

273.2 Area education agencies established powers services and programs.

1. There are established throughout the state fifteen area education agencies, each of which is governed by an area education agency board of directors. The boundaries of an area education agency shall not divide a school district. The director of the department of education shall change boundaries of area education agencies to take into account mergers of local school districts and changes in boundaries of local school districts, when necessary to maintain the policy of this chapter that a local school district shall not be a part of more than one area education agency.

2. An area education agency established under this chapter is a body politic as a school corporation for the purpose of exercising powers granted under this chapter, and may sue and be sued. An area education agency may hold property and execute lease-purchase agreements pursuant to section 273.3, subsection 7, and if the lease exceeds ten years or the purchase price of the property to be acquired pursuant to a lease-purchase agreement exceeds twenty-five thousand dollars, the area education agency shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed lease-purchase agreement and receive approval from the area education agency board of directors and the director of the department of education before entering into the agreement.

3. The area education agency board shall furnish educational services and programs as provided in sections 273.1 to 273.9 and chapter 256B to the pupils enrolled in public or nonpublic schools located within its boundaries which are on the list of accredited schools pursuant to section 256.11. The programs and services provided shall be at least commensurate with programs and services existing on July 1, 1974. The programs and services provided to pupils enrolled in nonpublic schools shall be comparable to programs and services provided to pupils enrolled in public schools within constitutional guidelines.

4. The area education agency board shall provide for special education services and media services for the local school districts in the area and shall encourage and assist school districts in the area to establish programs for gifted and talented children. The board shall assist in facilitating interlibrary loans of materials between school districts and other libraries. Each area education agency shall include as a member of its media center advisory committee a library service area trustee or library service area staff member, who is appointed to the committee by the commission of libraries.

5. The area education agency board may provide for the following programs and services to local school districts, and at the request of local school districts to providers of child development services who have received grants under chapter 256A from the child development coordinating council, within the limits of funds available:

a. In-service training programs for employees of school districts and area education agencies, provided at the time programs and services are established they do not duplicate programs and services available in that area from the universities under the state board of regents and from other universities and four-year institutions of higher education in Iowa. The in-service training programs shall include but are not limited to regular training concerning mental or emotional disorders which may afflict children and the impact children with such disorders have upon their families.

b. Educational data processing pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 11.

c. Research, demonstration projects and models, and educational planning for children under five years of age through grade twelve and children requiring special education as defined in section 256B.2 as approved by the state board of education.

d. Auxiliary services for nonpublic school pupils as provided in section 256.12. However, if auxiliary services are provided their funding shall be based on the type of service provided.

e. Other educational programs and services for children under five years through grade twelve and children

requiring special education as defined in section 256B.2 and for employees of school districts and area education agencies as approved by the state board of education.

6. The board of directors of an area education agency shall not establish programs and services which duplicate programs and services which are or may be provided by the community colleges under the provisions of chapter 260C. An area education agency shall contract, whenever practicable, with other school corporations for the use of personnel, buildings, facilities, supplies, equipment, programs, and services.

[C66, 71, 73, § 280A.25(3); C75, 77, 79, 81, § 273.2, 280A.25(3); 82 Acts, ch 1006, § 1, 2, ch 1136, § 1]

84 Acts, ch 1103, § 1; 85 Acts, ch 195, § 30; 86 Acts, ch 1245, § 1457; 87 Acts, ch 115, § 39; 89 Acts, ch 135, §57; 95 Acts, ch 182, §20; 2001 Acts, ch 158, §23