aid received by a school district under this chapter is less than three hundred dollars per pupil, the district is entitled to receive three hundred dollars per pupil unless the receipt of three hundred dollars per pupil plus the per pupil amount raised by the foundation property tax exceeds the combined district cost per pupil of the district for the budget year. In that case, the district is entitled to receive an amount per pupil equal to the difference between the per pupil amount raised by the foundation property tax for the budget year and the combined district cost per pupil for the budget year.

For the budget year commencing July 1, 1999, and for each succeeding budget year the regular program foundation base per pupil is eighty-seven and five-tenths percent of the regular program state cost per pupil. For the budget year commencing July 1, 1991, and for each succeeding budget year the special education support services foundation base is seventy-nine percent of the special education support services state cost per pupil. The combined foundation base is the sum of the regular program foundation base and the special education support services foundation base.

For the budget year commencing July 1, 1999, the department of management shall add the amount of the additional budget adjustment computed in section 257.14, subsection 1, to the combined foundation base.

3. *Computations rounded.* In making computations and payments under this chapter, except in the case of computations relating to funding of special education support services, media services, and educational services provided through the area education agencies, the department of management shall round amounts to the nearest whole dollar.

4. *Legislative review.* The provisions of this chapter shall be subject to legislative review at least every five years. The review shall be based upon a school finance formula status report containing the recommendations of a legislative interim committee appointed to conduct a review of the school finance formula, to be prepared with the assistance of the department of education, in association with the departments of management and revenue. The report shall include recommendations for school finance formula changes or revisions based upon demographic changes, enrollment trends, and property tax valuation fluctuations observed during the preceding five-year interval; an analysis of the operation of the school finance formula during the preceding five-year interval; and a summary of issues that have arisen since the previous review and potential approaches for their resolution. The first such report shall be submitted to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2005, with subsequent reports developed and submitted by January 1 at least every fifth year thereafter.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 1; 91 Acts, ch 267, §517; 95 Acts, ch 130, §1; 96 Acts, ch 1197, §5, 6; 99 Acts, ch 2, §1, 4; 99 Acts, ch 178, §1, 10; 2000 Acts, ch 1186, §2; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286

257.2 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

1. *"Allowable growth"* means the amount by which state cost per pupil and district cost per pupil will increase

from one budget year to the next.

2. "*Base year*" means the school year ending during the calendar year in which a budget is certified.
3. "*Budget adjustment*" means an adjustment to the regular program district cost of a school district for school districts in which the regular program district cost for a year would be less than the regular program district cost for the previous year.
4. "*Budget year*" means the school year beginning during the calendar year in which a budget is certified.
5. "*Combined district cost per pupil*" is an amount determined by adding together the regular program district cost per pupil for a year and the special education support services district cost per pupil for that year as calculated under section 257.10.
6. "*Combined state cost per pupil*" is a per pupil amount determined by adding together the regular program state cost per pupil for a year and the special education support services state cost per pupil for that year as calculated under section 257.9.
7. "*Committee*" means the school budget review committee.
8. "*Expenditures*" means the total amounts paid from the general fund of a school district.
9. "*Miscellaneous income*" means the receipts deposited to the general fund of the school district but not including any of the following:
 - a. Foundation aid.
 - b. Revenue obtained from the foundation property tax.
 - c. Revenue obtained from the additional property tax under section 257.4.
10. "*Property tax adjustment*" means state aid distributed to those school districts in which the property tax revenues generated under this chapter would be higher than the revenues generated under chapter 442, Code 1991.
11. "*School district*" means a school corporation organized under chapter 274.
12. "*State percent of growth*" means the percent of growth which is established by statute pursuant to section 257.8, and which is used in determining the allowable growth.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 2; 90 Acts, ch 1190, § 1; 91 Acts, ch 267, §518; 94 Acts, ch 1023, §93

257.3 Foundation property tax.

1. *Amount of tax.* Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, a school district shall cause to be levied each year, for the school general fund, a foundation property tax equal to five dollars and forty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation on all taxable property in the district. The county auditor shall spread the foundation levy over all taxable property in the district.

The amount paid to each school district for the tax replacement claim for industrial machinery, equipment and computers under section 427B.19A shall be regarded as property tax. The portion of the payment which

is foundation property tax shall be determined by applying the foundation property tax rate to the amount computed under section 427B.19, subsection 3, paragraph "a", as adjusted by paragraph "d", if any adjustment was made.

Replacement taxes under chapter 437A shall be regarded as property taxes for purposes of this chapter.

2. Tax for reorganized and dissolved districts.

a. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a reorganized school district shall cause a foundation property tax of four dollars and forty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to be levied on all taxable property which, in the year preceding a reorganization, was within a school district affected by the reorganization as defined in section 275.1, or in the year preceding a dissolution was a part of a school district that dissolved if the dissolution proposal has been approved by the director of the department of education pursuant to section 275.55.

b. In succeeding school years, the foundation property tax levy on that portion shall be increased to the rate of four dollars and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation the first succeeding year, five dollars and fifteen cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation the second succeeding year, and five dollars and forty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation the third succeeding year and each year thereafter.

c. The foundation property tax levy reduction pursuant to this subsection shall be available if either of the following apply:

(1) In the year preceding the reorganization or dissolution, the school district affected by the reorganization or the school district that dissolved had a certified enrollment of fewer than six hundred pupils.

(2) In the year preceding the reorganization or dissolution, the school district affected by the reorganization or the school district that dissolved had a certified enrollment of six hundred pupils or greater, and entered into a reorganization or dissolution with one or more school districts with a certified enrollment of fewer than six hundred pupils. The amount of foundation property tax reduction received by a school district qualifying for the reduction pursuant to this subparagraph shall not exceed the highest reduction amount provided in paragraphs "a" and "b" received by any of the school districts with a certified enrollment of fewer than six hundred pupils involved in the reorganization pursuant to subparagraph (1) of this paragraph "c".

d. For purposes of this section, a reorganized school district is one which absorbs at least thirty percent of the enrollment of the school district affected by a reorganization or dissolved during a dissolution and in which action to bring about a reorganization or dissolution is initiated by a vote of the board of directors or jointly by the affected boards of directors to take effect on or after July 1, 2002, and on or before July 1, 2006. Each district which initiated, by a vote of the board of directors or jointly by the affected boards, action to bring about a reorganization or dissolution to take effect on or after July 1, 2002, and on or before July 1, 2006, shall certify the date and the nature of the action taken to the department of education by January 1 of the year in which the reorganization or dissolution takes effect.

3. Railway corporations. For purposes of section 257.1, the "*amount per pupil of foundation property tax*" does not include the tax levied under subsection 1 or 2 on the property of a railway corporation, or on its trustee if the corporation has been declared bankrupt or is in bankruptcy proceedings.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 3; 91 Acts, ch 178, §1; 93 Acts, ch 180, § 9295; 95 Acts, ch 206, §34; 98 Acts, ch 1194, § 27, 40; 2001 Acts, ch 126, §13; 2003 Acts, ch 180, §10, 71

257.4 Additional property tax.

1. Computation of tax.

a. A school district shall cause an additional property tax to be levied each year. The rate of the additional property tax levy in a school district shall be determined by the department of management and shall be calculated to raise the difference between the combined district cost for the budget year and the sum of the products of the regular program foundation base per pupil times the weighted enrollment in the district and the special education support services foundation base per pupil times the special education support services weighted enrollment in the district.

b. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2006, and succeeding budget years, the department of management shall determine an adjusted additional property tax levy and a statewide maximum adjusted additional property tax levy rate. For purposes of this paragraph, the adjusted additional property tax levy shall be that portion of the additional property tax levy corresponding to the state cost per pupil multiplied by a school district's weighted enrollment, and then multiplied by one hundred percent less the regular program foundation base per pupil percentage pursuant to section 257.1. The district shall receive adjusted additional property tax levy aid in an amount equal to the difference between the adjusted additional property tax levy rate and the statewide maximum adjusted additional property tax levy rate, as applied per thousand dollars of assessed valuation on all taxable property in the district. The statewide maximum adjusted additional property tax levy rate shall be annually determined by the department taking into account amounts allocated pursuant to section 257.15, subsection 4.

2. *Supplemental aid.* However, if the rate of the additional property tax levy determined under subsection 1 with the application of section 257.15 for a budget year for a reorganized school district is higher than the rate of additional property tax levy determined under subsection 1 with the application of section 257.15 for the year previous to the reorganization for a school district that had a certified enrollment of less than six hundred and that was within the school districts affected by the reorganization as defined in section 275.1, the department of management shall reduce the rate of the additional property tax levy in the portion of the reorganized district where the new rate is higher, to the rate that was levied in that portion of the district during the year preceding the reorganization, for a five-year period. The department of management shall include in the state aid payments made to each reorganized school district under section 257.16 during each of the first five years of existence of the reorganized district as supplemental aid, moneys equal to the reduction in property tax revenues made under this subsection. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the base year calculation shall be made using chapter 442, Code 1991.

For purposes of this section, a reorganized school district is one in which action to bring about a reorganization was initiated by a vote of the board of directors or jointly by the affected boards of directors prior to November 30, 1990, and the reorganization will take effect on or after July 1, 1991, and on or before July 1, 1993. Each district which initiated, by a vote of the board of directors or jointly by the affected boards, action to bring about a reorganization or dissolution by November 30, 1990, shall certify the date and the nature of the action taken to the department of education by September 1, 1991.

3. *Application of tax.* No later than June 15 of each year, the department of management shall notify the county auditor of each county the amount, in dollars and cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, of the additional property tax levy in each school district in the county. A county auditor shall spread the additional property tax levy for each school district in the county over all taxable property in the district.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 4; 91 Acts, ch 178, §2; 93 Acts, ch 1, §3; 2001 Acts, ch 126, §4, 12; 2006 Acts, ch 1182, §38, 53

257.5 Continuation of supplemental aid.

A reorganized school district, as defined in section 257.4, subsection 2, receiving supplemental aid prior to July 1, 1991, under section 442.9A, Code 1991, shall continue to receive supplemental aid as provided in that section for the five-year period specified in that section.

There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the department of management for each fiscal year an amount sufficient to pay the supplemental aid to school districts under this section. Supplemental aid shall be paid in the manner provided in section 257.16.

For the purpose of the department of management's determination of the portion of a school district's budget that was property tax and the portion that was state aid under section 257.36, supplemental aid shall be considered property tax.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 5; 91 Acts, ch 178, §3

257.6 Enrollment.

1. *Actual enrollment.* Actual enrollment is determined annually on October 1, or the first Monday in October if October 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, and includes all of the following:

- a. Resident pupils who were enrolled in public schools within the district in grades kindergarten through twelve and including prekindergarten pupils enrolled in special education programs.
- b. Full-time equivalent resident pupils of high school age for which the district pays tuition to attend an Iowa community college.
- c. Shared-time and part-time pupils of school age enrolled in public schools within the district, irrespective of the districts in which the pupils reside, in the proportion that the time for which they are enrolled or receive instruction for the school year is to the time that full-time pupils carrying a normal course schedule, at the same grade level, in the same school district, for the same school year, are enrolled and receive instruction. Tuition charges to the parent or guardian of a shared-time or part-time nonresident pupil shall be reduced by the amount of any increased state aid received by the district by the counting of the pupil.
- d. Eleventh and twelfth grade nonresident pupils who were residents of the district during the preceding school year and are enrolled in the district until the pupils graduate. Tuition for those pupils shall not be charged by the district in which the pupils are enrolled and the requirements of section 282.18 do not apply.
- e. Resident pupils receiving competent private instruction from a licensed practitioner provided through a public school district pursuant to chapter 299A shall be counted as six-tenths of one pupil.
- f. Resident pupils receiving competent private instruction under dual enrollment pursuant to chapter 299A shall be counted as one-tenth of one pupil.

Pupils attending a university laboratory school are not counted in the actual enrollment of a school district, but the laboratory school shall report their enrollment directly to the department of education.

A school district shall certify its actual enrollment to the department of education by October 15 of each year, and the department shall promptly forward the information to the department of management.

The department of management shall adjust the enrollment of the school district for the audit year based upon reports filed under section 11.6, and shall further adjust the budget of the second year succeeding the audit year for the property tax and state aid portions of the reported differences in enrollments for the year succeeding the audit year.

2. *Basic enrollment.* Basic enrollment for a budget year is a district's actual enrollment for the base year. Basic enrollment for the base year is a district's actual enrollment for the year preceding the base year.

3. *Additional enrollment because of special education.* A school district shall determine its additional

enrollment because of special education, as defined in this section, by November 1 of each year and shall certify its additional enrollment because of special education to the department of education by November 15 of each year, and the department shall promptly forward the information to the department of management.

For the purposes of this chapter, "*additional enrollment because of special education*" is determined by multiplying the weighting of each category of child under section 256B.9 times the number of children in each category totaled for all categories minus the total number of children in all categories.

4. *Budget enrollment.* Budget enrollment for the budget year is the basic enrollment for the budget year.

5. *Weighted enrollment.* Weighted enrollment is the budget enrollment plus the district's additional enrollment because of special education calculated by November 1 of the base year plus additional pupils added due to the application of the supplementary weighting.

Weighted enrollment for special education support services costs is equal to the weighted enrollment minus the additional pupils added due to the application of the supplementary weighting.

6. *Students excluded.* For the school year beginning July 1, 2001, and each succeeding school year, a student shall not be included in a district's enrollment for purposes of this chapter or considered an eligible pupil under chapter 261C if the student meets all of the following:

a. Was eligible to receive a diploma with the class in which they were enrolled and that class graduated in the previous school year.

b. Continues enrollment in the district to take courses either provided by the district, offered by community colleges under the provisions of section 257.11, or to take courses under the provisions of chapter 261C.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 6; 92 Acts, ch 1187, §2; 92 Acts, ch 1230, §1, 2; 92 Acts, ch 1247, §47; 2001 Acts, ch 159, §68; 2001 Acts, ch 176, §32, 33; 2006 Acts, ch 1152, §22, 23

257.7 Authorized expenditures.

1. *Budgets.* School districts are subject to chapter 24. The authorized expenditures of a school district during a base year shall not exceed the lesser of the budget for that year certified under section 24.17 plus any allowable amendments permitted in this section, or the authorized budget, which is the sum of the combined district cost for that year, the actual miscellaneous income received for that year, and the actual unspent balance from the preceding year.

2. *Budget amendments.* If actual miscellaneous income for a budget year exceeds the anticipated miscellaneous income in the certified budget for that year, or if an unspent balance has not been previously certified, a school district may amend its certified budget.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 7; 90 Acts, ch 1190, § 2

257.8 State percent of growth allowable growth.

1. *State percent of growth.* The state percent of growth for the budget year beginning July 1, 2006, is four percent. The state percent of growth for the budget year beginning July 1, 2007, is four percent. The state percent of growth for each subsequent budget year shall be established by statute which shall be enacted within thirty days of the submission in the year preceding the base year of the governor's budget under section 8.21. The establishment of the state percent of growth for a budget year shall be the only subject matter of the bill which enacts the state percent of growth for a budget year.

2. *Allowable growth calculation.* The department of management shall calculate the regular program allowable growth for a budget year by multiplying the state percent of growth for the budget year by the regular program state cost per pupil for the base year and shall calculate the special education support services allowable growth for the budget year by multiplying the state percent of growth for the budget year by the special education support services state cost per pupil for the base year.

3. *Alternate allowable growth gifted and talented programs.* Notwithstanding the calculation in subsection 2, the department of management shall calculate the regular program allowable growth for the budget year beginning July 1, 1999, by multiplying the state percent of growth for the budget year by the regular program state cost per pupil for the base year, and add to the resulting product thirty-eight dollars. For purposes of determining the amount of a budget adjustment as defined in section 257.14, for a school district which calculated allowable growth for the budget year beginning July 1, 1999, pursuant to this subsection, thirty-eight dollars shall be subtracted from the school district's regular program cost per pupil for the budget year beginning July 1, 1999, prior to determining the amount of the adjustment.

4. *Alternate allowable growth regular program state cost.* A school district which calculated allowable growth for the budget year beginning July 1, 1999, pursuant to the provisions of subsection 3, shall calculate allowable growth pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 for the school budget year beginning July 1, 2000, and succeeding budget years, utilizing a regular program state cost per pupil figure which incorporates the thirty-eight dollar increase in regular program allowable growth calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 1999.

5. *Combined allowable growth.* The combined allowable growth per pupil for each school district is the sum of the regular program allowable growth per pupil and the special education support services allowable growth per pupil for the budget year, which may be modified as follows:

a. By the school budget review committee under section 257.31.

b. By the department of management under section 257.36.

6. *Alternate allowable growth definitions.* For budget years beginning July 1, 2000, and subsequent budget years, references to the terms "*allowable growth*", "*regular program state cost per pupil*", and "*regular program district cost per pupil*" shall mean those terms as calculated for those school districts that calculated regular program allowable growth for the school budget year beginning July 1, 1999, with the additional thirty-eight dollars.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 8; 92 Acts, ch 1227, §15; 95 Acts, ch 11, §1; 96 Acts, ch 1001, §1; 98 Acts, ch 1005, § 1, 2; 99 Acts, ch 1, §1, 2; 99 Acts, ch 178, §2, 10; 2000 Acts, ch 1001, §1, 2; 2001 Acts, ch 2, §1, 2; 2002 Acts, ch 1159, §1, 2; 2002 Acts, ch 1167, §1, 6; 2003 Acts, ch 1, §1, 2; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §234, 287; 2005 Acts, ch 1, §1, 2; 2006 Acts, ch 1154, §1, 2

2006 amendment to subsection 1 is applicable for computing state aid under the state school foundation program for the school budget year beginning July 1, 2007; 2006 Acts, ch 1154, §2

257.9 State cost per pupil.

1. *Regular program state cost per pupil for 1991-1992.* For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, for the regular program state cost per pupil, the department of management shall add together the sum of the products of each district's regular program district cost per pupil for the base year, as regular program district cost per pupil would have been calculated under section 442.9, Code 1989, multiplied by its budget enrollment as budget enrollment would have been calculated under section 442.4, Code 1989, for the base year, plus the sum of the amounts added to the district cost of school districts pursuant to section 442.21, Code 1989.

The total calculated under this subsection shall be divided by the total of the budget enrollments of all school districts for the budget year beginning July 1, 1990, calculated under section 257.6, subsection 4, if section 257.6, subsection 4, had been in effect for that budget year. The regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, is the amount calculated by the department of management under this subsection plus an allowable growth amount that is equal to the state percent of growth for the budget year multiplied by the amount calculated by the department of management under this subsection.

2. Regular program state cost per pupil for 1992-1993 and succeeding years. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1992, and succeeding budget years, the regular program state cost per pupil for a budget year is the regular program state cost per pupil for the base year plus the regular program allowable growth for the budget year.

3. Special education support services state cost per pupil for 1991-1992. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, for the special education support services state cost per pupil, the department of management shall divide the total of the approved budgets of the area education agencies for special education support services for that year approved by the state board of education under section 273.3, subsection 12, by the total of the weighted enrollment for special education support services in the state for the budget year. The special education support services state cost per pupil for the budget year is the amount calculated by the department of management under this subsection.

4. Special education support services state cost per pupil for 1992-1993 and succeeding years. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1992, and succeeding budget years, the special education support services state cost per pupil for the budget year is the special education support services state cost per pupil for the base year plus the special education support services allowable growth for the budget year.

5. Combined state cost per pupil. The combined state cost per pupil is the sum of the regular program state cost per pupil and the special education support services state cost per pupil.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 9; 90 Acts, ch 1190, § 3

257.10 District cost per pupil district cost.

1. Regular program district cost per pupil for 1991-1992. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, in order to determine the regular program district cost per pupil for a district, the department of management shall divide the product of the regular program district cost per pupil of the district for the base year, as regular program district cost per pupil would have been calculated under section 442.9, Code 1989, multiplied by its budget enrollment for the base year as budget enrollment would have been calculated under section 442.4, Code 1989, plus the amount added to district cost pursuant to section 442.21, Code 1989, for each school district, by the budget enrollment of the school district for the budget year beginning July 1, 1990, calculated under section 257.6, subsection 4, as if section 257.6, subsection 4, had been in effect for that budget year. The regular program district cost per pupil for the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, is the amount calculated by the department of management under this subsection plus the allowable growth amount calculated for regular program state cost per pupil, except that if the regular program district cost per pupil for the budget year calculated under this subsection in any school district exceeds one hundred ten percent of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year, the department of management shall reduce the regular program district cost per pupil of that district for the budget year to an amount equal to one hundred ten percent of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year, and if the regular program district cost per pupil for the budget year calculated under this subsection in any school district is less than the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year, the department of management shall increase the regular program district cost per pupil of that district to an amount equal to the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year.

2. Regular program district cost per pupil for 1992-1993 and succeeding years.

a. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1992, and succeeding budget years, the regular program district cost per pupil for each school district for a budget year is the regular program district cost per pupil for the base year plus the regular program allowable growth for the budget year except as otherwise provided in this subsection.

b. If the regular program district cost per pupil of a school district for the budget year under paragraph "a" exceeds one hundred five percent of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year and the state percent of growth for the budget year is greater than two percent, the regular program district cost per pupil for the budget year for that district shall be reduced to one hundred five percent of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year. However, if the difference between the regular program district cost per pupil for the budget year and the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year is greater than an amount equal to two percent multiplied by the regular program state cost per pupil for the base year, the regular program district cost per pupil for the budget year shall be reduced by the amount equal to two percent multiplied by the regular program state cost per pupil for the base year.

3. *Special education support services district cost per pupil for 1991-1992.* For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, for the special education support services district cost per pupil, the department of management shall divide the approved budget of each area education agency for special education support services for that year approved by the state board of education, under section 273.3, subsection 12, by the total of the weighted enrollment for special education support services in the area for that budget year.

The special education support services district cost per pupil for each school district in an area for the budget year is the amount calculated by the department of management under this subsection.

4. *Special education support services district cost per pupil for 1992-1993 and succeeding years.* For the budget year beginning July 1, 1992, and succeeding budget years, the special education support services district cost per pupil for the budget year is the special education support services district cost per pupil for the base year plus the special education support services allowable growth for the budget year.

Notwithstanding the special education support services district cost per pupil for the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, calculated under subsection 3, for area education agencies that have fewer than three and five-tenths public school pupils per square mile, the special education support services district cost per pupil for the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, is one hundred forty-seven dollars.

5. *Combined district cost per pupil.* The combined district cost per pupil for a school district is the sum of the regular program district cost per pupil and the special education support services district cost per pupil. Combined district cost per pupil does not include modified allowable growth added for school districts that have a negative balance of funds raised for special education instruction programs, modified allowable growth granted by the school budget review committee for a single school year, or modified allowable growth added for programs for dropout prevention.

6. *Regular program district cost.* Regular program district cost for a school district for a budget year is equal to the regular program district cost per pupil for the budget year multiplied by the budget enrollment for the budget year.

7. *Special education support services district cost.* Special education support services district cost for a school district for a budget year is equal to the special education support services district cost per pupil for the budget year multiplied by the special education support services weighted enrollment for the district for the budget year. If the special education support services district cost for a school district for a budget year is less than the special education support services district cost for that district for the base year, the department of management shall adjust the special education support services district cost for that district for the budget year to equal the special education support services district cost for the base year.

8. *Combined district cost.* Combined district cost is the sum of the regular program district cost per pupil multiplied by the weighted enrollment and the special education support services district cost, plus the additional district cost allocated to the district to fund media services and educational services provided through the area education agency.

A school district may increase its combined district cost for the budget year to the extent that an excess tax levy is authorized by the school budget review committee.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 10; 90 Acts, ch 1190, § 46; 90 Acts, ch 1272, § 44; 99 Acts, ch 178, §3, 10; 2006 Acts, ch 1152, §24

Footnotes

Exclusion of technology expenditures for accredited nonpublic schools from computation of district cost; 2001 Acts, ch 189, §14

257.11 Supplementary weighting plan.

1. *Regular curriculum.* Pupils in a regular curriculum attending all their classes in the district in which they reside, taught by teachers employed by that district, and having administrators employed by that district, are assigned a weighting of one.

2. *District-to-district sharing.*

a. In order to provide additional funds for school districts which send their resident pupils to another school district, which jointly employ and share the services of teachers under section 280.15, or which use the services of a teacher employed by another school district, a supplementary weighting plan for determining enrollment is adopted.

b. If the school budget review committee certifies to the department of management that the shared classes or teachers would otherwise not be implemented without the assignment of additional weighting, pupils attending classes in another school district, attending classes taught by a teacher who is employed jointly under section 280.15, or attending classes taught by a teacher who is employed by another school district are assigned a weighting of forty-eight hundredths of the percentage of the pupil's school day during which the pupil attends classes in another district, attends classes taught by a teacher who is jointly employed under section 280.15, or attends classes taught by a teacher who is employed by another school district.

c. Pupils attending class for all or a substantial portion of a school day pursuant to a whole grade sharing agreement executed under sections 282.10 through 282.12 shall be eligible for supplementary weighting pursuant to this subsection as follows:

(1) A school district which was participating in a whole grade sharing arrangement during the budget year beginning July 1, 2001, and which adopts a resolution jointly with the other affected boards to study the question of undergoing a reorganization or dissolution to take effect on or before July 1, 2006, shall receive a weighting of one-tenth of the percentage of the pupil's school day during which the pupil attends classes in another district, attends classes taught by a teacher who is jointly employed under section 280.15, or attends classes taught by a teacher who is employed by another school district. A district shall be eligible for supplementary weighting pursuant to this subparagraph for a maximum of two years. Receipt of supplementary weighting for a second year shall be conditioned upon submission of information resulting from the study to the school budget review committee indicating progress toward the objective of reorganization on or before July 1, 2006.

(2) A school district which was not participating in a whole grade sharing arrangement during the budget year

beginning July 1, 2000, which executes a whole grade sharing agreement pursuant to sections 282.10 through 282.12 for the budget year beginning July 1, 2002, July 1, 2003, July 1, 2004, or July 1, 2005, and which adopts a resolution jointly with the other affected boards to study the question of undergoing a reorganization or dissolution to take effect on or before July 1, 2006, shall receive a weighting of one-tenth of the percentage of the pupil's school day during which the pupil attends classes in another district, attends classes taught by a teacher who is jointly employed under section 280.15, or attends classes taught by a teacher who is employed by another school district. A district shall be eligible for supplementary weighting pursuant to this subparagraph for a maximum of three years. Receipt of supplementary weighting for a second and third year shall be conditioned upon submission of information resulting from the study to the school budget review committee indicating progress toward the objective of reorganization on or before July 1, 2006.

3. District-to-community college sharing.

a. In order to provide additional funds for school districts which send their resident pupils to a community college for classes, a supplementary weighting plan for determining enrollment is adopted.

b. If the school budget review committee certifies to the department of management that the class would not otherwise be implemented without the assignment of additional weighting, pupils attending a community college-offered class or attending a class taught by a community college-employed instructor are assigned a weighting of forty-eight hundredths of the percentage of the pupil's school day during which the pupil attends class in the community college or attends a class taught by a community college-employed instructor. The following requirements shall be met for the purposes of assigning an additional weighting for classes offered through a sharing agreement between a school district and community college. The class must be:

- (1) Supplementing, not supplanting, high school courses.
- (2) Included in the community college catalog or an amendment or addendum to the catalog.
- (3) Open to all registered community college students, not just high school students.
- (4) For college credit and the credit must apply toward an associate of arts or associate of science degree, or toward an associate of applied arts or associate of applied science degree, or toward completion of a college diploma program.
- (5) Taught by a community college-employed instructor.
- (6) Taught utilizing the community college course syllabus.
- (7) Of the same quality as a course offered on a community college campus.

4. At-risk programs and alternative schools.

a. In order to provide additional funding to school districts for programs serving at-risk pupils and alternative school pupils in secondary schools, a supplementary weighting plan for at-risk pupils is adopted. A supplementary weighting of forty-eight ten-thousandths per pupil shall be assigned to the percentage of pupils in a school district enrolled in grades one through six, as reported by the school district on the basic educational data survey for the base year, who are eligible for free and reduced price meals under the federal National School Lunch Act and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. § 1751-1785, multiplied by the budget enrollment in the school district; and a supplementary weighting of one hundred fifty-six one-hundred-thousandths per pupil shall be assigned to pupils included in the budget enrollment of the school district. Amounts received as supplementary weighting for at-risk pupils shall be utilized by a school district to develop or maintain at-risk pupils' programs, which may include alternative school programs.

b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", a school district which received supplementary weighting for an alternative high school program for the school budget year beginning July 1, 1999, shall receive an amount of supplementary weighting for the next three school budget years as follows:

(1) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2000, the greater of the amount of supplementary weighting determined pursuant to paragraph "a", or sixty-five percent of the amount received for the budget year beginning July 1, 1999.

(2) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2001, the greater of the amount of supplementary weighting determined pursuant to paragraph "a", or forty percent of the amount received for the budget year beginning July 1, 1999.

(3) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2002, and succeeding budget years, the amount of supplementary weighting determined pursuant to paragraph "a".

If a school district receives an amount pursuant to this paragraph "b" which exceeds the amount the district would otherwise have received pursuant to paragraph "a", the department of management shall annually determine the amount of the excess that would have been state aid and the amount that would have been property tax if the school district had generated that amount pursuant to paragraph "a", and shall include the amounts in the state aid payments and property tax levies of school districts. The department of management shall recalculate the supplementary weighting amount received each year to reflect the amount of the reduction in funding from one budget year to the next pursuant to subparagraphs (1) through (3). It is the intent of the general assembly that when weights are recalculated under this subsection, the total amounts generated by each weight shall be approximately equal.

5. *Regional academies.*

a. For the school budget year beginning July 1, 2002, and succeeding budget years, in order to provide additional funds for school districts in which a regional academy is located, a supplementary weighting plan for determining enrollment is adopted.

b. A school district which establishes a regional academy shall be eligible to assign its resident pupils attending classes at the academy a weighting of one-tenth of the percentage of the pupil's school day during which the pupil attends classes at the regional academy. For the purposes of this subsection, "*regional academy*" means an educational institution established by a school district to which multiple schools send pupils in grades nine through twelve, and may include a virtual academy. A regional academy shall include in its curriculum advanced-level courses and may include in its curriculum vocational-technical courses. The maximum amount of additional weighting for which a school district establishing a regional academy shall be eligible is an amount corresponding to fifteen additional pupils. The minimum amount of additional weighting for which a school district establishing a regional academy shall be eligible is an amount corresponding to ten additional pupils if the academy provides both advanced-level courses and vocational-technical courses. However, if the sum of the funding amount calculated for all districts operating regional academies under this subsection exceeds one million dollars for the school year beginning July 1, 2004, and each succeeding fiscal year, the director of the department of management shall prorate the amount calculated for each district. The proration shall be based upon the amount calculated for each district when compared to the sum of the amount for all districts.

6. *Shared classes delivered over the Iowa communications network.* A pupil attending a class in which students from one or more other school districts are enrolled and which is taught via the Iowa communications network is not deemed to be attending a class in another school district or in a community college for the purposes of this section and the school district is not eligible for supplementary weighting for that class under this section.

7. *Pupils ineligible.* A pupil eligible for the weighting plan provided in section 256B.9 is not eligible for supplementary weighting pursuant to this section. A pupil attending an alternative program or an at-risk pupils' program, including alternative high school programs, is not eligible for supplementary weighting under subsection 2.

8. *School finance appropriations report.* The department of education shall annually prepare a report regarding school finance provisions or programs receiving a standing appropriation, including supplementary weighting programs. The report shall provide information regarding amounts received or accessed by school districts pursuant to the provisions or programs, whether the amounts received represent an increase or decrease over amounts received during the previous budget year and the percentage increase or decrease, conclusions regarding the adequacy of amounts received by school districts and whether the amounts received are equitable between school districts based upon input from the school districts and analysis by the department, and the rationale for current trends being observed by the department and projections regarding possible trends in the future. The report shall be submitted to the general assembly by January 1 each year, and copies of the report shall be forwarded to the chairpersons and members of the committee on education in the senate and in the house of representatives.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 11; 90 Acts, ch 1190, § 7; 93 Acts, ch 180, § 96; 95 Acts, ch 111, § 1; 95 Acts, ch 209, § 13; 2000 Acts, ch 1198, §1, 6; 2001 Acts, ch 126, §5, 6; 2002 Acts, ch 1047, §3, 4, 20; 2002 Acts, ch 1140, §8; 2003 Acts, ch 179, §111; 2003 Acts, ch 180, §11; 2005 Acts, ch 19, §38

257.11A Supplementary weighting and school reorganization.

1. In determining weighted enrollment under section 257.6, if the board of directors of a school district has approved a contract for sharing pursuant to section 257.11 and the school district has approved an action to bring about a reorganization to take effect on and after July 1, 2002, and on or before July 1, 2006, the reorganized school district shall include, for a period of three years following the effective date of the reorganization, additional pupils added by the application of the supplementary weighting plan, equal to the pupils added by the application of the supplementary weighting plan in the year preceding the reorganization. For the purposes of this subsection, the weighted enrollment for the period of three years following the effective date of reorganization shall include the supplementary weighting in the base year used for determining the combined district cost for the first year of the reorganization. However, the weighting shall be reduced by the supplementary weighting added for a pupil whose residency is not within the reorganized district.

2. For purposes of this section, a reorganized district is one in which the reorganization was approved in an election pursuant to sections 275.18 and 275.20 and takes effect on or after July 1, 2002, and on or before July 1, 2006. Each district which initiates, by a vote of the board of directors or jointly by the affected boards, action to bring about a reorganization or dissolution to take effect on or after July 1, 2002, and on or before July 1, 2006, shall certify the date and the nature of the action taken to the department of education by January 1 of the year in which the reorganization or dissolution takes effect.

3. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a school district which was participating in a whole grade sharing arrangement during the budget year beginning July 1, 2001, and which received a maximum of two years of supplementary weighting pursuant to section 257.11, subsection 2, paragraph "c", shall include additional pupils added by the application of the supplementary weighting plan, equal to the pupils added by the application of the supplementary weighting plan in the year preceding the reorganization, for a period of four years following the effective date of the reorganization.

4. A school district shall be eligible for a combined maximum total of six years of supplementary weighting under the provisions of this section and section 257.11, subsection 2, paragraph "c".

257.12 Adjustment in state foundation aid.

1. If a school district is required to repay property taxes paid for school taxes levied on property originally assessed at five million dollars or more because the assessment was subsequently reduced by the action of the property assessment appeal board or judicial action and the amount of the reduction in the assessment equals at least one hundred thousand dollars or two percent of the assessed value of all taxable property in the district prior to the reduction, whichever is less, the school district is eligible for an adjustment in state foundation aid. To receive the adjustment in state foundation aid, the school district shall apply to the department of management prior to the beginning of the budget year following the budget year in which the repayment of the property taxes occurred. The department of management shall determine the amount of adjustment in state foundation aid pursuant to subsection 2.

2. The department of management shall determine the amount of state foundation aid which the school district would have received under section 257.1 if the amount of the school district's foundation property tax was determined using the reduced assessment of the applicable property. The difference between the amount of the state foundation aid using the reduced assessment and the amount of state foundation aid actually received under section 257.1 equals the amount of the adjustment in state foundation aid to be paid to the school district.

3. The adjustment in state foundation aid under this section shall be paid as provided in section 257.16. If the application to receive an adjustment in state aid was filed prior to April 15, the adjustment shall be paid in the budget year. If the application is made after April 15, the adjustment shall be paid in the following budget year.

2006 Acts, ch 1185, §78

257.13 On-time funding budget adjustment.

1. For the school budget year beginning July 1, 2001, and succeeding budget years, if a district's actual enrollment for the budget year, determined under section 257.6, is greater than its budget enrollment for the budget year, the district shall be eligible to receive an on-time funding budget adjustment. The adjustment shall be in an amount equal to the difference between the actual enrollment for the budget year and the budget enrollment for the budget year, multiplied by the district cost per pupil.

2. The board of directors of a school district that wishes to receive an on-time funding budget adjustment shall adopt a resolution to receive the adjustment and notify the school budget review committee by November 1, annually. The school budget review committee shall establish a modified allowable growth in an amount determined pursuant to subsection 1.

3. If the board of directors of a school district determines that a need exists for additional funds exceeding the authorized budget adjustment for on-time funding pursuant to this section, a request for modified allowable growth based upon increased enrollment may be submitted to the school budget review committee as provided in section 257.31.

99 Acts, ch 2, §2, 4; 2000 Acts, ch 1055, §1, 3; 2001 Acts, ch 126, §8

257.14 Budget adjustment.

1. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2001, if the department of management determines that the regular program district cost of a school district for a budget year is less than the total of the regular program district cost plus any adjustment added under this section for the base year for that school district, the school district shall be eligible to receive a budget adjustment for that district for that budget year up to an amount equal to the difference. The board of directors of a school district that wishes to receive a budget adjustment

pursuant to this subsection shall, notwithstanding the public notice and hearing provisions of chapter 24 or any other provision to the contrary, within thirty days following May 9, 2001, adopt a resolution to receive the budget adjustment and immediately notify the department of management of the adoption of the resolution and the amount of the budget adjustment to be received.

2. For the budget years commencing July 1, 2002, and July 1, 2003, if the department of management determines that the regular program district cost of a school district for a budget year is less than the total of the regular program district cost plus any adjustment added under this section for the base year for that school district, the school district shall be eligible to receive a budget adjustment for that district for that budget year up to an amount equal to the difference. The board of directors of a school district that wishes to receive a budget adjustment pursuant to this subsection shall adopt a resolution to receive the budget adjustment by April 15, annually, and shall notify the department of management of the adoption of the resolution and the amount of the budget adjustment to be received.

3. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2004, and succeeding budget years, a district shall be eligible for a budget adjustment corresponding to the following schedule:

a. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2004, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or ninety percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2004, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

b. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2005, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or eighty percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2005, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

c. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2006, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or seventy percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2006, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

d. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2007, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or sixty percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2007, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

e. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2008, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or fifty percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted*

guarantee amount" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2008, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

f. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2009, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or forty percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

g. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2010, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or thirty percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2010, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

h. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2011, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or twenty percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2011, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

i. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2012, the greater of the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year, or ten percent of the amount by which the budget guarantee as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003, exceeds the adjusted guarantee amount. For purposes of this paragraph, the "*adjusted guarantee amount*" means the amount which would be applicable for the budget year beginning July 1, 2012, if the budget guarantee were determined for that budget year as calculated for the budget year beginning July 1, 2003.

j. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2013, and each budget year thereafter, the difference between the regular program district cost for the budget year and one hundred one percent of the regular program district cost for the base year.

The board of directors of a school district that wishes to receive a budget adjustment pursuant to this subsection shall adopt a resolution to receive the budget adjustment by April 15, annually, and shall notify the department of management of the adoption of the resolution and the amount of the budget adjustment to be received.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 14; 90 Acts, ch 1190, § 8; 92 Acts, ch 1230, §6; 93 Acts, ch 179, § 17; 95 Acts, ch 130, §2; 97 Acts, ch 18, §1, 2; 99 Acts, ch 2, §3, 4; 2000 Acts, ch 1055, §2, 3; 2001 Acts, ch 126, §912; 2002 Acts, ch 1050, §59, 65; 2002 Acts, ch 1140, §9, 10, 47; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §235, 287; 2005 Acts, ch 179, §58

257.15 Property tax adjustment.

1. *Property tax adjustment for 1991-1992.* For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the department of

management shall calculate for each district the difference between the sum of the revenues generated by the foundation property tax and the additional property tax in the district calculated under this chapter and the revenues that would have been generated by the foundation property tax and the additional property tax in that district for that budget year calculated under chapter 442, Code 1989, if chapter 442 were in effect, except that the revenues that would have been generated by the additional property tax levy under chapter 442 shall not include revenues generated for the school improvement program. However in making the calculation of the difference in revenues under this subsection, the department shall not include the revenues generated under section 257.37 and under chapter 442, Code 1989, for funding media and educational services through the area education agencies. If the property tax revenues for a district calculated under this chapter exceed the property tax revenues for that district calculated under chapter 442, Code 1989, the department of management shall reduce the revenues raised by the additional property tax levy in that district under this chapter by that difference and the department of education shall pay property tax adjustment aid to the district equal to that difference from moneys appropriated for property tax adjustment aid.

For purposes of this subsection, in computing the amount of revenues generated by the foundation property tax and the additional property tax under chapter 442, Code 1989, the computation shall be based on a regular program foundation base per pupil of eighty-three percent of the regular program state cost per pupil except that for the portion of weighted enrollment that is additional enrollment because of special education the regular program foundation base per pupil shall be seventy-nine percent of the regular program state cost per pupil. The special education support services foundation base shall be seventy-nine percent of the special education support services state cost per pupil.

2. Property tax adjustment aid for 1992-1993 and succeeding years. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1992, and succeeding budget years, the department of education shall pay property tax adjustment aid to a school district equal to the amount paid to the district for the base year less an amount equal to the product of the percent by which the taxable valuation in the district increased, if the taxable valuation increased, from January 1 of the year prior to the base year to January 1 of the base year and the property tax adjustment aid. The department of management shall adjust the rate of the additional property tax accordingly and notify the department of education of the amount of aid to be paid to each district from moneys appropriated for property tax adjustment aid.

3. Property tax adjustment aid appropriation. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the department of education, for each fiscal year, an amount necessary to pay property tax adjustment aid to school districts under this section. Property tax adjustment aid shall be paid to school districts in the manner provided in section 257.16.

4. Allocations for maximum adjusted additional property tax levy rate calculation and adjusted additional property tax levy aid. The department of management shall allocate from amounts appropriated pursuant to section 257.16, subsection 1, for the purpose of calculating the statewide maximum adjusted additional property tax levy rate and providing adjusted additional property tax levy aid as provided in section 257.4, subsection 1, paragraph "b", an amount not to exceed the following:

- a. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2006, six million dollars.
- b. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2007, twelve million dollars.
- c. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2008, eighteen million dollars.
- d. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, and succeeding budget years, twenty-four million dollars.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 15; 91 Acts, ch 6, § 1; 91 Acts, ch 267, §519; 2006 Acts, ch 1182, §39, 53

257.16 Appropriations.

1. There is appropriated each year from the general fund of the state an amount necessary to pay the foundation aid, supplementary aid under section 257.4, subsection 2, and adjusted additional property tax levy aid under section 257.15, subsection 4.
2. All state aids paid under this chapter, unless otherwise stated, shall be paid in monthly installments beginning on September 15 of a budget year and ending on or about June 15 of the budget year as determined by the department of management, taking into consideration the relative budget and cash position of the state resources.
3. All moneys received by a school district from the state under this chapter shall be deposited in the general fund of the school district, and may be used for any school general fund purpose.
4. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the governor orders budget reductions in accordance with section 8.31, reductions in the appropriations provided in accordance with this section shall be distributed on a per pupil basis calculated with the weighted enrollment determined in accordance with section 257.6, subsection 5.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 16; 91 Acts, ch 178, §5; 92 Acts, ch 1208, §1; 92 Acts, ch 1232, §303; 94 Acts, ch 1023, §44; 94 Acts, ch 1181, §12, 18; 95 Acts, ch 214, § 10, 11; 2002 Acts, ch 1140, §11; 2006 Acts, ch 1182, §40, 53

257.17 Aid reduction for early school starts.

State aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a fiscal year shall be reduced by one one-hundred-eightieth for each day of that fiscal year for which the school district begins school before the earliest starting date specified in section 279.10, subsection 1. However, this section does not apply to a school district that has received approval from the director of the department of education under section 279.10, subsection 4, to commence classes for regularly established elementary and secondary schools in advance of the starting date established in section 279.10, subsection 1.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 17

257.18 Instructional support program.

1. An instructional support program that provides additional funding for school districts is established. A board of directors that wishes to consider participating in the instructional support program shall hold a public hearing on the question of participation. The board shall set forth its proposal, including the method that will be used to fund the program, in a resolution and shall publish the notice of the time and place of a public hearing on the resolution. Notice of the time and place of the public hearing shall be published not less than ten nor more than twenty days before the public hearing in a newspaper which is a newspaper of general circulation in the school district. At the hearing, or no later than thirty days after the date of the hearing, the board shall take action to adopt a resolution to participate in the instructional support program for a period not exceeding five years or to direct the county commissioner of elections to submit the question of participation in the program for a period not exceeding ten years to the registered voters of the school district at the next regular school election or at a special election. If the board submits the question at an election and a majority of those voting on the question favors participation in the program, the board shall adopt a resolution to participate and certify the results of the election to the department of management.

2. If the board does not provide for an election and adopts a resolution to participate in the instructional support program, the district shall participate in the instructional support program unless within twenty-eight days following the action of the board, the secretary of the board receives a petition containing the required number of signatures, asking that an election be called to approve or disapprove the action of the board in adopting the instructional support program. The petition must be signed by eligible electors equal in number

to not less than one hundred or thirty percent of the number of voters at the last preceding regular school election, whichever is greater. The board shall either rescind its action or direct the county commissioner of elections to submit the question to the registered voters of the school district at the next following regular school election or a special election. If a majority of those voting on the question at the election favors disapproval of the action of the board, the district shall not participate in the instructional support program. If a majority of those voting on the question favors approval of the action, the board shall certify the results of the election to the department of management and the district shall participate in the program.

At the expiration of the twenty-eight day period, if no petition is filed, the board shall certify its action to the department of management and the district shall participate in the program.

3. Participation in an instructional support program is not affected by a change in the boundaries of the school district, except as otherwise provided in this section. If each school district involved in a school reorganization under chapter 275 has approved an instructional support program, and if the voters have not voted upon the question of participation in the program in the reorganized district, the instructional support program shall be in effect for the reorganized district that has been approved for the least amount and the shortest time in any of the districts.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 18; 92 Acts, ch 1171, §1; 95 Acts, ch 67, §53; 96 Acts, ch 1112, §1, 2

257.19 Instructional support funding.

The additional funding for the instructional support program for a budget year is limited to an amount not exceeding ten percent of the total of regular program district cost for the budget year and moneys received under section 257.14 as a budget adjustment for the budget year. Moneys received by a district for the instructional support program are miscellaneous income and may be used for any general fund purpose. However, moneys received by a district for the instructional support program shall not be used as, or in a manner which has the effect of, supplanting funds authorized to be received under sections 257.41, 257.46, 298.2, and 298.4, or to cover any deficiencies in funding for special education instructional services resulting from the application of the special education weighting plan under section 256B.9.

Certification of a board's intent to participate for a budget year, the method of funding, and the amount to be raised shall be made to the department of management not later than April 15 of the base year. Funding for the instructional support program shall be obtained from instructional support state aid and from local funding using either an instructional support property tax or a combination of an instructional support property tax and an instructional support income surtax.

The board of directors shall determine whether the instructional support property tax or the combination of the instructional support property tax and instructional support income surtax shall be used for the local funding. Subject to the limitation specified in section 298.14, if the board elects to use the combination of the instructional support property tax and instructional support income surtax, for each budget year the board shall determine the percent of income surtax that will be imposed, expressed as full percentage points, not to exceed twenty percent.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 19; 91 Acts, ch 126, §3; 93 Acts, ch 1, § 4

257.20 Instructional support state aid appropriation.

1. In order to determine the amount of instructional support state aid and the amount of local funding for the instructional support program for a district, the department of management shall divide the total assessed valuation in the state by the total budget enrollment for the budget year in the state to determine a state assessed valuation per pupil and shall divide the assessed valuation in each district by the district's budget enrollment for the budget year to determine the district assessed valuation per pupil. The department of

management shall multiply the ratio of the state's valuation per pupil to the district's valuation per pupil by twenty-five hundredths and subtract that result from one to determine the portion of the instructional support program budget that is local funding. The remaining portion of the budget shall be funded by instructional support state aid. However, for the budget year beginning July 1, 1992, only, the amount of state aid is three and one-quarter percent less than the amount computed under this paragraph for that budget year.

2. There is appropriated for each fiscal year from the general fund of the state to the department of education, an amount necessary to pay instructional support state aid as determined under subsection 1.

a. However, moneys appropriated under this subsection shall not exceed the amount of moneys appropriated as instructional support state aid for the budget year which commenced on July 1, 1992.

b. If the amount appropriated under this subsection is insufficient to pay the amount of instructional support state aid determined under subsection 1, the department of education shall prorate the amount of the instructional support state aid provided to each district.

3. If the general assembly makes an appropriation for instructional support state aid in lieu of the standing appropriation provided under subsection 2, the appropriation for instructional support state aid shall include in the appropriation the allocation of the instructional support state aid to the school districts applicable for that appropriation and subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to the appropriation.

4. Instructional support state aid shall be paid at the same time and in the same manner as foundation aid is paid under section 257.16.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 20; 92 Acts, ch 1227, §16; 92 Acts, ch 1230, §8

257.21 Computation of instructional support amount.

The department of management shall establish the amount of instructional support property tax to be levied and the amount of instructional support income surtax to be imposed by a district in accordance with the decision of the board under section 257.19 for each school year for which the instructional support program is authorized. The department of management shall determine these amounts based upon the most recent figures available for the district's valuation of taxable property, individual state income tax paid, and budget enrollment in the district, and shall certify to the district's county auditor the amount of instructional support property tax, and to the director of revenue the amount of instructional support income surtax to be imposed if an instructional support income surtax is to be imposed.

The instructional support income surtax shall be imposed on the state individual income tax for the calendar year during which the school's budget year begins, or for a taxpayer's fiscal year ending during the second half of that calendar year and after the date the board adopts a resolution to participate in the program or the first half of the succeeding calendar year, and shall be imposed on all individuals residing in the school district on the last day of the applicable tax year. As used in this section, "*state individual income tax*" means the taxes computed under section 422.5, less the amounts of nonrefundable credits allowed under chapter 422, division II.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 21; 91 Acts, ch 159, §1; 97 Acts, ch 23, §25; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2006 Acts, ch 1158, §3

Footnotes

Limit on total surtax, § 298.14

257.22 Statutes applicable.

The director of revenue shall administer the instructional support income surtax imposed under this chapter, and sections 422.20, 422.22 to 422.31, 422.68, and 422.72 to 422.75 shall apply with respect to administration of the instructional support income surtax.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 22; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286

257.23 Form and time of return.

The instructional support income surtax shall be made a part of the Iowa individual income tax return subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in section 422.21.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 23

257.24 Deposit of instructional support income surtax.

The director of revenue shall deposit all moneys received as instructional support income surtax to the credit of each district from which the moneys are received, in the school district income surtax fund which is established in section 298.14.

The director of revenue shall deposit instructional support income surtax moneys received on or before November 1 of the year following the close of the school budget year for which the surtax is imposed to the credit of each district from which the moneys are received in the school district income surtax fund.

Instructional support income surtax moneys received or refunded after November 1 of the year following the close of the school budget year for which the surtax is imposed shall be deposited in or withdrawn from the general fund of the state and shall be considered part of the cost of administering the instructional support income surtax.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 24; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286

257.25 Instructional support income surtax certification.

On or before October 20 each year, the director of revenue shall make an accounting of the instructional support income surtax collected under this chapter applicable to tax returns for the last preceding calendar year, or for a taxpayer's fiscal year ending during the second half of that calendar year and after the date the board adopts a resolution to participate in the program, or the first half of the succeeding calendar year, from taxpayers in each school district in the state which has approved the instructional support program, and shall certify to the department of management and the department of education the amount of total instructional support income surtax credited from the taxpayers of each school district.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 25; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286

257.26 Instructional support income surtax distribution.

The director of the department of administrative services shall draw warrants in payment of the amount of instructional support surtax in the manner provided in section 298.14.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 26; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2004 Acts, ch 1101, §30

257.27 Continuation of instructional support program.

At the expiration of the period for which the instructional support program was adopted, the program may be extended for a period of not exceeding five or ten years in the manner provided in section 257.18.

If the voters do not approve adoption of the instructional support program, the board shall wait at least one hundred twenty days following the election before taking action to adopt the program or resubmit the proposition.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 27

257.28 Enrichment levy.

If a school district has approved the use of the instructional support program for a budget year, the district shall not also collect moneys under the additional enrichment amount approved by the voters under chapter 442, Code 1991, for the budget year.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 28; 92 Acts, ch 1163, §60; 2005 Acts, ch 179, §124

257.29 Educational improvement program.

An educational improvement program is established to provide additional funding for school districts in which the regular program district cost per pupil for a budget year is one hundred ten percent of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget year and which have approved the use of the instructional support program established in section 257.18. A board of directors that wishes to consider participating in the educational improvement program shall hold a hearing on the question of participation and the maximum percent of the regular program district cost of the district that will be used. The hearing shall be held in the manner provided in section 257.18 for the instructional support program. Following the hearing, the board may direct the county commissioner of elections to submit the question to the registered voters of the school district at the next following regular school election or a special election held not later than the following February 1. If a majority of those voting on the question favors participation in the program, the board shall adopt a resolution to participate and shall certify the results of the election to the department of management and the district shall participate in the program. If a majority of those voting on the question does not favor participation, the district shall not participate in the program.

The educational improvement program shall provide additional revenues each fiscal year equal to a specified percent of the regular program district cost of the district, as determined by the board but not more than the maximum percent authorized by the electors if an election has been held. Certification of a district's participation for a budget year, the method of funding, and the amount to be raised shall be made to the department of management not later than April 15 of the base year.

The educational improvement program shall be funded by either an educational improvement property tax or by a combination of an educational improvement property tax and an educational improvement income surtax. The method of raising the educational improvement moneys shall be determined by the board. Subject to the limitation in section 298.14, if the board uses a combination of an educational improvement property tax and an educational improvement income surtax, the board shall determine the percent of income surtax to be imposed, expressed as full percentage points, not to exceed twenty percent.

The department of management shall establish the amount of the educational improvement property tax to be levied or the amount of the combination of the educational improvement property tax to be levied and the amount of the school district income surtax to be imposed for each school year that the educational improvement amount is authorized. The educational improvement property tax and income surtax, if an income surtax is imposed, shall be levied and imposed, collected, and paid to the school district in the manner provided for the instructional support program in sections 257.21 through 257.26. Moneys received by a school district under the educational improvement program are miscellaneous income.

Once approved at an election, the authority of the board to use the educational improvement program shall

continue until the board votes to rescind the educational improvement program or the voters of the school district by majority vote order the discontinuance of the program. The board shall call an election to vote on the proposition whether to discontinue the program upon the receipt of a petition signed by not less than one hundred eligible electors or thirty percent of the number of electors voting at the last preceding school election, whichever is greater.

Participation in an educational improvement program is not affected by a change in the boundaries of the school district, except as otherwise provided in this section. If each school district involved in school reorganization under chapter 275 has approved an educational improvement program, and if the voters have not voted upon the question of participation in the program in the reorganized district, the educational improvement program shall be in effect for the reorganized district that has been approved for the least amount and the shortest time in any of the districts.

Notwithstanding the requirement in the first unnumbered paragraph of this section that the regular program district cost per pupil for a budget year is one hundred ten percent of the regular state cost per pupil, the board of directors may participate in the educational improvement program as provided in this section if the school district had adopted an enrichment levy of fifteen percent of the state cost per pupil multiplied by the budget enrollment in the district prior to July 1, 1992, and upon expiration of the period for which the enrichment levy was adopted, adopts a resolution for the use of the instructional support program established in section 257.18. The maximum percent of the regular district cost of the district that may be used under this paragraph shall not exceed five percent.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 29; 90 Acts, ch 1190, § 9; 92 Acts, ch 1171, §2; 92 Acts, ch 1187, §3; 93 Acts, ch 1, § 5; 95 Acts, ch 67, § 53

Footnotes

Limit on total surtax, § 298.14

257.30 School budget review committee.

A school budget review committee is established in the department of education and consists of the director of the department of education, the director of the department of management, and three members who are knowledgeable in the areas of Iowa school finance or public finance issues appointed by the governor to represent the public. At least one of the public members shall possess a master's or doctoral degree in which areas of school finance, economics, or statistics are an integral component, or shall have equivalent experience in an executive administrative or senior research position in the education or public administration field. The members appointed by the governor shall serve staggered three- year terms beginning and ending as provided in section 69.19 and are subject to senate confirmation as provided in section 2.32. The committee shall meet and hold hearings each year and shall continue in session until it has reviewed budgets of school districts, as provided in section 257.31. It may call in school board members and employees as necessary for the hearings. Legislators shall be notified of hearings concerning school districts in their constituencies.

The committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure under chapter 17A. The director of the department of education shall serve as chairperson, and the director of the department of management shall serve as secretary. The committee members representing the public are entitled to receive their necessary expenses while engaged in their official duties. Members shall be paid a per diem at the rate specified in section 7E.6. Per diem and expense payments shall be made from appropriations to the department of education.

The department of education shall employ a staff member to assist the school budget review committee.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 30

257.31 Duties of the committee.

1. The school budget review committee may recommend the revision of any rules, regulations, directives, or forms relating to school district budgeting and accounting, confer with local school boards or their representatives and make recommendations relating to any budgeting or accounting matters, and direct the director of the department of education or the director of the department of management to make studies and investigations of school costs in any school district.
2. The committee shall report to each session of the general assembly, which report shall include any recommended changes in laws relating to school districts, and shall specify the number of hearings held annually, the reasons for the committee's recommendations, information about the amounts of property tax levied by school districts for a cash reserve, and other information the committee deems advisable.
3. The committee shall review the proposed budget and certified budget of each school district, and may make recommendations. The committee may make decisions affecting budgets to the extent provided in this chapter. The costs and computations referred to in this section relate to the budget year unless otherwise expressly stated.
4. Not later than January 1, 1992, the committee shall adopt recommendations relating to the implementation by school districts and area education agencies of procedures pertaining to the preparation of financial reports in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and submit those recommendations to the state board of education. The state board shall consider the recommendations and adopt rules under section 256.7 specifying procedures and requiring the school districts and area education agencies to conform to generally accepted accounting principles commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 1996.
5. If a district has unusual circumstances, creating an unusual need for additional funds, including but not limited to the following circumstances, the committee may grant supplemental aid to the district from any funds appropriated to the department of education for the use of the school budget review committee for the purposes of this subsection, and such aid shall be miscellaneous income and shall not be included in district cost, or may establish a modified allowable growth for the district by increasing its allowable growth, or both:
 - a. Any unusual increase or decrease in enrollment.
 - b. Unusual natural disasters.
 - c. Unusual initial staffing problems.
 - d. The closing of a nonpublic school, wholly or in part, or the opening or closing of a pilot charter school.
 - e. Substantial reduction in miscellaneous income due to circumstances beyond the control of the district.
 - f. Unusual necessity for additional funds to permit continuance of a course or program which provides substantial benefit to pupils.
 - g. Unusual need for a new course or program which will provide substantial benefit to pupils, if the district establishes the need and the amount of necessary increased cost.
 - h. Unusual need for additional funds for special education or compensatory education programs.
 - i. Year-round or substantially year-round attendance programs which apply toward graduation requirements, including but not limited to trimester or four-quarter programs. Enrollment in such programs shall be adjusted to reflect equivalency to normal school year attendance.

j. Unusual need to continue providing a program or other special assistance to non-English speaking pupils after the expiration of the four-year period specified in section 280.4.

k. Circumstances caused by unusual demographic characteristics.

l. Any unique problems of school districts.

6. The committee shall establish a modified allowable growth for a district by increasing its allowable growth when the district submits evidence that it requires additional funding for removal, management, or abatement of environmental hazards due to a state or federal requirement. Environmental hazards shall include but are not limited to the presence of asbestos, radon, or the presence of any other hazardous material dangerous to health and safety.

The district shall include a budget for the actual cost of the project that may include the costs of inspection, reinspection, sampling, analysis, assessment, response actions, operations and maintenance, training, periodic surveillance, developing of management plans, recordkeeping requirements, and encapsulation or removal of the hazardous material.

7. The committee may authorize a district to spend a reasonable and specified amount from its unexpended cash balance for either of the following purposes:

a. Furnishing, equipping, and contributing to the construction of a new building or structure for which the voters of the district have approved a bond issue as provided by law or the tax levy provided in section 298.2.

b. The costs associated with the demolition of an unused school building, or the conversion of an unused school building for community use, in a school district involved in a dissolution or reorganization under chapter 275, if the costs are incurred within three years of the dissolution or reorganization.

Other expenditures, including but not limited to expenditures for salaries or recurring costs, are not authorized under this subsection. Expenditures authorized under this subsection shall not be included in allowable growth or district cost, and the portion of the unexpended cash balance which is authorized to be spent shall be regarded as if it were miscellaneous income. Any part of the amount not actually spent for the authorized purpose shall revert to its former status as part of the unexpended cash balance.

8. The committee may approve or modify the initial base year district cost of any district which changes accounting procedures.

9. When the committee makes a decision under subsections 3 through 8, it shall make all necessary changes in the district cost, budget, and tax levy. It shall give written notice of its decision, including all such changes, to the school board through the department of education.

10. All decisions by the committee under this chapter shall be made in accordance with reasonable and uniform policies which shall be consistent with this chapter. All such policies of general application shall be stated in rules adopted in accordance with chapter 17A. The committee shall take into account the intent of this chapter to equalize educational opportunity, to provide a good education for all the children of Iowa, to provide property tax relief, to decrease the percentage of school costs paid from property taxes, and to provide reasonable control of school costs. The committee shall also take into account the amount of funds available.

11. Failure by any school district to provide information or appear before the committee as requested for the accomplishment of review or hearing is justification for the committee to instruct the director of the department of management to withhold any state aid to that district until the committee's inquiries are satisfied completely.

12. The committee shall review the recommendations of the director of the department of education relating to the special education weighting plan, and shall establish a weighting plan for each school year pursuant to section 256B.9, and report the plan to the director of the department of education.

13. The committee may recommend that two or more school districts jointly employ and share the services of any school personnel, or acquire and share the use of classrooms, laboratories, equipment, and facilities as specified in section 280.15.

14. As soon as possible following June 30 of the base year, the school budget review committee shall determine for each school district the balance of funds, whether positive or negative, raised for special education instruction programs under the special education weighting plan established in section 256B.9. The committee shall certify the balance of funds for each school district to the director of the department of management.

a. If the amount certified for a school district to the director of the department of management under this subsection for the base year is positive, the director of the department of management shall subtract the amount of the positive balance exceeding ten percent of the additional funds generated for special education, not to include any previous carryover, from the amount of state aid remaining to be paid to the district during the budget year. If the positive amount exceeding the ten percent amount exceeds the amount of state aid that remains to be paid to the district, not including any previous carryover, the school district shall pay the excess on a quarterly basis prior to June 30 of the budget year to the director of the department of management from other funds received by the district. The director of the department of management shall determine the amount of the positive balance that exceeds the ten percent amount that came from local property tax revenues and shall increase the district's total state school aids available under this chapter for the next following budget year by the amount so determined and shall reduce the district's tax levy computed under section 257.4 for the next following budget year by the amount necessary to compensate for the increased state aid.

b. If the amount certified for a school district to the director of the department of management under this subsection for the base year is negative, the director of the department of management shall determine the amount of the deficit that would have been state aid and the amount that would have been property taxes for each eligible school district.

There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the school budget review committee for each fiscal year an amount equal to the state aid portion of five percent of the receipts for special education instruction programs in all districts that has a positive balance determined under paragraph "a" for the base year, or the state aid portion of all of the positive balances determined under paragraph "a" for the base year, whichever is less, to be used for supplemental aid payments to school districts. Except as otherwise provided in this lettered paragraph, supplemental aid paid to a district is equal to the state aid portion of the district's negative balance. The school budget review committee shall direct the director of the department of management to make the payments to school districts under this lettered paragraph.

A school district is only eligible to receive supplemental aid payments during the budget year if the school district certifies to the school budget review committee that for the year following the budget year it will notify the school budget review committee to instruct the director of the department of management to increase the district's allowable growth and will fund the allowable growth increase either by using moneys from its unexpended cash balance to reduce the district's property tax levy or by using cash reserve moneys to equal the amount of the deficit that would have been property taxes and any part of the state aid portion of the deficit not received as supplemental aid under this subsection. The director of the department of management shall make the necessary adjustments to the school district's budget to provide the modified allowable growth and shall make the supplemental aid payments.

If the amount appropriated under this lettered paragraph is insufficient to make the supplemental aid payments under this subsection, the director of the department of management shall prorate the payments on the basis of the amount appropriated.

15. Annually the school budget review committee shall review the amount of property tax levied by each school district for the cash reserve authorized in section 298.10. If in the committee's judgment, the amount of a district's cash reserve levy is unreasonably high, the committee shall instruct the director of the department of management to reduce that district's tax levy computed under section 257.4 for the following budget year by the amount the cash reserve levy is deemed excessive. A reduction in a district's property tax levy for a budget year under this subsection does not affect the district's authorized budget.

16. The committee shall perform the duties assigned to it under sections 257.32 and 260C.18B.

17. *a.* If a district's average transportation costs per pupil exceed the state average transportation costs per pupil determined under paragraph "c" by one hundred fifty percent, the committee may grant transportation assistance aid to the district. Such aid shall be miscellaneous income and shall not be included in district cost.

b. To be eligible for transportation assistance aid, a school district shall annually certify its actual cost for all children transported in all school buses not later than July 31 after each school year on forms prescribed by the committee.

c. A district's average transportation costs per pupil shall be determined by dividing the district's actual cost for all children transported in all school buses for a school year pursuant to section 285.1, subsection 12, less the amount received for transporting nonpublic school pupils under section 285.1, by the district's actual enrollment for the school year excluding the shared-time enrollment for the school year as defined in section 257.6. The state average transportation costs per pupil shall be determined by dividing the total actual costs for all children transported in all districts for a school year, by the total of all districts' actual enrollments for the school year.

d. Funds transferred to the committee in accordance with section 321.34, subsection 22, are appropriated to and may be expended for the purposes of the committee, as described in this section. However, highest priority shall be given to districts that meet the conditions described in this subsection. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code, unencumbered or unobligated funds transferred to the committee pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 22, remaining on June 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were transferred, shall not revert but shall be available for expenditure for the purposes of this subsection in subsequent fiscal years.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 31; 91 Acts, ch 267, §520; 93 Acts, ch 101, § 202; 94 Acts, ch 1175, §3; 96 Acts, ch 1088, §1; 96 Acts, ch 1215, §22; 97 Acts, ch 23, §26; 2003 Acts, ch 79, §4, 7, 8; 2006 Acts, ch 1152, §25; 2006 Acts, ch 1182, §41, 54

2006 amendment to subsection 5, paragraph j, takes effect June 1, 2006, and applies to the school budget year beginning July 1, 2006, and succeeding budget years; 2006 Acts, ch 1182, §54

257.32 Area education budget review.

1. An area education agency budget review procedure is established for the school budget review committee created in section 257.30. The school budget review committee, in addition to its duties under section 257.31, shall meet and hold hearings each year to review unusual circumstances of area education agencies, either upon the committee's motion or upon the request of an area education agency. The committee may grant supplemental aid to the area education agency from funds appropriated to the department of education for area education agency budget review purposes, or an amount may be added to the area education agency special education support services allowable growth for districts in an area or an additional amount may be

added to district cost for media services or educational services for all districts in an area for the budget year either on a temporary or permanent basis, or both.

Unusual circumstances shall include but are not limited to the following:

- a.* An unusual increase or decrease in enrollment of children requiring special education or unusual need for additional moneys for special education support services.
 - b.* Unusual need for additional moneys for media services.
 - c.* Unusual need for additional moneys for educational services.
 - d.* Unusual costs for building repair, building maintenance, or removal of environmental hazards.
 - e.* Participation by the area education agency in telecommunications, electronic, and technological development with school districts, and related staff development programs.
2. When the school budget review committee makes a decision under subsection 1, it shall provide written notice of its decision, including all changes, to the board of directors of the area education agency, and to the department of management and the department of education.
 3. All decisions by the school budget review committee under this section shall be made in accordance with reasonable and uniform policies which shall be consistent with this chapter.
 4. Failure by an area education agency to provide information or appear before the school budget review committee as requested for the accomplishment of review or hearing constitutes justification for the committee to instruct the department of administrative services to withhold payments for the area education agency until the committee's inquiries are satisfied completely.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 32; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286

257.33 Prior enrichment approval.

If the electors of a school district approved the use of the additional enrichment amount prior to July 1, 1991, under chapter 442, Code 1991, or section 279.43, Code 1991, the approval for use of the enrichment amount shall continue in effect until the expiration of the period for which it was approved and districts may use the additional enrichment amount during that period. However, section 257.28 applies to the use of the additional enrichment amount.

Use of the additional enrichment amounts approved under chapter 442, Code 1991, is not affected by a change in the boundaries of the school district, except as otherwise provided in this section. If each school district involved in a school reorganization under chapter 275 has approved the use of the additional enrichment amount, and if the voters have not voted upon the question of participation in the instructional support program in the reorganized district, the use of the additional enrichment amount shall be in effect for the reorganized district that has been approved for the least amount and the shortest time in any of the districts.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 33; 92 Acts, ch 1163, §61; 93 Acts, ch 8, § 1; 2006 Acts, ch 1010, §78

257.34 Cash reserve information.

If a school district receives less state school foundation aid under section 257.1 than is due under that section for a base year and the school district uses funds from its cash reserve during the base year to make up for the

amount of state aid not paid, the board of directors of the school district shall include in its general fund budget document information about the amount of the cash reserve used to replace state school foundation aid not paid.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 34

257.35 Area education agency payments.

1. The department of management shall deduct the amounts calculated for special education support services, media services, and educational services for each school district from the state aid due to the district pursuant to this chapter and shall pay the amounts to the respective area education agencies on a monthly basis from September 15 through June 15 during each school year. The department of management shall notify each school district of the amount of state aid deducted for these purposes and the balance of state aid shall be paid to the district. If a district does not qualify for state aid under this chapter in an amount sufficient to cover its amount due to the area education agency as calculated by the department of management, the school district shall pay the deficiency to the area education agency from other moneys received by the district, on a quarterly basis during each school year.
2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the state aid for area education agencies and the portion of the combined district cost calculated for these agencies for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and each succeeding fiscal year, shall be reduced by the department of management by seven million five hundred thousand dollars. The reduction for each area education agency shall be equal to the reduction that the agency received in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001.
3. Notwithstanding subsection 1, and in addition to the reduction applicable pursuant to subsection 2, the state aid for area education agencies and the portion of the combined district cost calculated for these agencies for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2004, shall be reduced by the department of management by ten million dollars. The department shall calculate a reduction such that each area education agency shall receive a reduction proportionate to the amount that it would otherwise have received under this section if the reduction imposed pursuant to this subsection did not apply.
4. Notwithstanding subsection 1, and in addition to the reduction applicable pursuant to subsection 2, the state aid for area education agencies and the portion of the combined district cost calculated for these agencies for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, shall be reduced by the department of management by eight million dollars. The reduction for each area education agency shall be prorated based on the reduction that the agency received in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003.
5. Notwithstanding section 257.37, an area education agency may use the funds determined to be available under this section in a manner which the area education agency determines is appropriate to best maintain the level of required area education agency special education services. An area education agency may also use unreserved fund balances for media services or education services in a manner which the area education agency determines is appropriate to best maintain the level of required area education agency special education services.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 35; 2002 Acts, ch 1167, §2, 6; 2003 Acts, ch 178, §40, 41, 43; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §236, 287; 2005 Acts, ch 179, §6; 2006 Acts, ch 1185, §6

257.36 Special education support services balances.

Notwithstanding chapters 256B and 273 and sections of this chapter relating to the moneys available to area education agencies for special education support services, for each school year, the department of education may direct the department of management to deduct amounts from the portions of school district budgets that fund special education support services in an area education agency. The total amount deducted in an area

shall be based upon excess special education support services unreserved and undesignated fund balances in that area education agency for a school year as determined by the department of education. The department of management shall determine the amount deducted from each school district in an area education agency on a proportional basis. The department of management shall determine from the amounts deducted from the portions of school district budgets that fund area education agency special education support services the amount that would have been local property taxes and the amount that would have been state aid and for the next following budget year shall increase the district's total state school aid available under this chapter for area education agency special education support services and reduce the district's property tax levy for area education agency special education support services by the amount necessary for the property tax portion of the deductions made under this section during the budget year.

The amount deducted from a school district's budget shall not affect the calculation of the state cost per pupil or its district cost per pupil in that school year or a subsequent year.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 36

257.37 Funding media and educational services.

Media services and educational services provided through the area education agencies shall be funded, to the extent provided, by an addition to the combined district cost of each school district, determined as follows:

1. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and succeeding budget years, the total amount funded in each area for media services shall be computed as provided in this subsection. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the total amount funded in each area for media services in the base year, including the cost for media resource material which shall only be used for the purchase or replacement of material required in section 273.6, subsection 1, paragraphs "a", "b", and "c", shall be divided by the enrollment served in the base year to provide an area media services cost per pupil in the base year, and the department of management shall compute the state media services cost per pupil in the base year which is equal to the average of the area media services costs per pupil in the base year. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and succeeding budget years, the department of management shall compute the allowable growth for media services in the budget year by multiplying the state media services cost per pupil in the base year times the state percent of growth for the budget year, and the total amount funded in each area for media services cost in the budget year equals the area media services cost per pupil in the base year plus the allowable growth for media services in the budget year times the enrollment served in the budget year. Funds shall be paid to area education agencies as provided in section 257.35.

2. Thirty percent of the budget of an area for media services shall be expended for media resource material which shall only be used for the purchase or replacement of material required in section 273.6, subsection 1. Funds shall be paid to area education agencies as provided in section 257.35.

3. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and succeeding budget years, the total amount funded in each area for educational services shall be computed as provided in this subsection. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the total amount funded in each area for educational services in the base year shall be divided by the enrollment served in the area in the base year to provide an area educational services cost per pupil in the base year, and the department of management shall compute the state educational services cost per pupil in the base year, which is equal to the average of the area educational services costs per pupil in the base year. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and succeeding budget years, the department of management shall compute the allowable growth for educational services by multiplying the state educational services cost per pupil in the base year times the state percent of growth for the budget year, and the total amount funded in each area for educational services for the budget year equals the area educational services cost per pupil for the base year plus the allowable growth for educational services in the budget year times the enrollment served in the area in the budget year. Funds shall be paid to area education agencies as provided in section 257.35.

4. "Enrollment served" means the basic enrollment plus the number of nonpublic school pupils served with media services or educational services, as applicable, except that if a nonpublic school pupil or a pupil attending another district under a whole grade sharing agreement or open enrollment receives services through an area other than the area of the pupil's residence, the pupil shall be deemed to be served by the area of the pupil's residence, which shall by contractual arrangement reimburse the area through which the pupil actually receives services. Each school district shall include in the enrollment report submitted pursuant to section 257.6, subsection 1, the number of nonpublic school pupils within each school district for media and educational services served by the area.

5. If an area education agency does not serve nonpublic school pupils in a manner comparable to services provided public school pupils for media and educational services, as determined by the state board of education, the state board shall instruct the department of management to reduce the funds for media services and educational services one time by an amount to compensate for such reduced services. The media services budget shall be reduced by an amount equal to the product of the cost per pupil in basic enrollment for the budget year for media services times the difference between the enrollment served and the basic enrollment recorded for the area. The educational services budget shall be reduced by an amount equal to the product of the cost per pupil in basic enrollment for the budget year for educational services times the difference between the enrollment served and the basic enrollment recorded for the area.

This subsection applies only to media and educational services which cannot be diverted for religious purposes.

Notwithstanding this subsection, an area education agency shall distribute to nonpublic schools media materials purchased wholly or partially with federal funds in a manner comparable to the distribution of such media materials to public schools as determined by the director of the department of education.

6. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2002, and each succeeding budget year, notwithstanding the requirements of this section for determining the budgets and funding of media services and education services, an area education agency may, within the limits of the total of the funds provided for the budget years pursuant to section 257.35, expend for special education support services an amount that exceeds the payment for special education support services pursuant to section 257.35 in order to maintain the level of required special education support services in the area education agency.

91 Acts, ch 6, §2; 91 Acts, ch 267, §228; 2002 Acts, ch 1167, §3, 6; 2003 Acts, ch 178, §42, 43; 2006 Acts, ch 1152, §26

257.38 Programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention.

1. Boards of school districts, individually or jointly with boards of other school districts, requesting to use modified allowable growth for programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention, shall submit comprehensive program plans for the programs and budget costs, including annual requests for modified allowable growth for funding the programs, to the department of education as a component of the comprehensive school improvement plan submitted to the department pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 21. The program plans shall include:

- a. Program goals, objectives, and activities to meet the needs of children who may drop out of school.
- b. Student identification criteria and procedures.
- c. Staff in-service education design.
- d. Staff utilization plans.

- e. Evaluation criteria and procedures and performance measures.
- f. Program budget.
- g. Qualifications required of personnel delivering the program.
- h. A provision for dropout prevention and integration of dropouts into the educational program of the district.
- i. A provision for identifying dropouts.
- j. A program for returning dropouts.
- k. Other factors the department requires.

2. Program plans shall identify the parts of the plan that will be implemented first upon approval of the request. If a district is requesting to use modified allowable growth to finance the program, the school district shall not identify more than five percent of its budget enrollment for the budget year as returning dropouts and potential dropouts.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 38; 2001 Acts, ch 159, §9; 2006 Acts, ch 1152, §27

257.39 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

1. *"Returning dropouts"* are resident pupils who have been enrolled in a public or nonpublic school in any of grades seven through twelve who withdrew from school for a reason other than transfer to another school or school district and who subsequently enrolled in a public school in the district.
2. *"Potential dropouts"* are resident pupils who are enrolled in a public or nonpublic school who demonstrate poor school adjustment as indicated by two or more of the following:
 - a. High rate of absenteeism, truancy, or frequent tardiness.
 - b. Limited or no extracurricular participation or lack of identification with school, including but not limited to, expressed feelings of not belonging.
 - c. Poor grades, including but not limited to, failing in one or more school subjects or grade levels.
 - d. Low achievement scores in reading or mathematics which reflect achievement at two years or more below grade level.
 - e. Children in grades kindergarten through three who meet the definition of at-risk children adopted by the department of education.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 39

257.40 Approval of programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention annual report.

1. The board of directors of a school district requesting to use modified allowable growth for programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention shall submit requests for modified at-risk allowable growth, including budget cost, to the department not later than December 15 of the year preceding the budget year during which the program will be offered. The department shall review the request and shall prior to January

15 either grant approval for the request or return the request for approval with comments of the department included. An unapproved request for a program may be resubmitted with modifications to the department not later than February 1. Not later than February 15, the department shall notify the department of management and the school budget review committee of the names of the school districts for which programs using modified allowable growth for funding have been approved and the approved budget of each program listed separately for each school district having an approved request.

2. Beginning January 15, 2007, the department shall submit an annual report to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house education committees that includes the ways school districts in the previous school year used modified allowable growth approved under subsection 1; identifies, by grade level, age, and district size, the students in the dropout and dropout prevention programs for which the department approves a request; describes school district progress toward increasing student achievement and attendance for the students in the programs; and describes how the school districts are using the revenues from the modified allowable growth to improve student achievement among minority subgroups.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 40; 2006 Acts, ch 1152, §28

257.41 Funding for programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention.

The budget of an approved program for returning dropouts and dropout prevention for a school district, after subtracting funds received from other sources for that purpose, shall be funded annually on a basis of one-fourth or more from the district cost of the school district and up to three-fourths by an increase in allowable growth as defined in section 257.8. Annually, the department of management shall establish a modified allowable growth for each such district equal to the difference between the approved budget for the program for returning dropouts and dropout prevention for that district and the sum of the amount funded from the district cost of the school district plus funds received from other sources.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 41

257.42 Gifted and talented children.

Boards of school districts, individually or jointly with the boards of other school districts, shall annually submit program plans for gifted and talented children programs and budget costs to the department of education and to the applicable gifted and talented children advisory council, if an advisory council has been established, as provided in this chapter.

The parent or guardian of a pupil may request that a gifted and talented children program be established for pupils who qualify as gifted and talented children under section 257.44, including demonstrated achievement or potential ability in a single subject area.

The department shall employ a consultant for gifted and talented children programs.

The department of education shall adopt rules under chapter 17A relating to the administration of sections 257.42 through 257.49. The rules shall prescribe the format of program plans submitted under section 257.43 and shall require that programs fulfill specified objectives. The department shall encourage and assist school districts to provide programs for gifted and talented children.

The department may request that the staff of the auditor of state conduct an independent program audit to verify that the gifted and talented programs conform to a district's program plans.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 42; 94 Acts, ch 1088, §1; 99 Acts, ch 178, §5, 10

257.43 Program plans.

The program plans submitted by school districts shall be part of the school improvement plan submitted pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "a", and shall include all of the following:

1. Program goals, objectives, and activities to meet the needs of gifted and talented children.
2. Student identification criteria and procedures.
3. Staff in-service education design.
4. Staff utilization plans.
5. Evaluation criteria and procedures and performance measures.
6. Program budget.
7. Qualifications required of personnel administering the program.
8. Other factors the department requires.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 43; 99 Acts, ch 178, §6, 10

257.44 Gifted and talented children defined.

"Gifted and talented children" are those identified as possessing outstanding abilities who are capable of high performance. Gifted and talented children are children who require appropriate instruction and educational services commensurate with their abilities and needs beyond those provided by the regular school program.

Gifted and talented children include those children with demonstrated achievement or potential ability, or both, in any of the following areas or in combination:

1. General intellectual ability.
2. Creative thinking.
3. Leadership ability.
4. Visual and performing arts ability.
5. Specific ability aptitude.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 44

257.45 Submission of program plans.

1. The board of directors of a school district shall submit applications for approval for the programs to the department not later than November 1 preceding the fiscal year during which the program will be offered. The board shall also submit a copy of the program plans to the gifted and talented children advisory council, if an advisory council has been established. The department shall review the program plans and shall prior to January 15 either grant approval for the program or return the request for approval with comments of the department included. Any unapproved request for a program may be resubmitted with modifications to the department not later than a date established by the department. Not later than February 15 the department

shall notify the department of management and the school budget review committee of the names of the school districts for which gifted and talented children programs have been approved and the approved budget of each program listed separately for each school district having an approved program.

2. The department of education may waive the November 1 deadline, if the department finds that the school district applying for approval of gifted and talented programs missed the deadline for good cause. The department shall adopt rules defining good cause for purposes of this section.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 45; 94 Acts, ch 1088, §2; 99 Acts, ch 178, §7, 10

257.46 Funding.

1. The budget of an approved gifted and talented children program for a school district, after subtracting funds received from other sources for that purpose, shall be funded annually on a basis of one-fourth or more from the district cost of the school district.

2. The remaining portion of the budget shall be funded by the thirty-eight dollar increase in allowable growth for the school budget year beginning July 1, 1999, multiplied by a district's budget enrollment. The thirty-eight dollar increase for the school budget year beginning July 1, 1999, shall increase in subsequent years by each year's state percent of growth. School districts shall annually report the amount expended for a gifted and talented program to the department of education. The proportion of a school district's budget which corresponds to the thirty-eight dollar increase in allowable growth for the school budget year beginning July 1, 1999, added to the amount in subsection 1, shall be utilized exclusively for a school district's gifted and talented program.

3. If any portion of the gifted and talented program budget remains unexpended at the end of the budget year, the remainder shall be carried over to the subsequent budget year and added to the gifted and talented program budget for that year.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 46; 94 Acts, ch 1088, §3; 99 Acts, ch 178, §8, 10; 2000 Acts, ch 1058, §29; 2000 Acts, ch 1151, §1, 2

257.47 Cooperation by area education agencies.

The area education agencies in which the school districts having approved gifted and talented children programs are located shall cooperate with the school district in the identification and placement of gifted and talented children and may assist school districts in the establishment of such programs.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 47

257.48 Advisory council.

At the written request of one or more boards of school districts, in an area education agency, the area education agency board shall establish one or more gifted and talented children advisory councils and shall appoint members for four- year staggered terms. The terms of office of advisory council members shall commence on July 1 of each year. An advisory council shall consist of seven members including teachers, parents, school administrators, and other persons interested in education in the area. Except as otherwise provided in this section, members shall be eligible electors residing in the merged area. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses and mileage incurred in the performance of their duties from funds available to the area education agency.

If an area education agency has a weighted enrollment of more than thirty-five thousand, the board may appoint additional advisory councils for each thirty-five thousand weighted enrollment or fraction of

thirty-five thousand. If more than one advisory council is appointed by the board, the board shall divide the merged area along school district boundary lines for jurisdiction of the advisory councils, and membership of these advisory councils shall be appointed from the designated portion of the merged area.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 48

257.49 Duties of advisory council.

The gifted and talented children advisory council shall:

1. Elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from the membership of the advisory council.
2. Meet as often as deemed necessary by the advisory council.
3. Advise and assist a local board of directors in the establishment of gifted and talented children programs, when requested by the local board.
4. Review program plans and proposed budgets for a gifted and talented children program, in consultation with a gifted and talented children consultant employed by the area education agency, when requested by a local board.
5. When requested by a local board, evaluate the results of a gifted and talented children program and file a written report together with recommendations for improvement or change with the board of directors of the applicable school district, the area education agency and the department of education. The evaluation shall be conducted by three or more members of the advisory council.

89 Acts, ch 135, § 49

257.50 Federal assistance school district responsibilities.

The director of the department of education, in accepting and administering federal funds in accordance with section 256.9, subsection 7, shall upon receiving federal grant moneys under the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, Title IV, Part B of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110, designate that a school district be the fiscal agent for an eligible local grant. Whenever possible, the grant applicant school district shall collaborate with a community-based organization, a public or private entity, or a consortium of two or more of such organizations or entities in establishing a community learning center. The department shall give priority to applications for programs serving students determined through research-based methods to be in the greatest need of eligible services. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if federal rules or regulations relating to the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant are adopted that are inconsistent with the provisions of this section, the department of education shall comply with the requirements of the federal rules or regulations.

2002 Acts, ch 1140, §12