

H-8067

1 Amend House File 2539 as follows:

2 1. By striking everything after the enacting clause and
3 inserting:

4 <Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256B.10 Deaf and hard-of-hearing
5 children — language developmental milestones.

6 1. *Language developmental milestones — selection.*

7 a. The director of the department of education shall appoint
8 an early language development consultant to work with the
9 state school for the deaf, the area education agencies, school
10 districts, and the early hearing detection and intervention
11 program in the department of public health, and shall select
12 language developmental milestones from existing standardized
13 norms for purposes of developing a resource for use by parents
14 or guardians to monitor and track deaf and hard-of-hearing
15 children's expressive and receptive language acquisition and
16 developmental stages toward American sign language and English
17 literacy. In selecting the language developmental milestones,
18 the early language development consultant shall consider
19 recommendations from the advisory committee established under
20 subsection 5.

21 b. The duties of the early language development consultant
22 appointed by the director pursuant to paragraph "a" shall, at a
23 minimum, include all of the following:

24 (1) Developing and managing language milestones for each
25 age, from birth through age eight, in American sign language
26 and English pursuant to subsection 3.

27 (2) Staffing the advisory committee established pursuant
28 to subsection 5, including but not limited to organizing and
29 facilitating the advisory committee meetings.

30 (3) Developing and distributing resources for parents
31 pertaining to language development pursuant to subsection 4.

32 (4) Developing and distributing resources for early
33 interventionists, educators, hospitals, and health care
34 providers pertaining to language development.

35 (5) Exercising general supervision over follow-up contacts

1 with parents and guardians regarding the need for valid and
2 reliable language assessments and distribution of resources
3 toward language development in American sign language and
4 English.

5 (6) Planning a parent-friendly procedure for outreach and
6 follow-up.

7 (7) Exercising general supervision over annual or biannual,
8 at the consultant's discretion, milestone assessments for deaf
9 and hard-of-hearing children.

10 (8) Managing and summarizing data outcomes for parents,
11 guardians, and partner agencies to use, including the annual
12 report published pursuant to subsection 7.

13 (9) Arranging for and exercising general supervision over
14 the appropriate training for language assessment personnel.

15 (10) Maintaining valid and reliable two-fold language
16 assessment approach, utilizing both American sign language and
17 English, in selecting milestones, compiling data, employing
18 qualified personnel, and distributing resources.

19 2. *Parent resource.* The parent resource developed pursuant
20 to subsection 1 shall meet all of the following requirements:

21 a. Include American sign language and English language
22 developmental milestones selected under subsection 1.

23 b. Be appropriate for use, in both content and
24 administration, with deaf and hard-of-hearing children from
25 birth to eight years of age, inclusive, who use American sign
26 language or English, or both.

27 c. Present the language developmental milestones in terms of
28 typical development of all children from birth to eight years
29 of age, by age range.

30 d. Be written for clarity and ease of use by parents and
31 guardians.

32 e. Be aligned to the department of education's existing
33 infant, toddler, and preschool guidelines, standards for
34 evaluating eligibility and progress for early intervention or
35 special education under federal law, and state standards in

1 English language arts.

2 *f.* Clearly specify that the parent resource is not a
3 formal assessment of language and literacy development, and
4 that the observations of a child by the child's parent or
5 guardian may differ from formal assessment data presented at an
6 individualized family service plan or individualized education
7 program meeting.

8 *g.* Clearly specify that a parent or guardian may bring
9 the parent resource to an individualized family service plan
10 or individualized education program meeting for purposes of
11 sharing the parent's or guardian's observations regarding the
12 child's development.

13 3. *Selection of tools or assessments.* The early language
14 development consultant, in consultation with the state school
15 for the deaf, the area education agencies, school districts,
16 and the early hearing detection and intervention program in the
17 department of public health, shall select existing tools or
18 assessments for educators that can be used to assess American
19 sign language and English language and literacy development of
20 deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth to eight years of
21 age, inclusive.

22 *a.* Educator tools or assessments selected under this
23 subsection shall meet the following criteria:

24 (1) Be in a format that shows stages of language
25 development.

26 (2) Be selected for use by educators to track the
27 development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children's expressive
28 and receptive language acquisition and developmental stages
29 toward American sign language and English literacy.

30 (3) Be appropriate in both content and administration for
31 use with deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

32 *b.* Educator tools or assessments selected under this
33 subsection may do either of the following:

34 (1) Be used, in addition to any assessment required by
35 federal law, by the child's individualized family service plan

1 or individualized education program team, as applicable, to
2 track deaf and hard-of-hearing children's progress in improving
3 expressive and receptive language skills, and to establish or
4 modify individualized family service plans or individualized
5 education programs.

6 (2) Reflect the recommendations of the advisory committee
7 convened under subsection 5.

8 4. *Dissemination.* The early language development
9 consultant shall disseminate the parent resource developed
10 pursuant to this section to parents and guardians of deaf and
11 hard-of-hearing children and, consistent with federal law,
12 shall disseminate the educator tools and assessments selected
13 pursuant to subsection 3 to early hearing detection and
14 invention programs, area education agencies, school districts,
15 accredited nonpublic schools, and the state school for the deaf
16 for use in the development and modification of individualized
17 family service or individualized education program plans,
18 and shall provide materials and training on the use of such
19 materials to assist deaf and hard-of-hearing children in
20 kindergarten readiness using American sign language or English,
21 or both, from birth through age eight.

22 5. *Advisory committee.*

23 a. The department of education shall establish and consult
24 with an advisory committee for purposes of soliciting input,
25 including input from experts on the selection of language
26 developmental milestones for children who are deaf or
27 hard-of-hearing that are equivalent to those for children who
28 are not deaf or hard-of-hearing, for inclusion in the parent
29 resource developed and disseminated to parents and guardians
30 pursuant to this section. The early language development
31 consultant shall provide staffing and administrative support
32 to the advisory committee and shall provide the committee
33 with a list of existing language developmental milestones
34 from existing standardized norms, along with any relevant
35 information held by the department regarding those language

1 developmental milestones for possible inclusion in the parent
2 resource developed pursuant to this section.

3 *b.* The advisory committee shall do all of the following:

4 (1) Make recommendations on the selection and use of the
5 educator tools or assessments selected pursuant to subsection
6 3.

7 (2) Advise the department or its consultants on the content
8 and administration of existing evaluation and assessment tools,
9 instruments, and procedures used to assess the development
10 of children with disabilities pursuant to federal law, and
11 to assess deaf and hard-of-hearing children's language and
12 literacy development to ensure the appropriate use of such
13 tools, instruments, and procedures with such children, and may
14 make recommendations regarding future research to improve the
15 measurement of progress of deaf and hard-of-hearing children in
16 language and literacy development.

17 (3) Develop a process in compliance with federal law for
18 plan modifications if a deaf or hard-of-hearing child does not
19 demonstrate adequate yearly progress in improving expressive
20 and receptive language skills, as measured by an educator tool
21 or assessment selected pursuant to subsection 3.

22 (4) The advisory committee shall consist of seven
23 volunteers, the majority of whom shall be deaf or
24 hard-of-hearing, and all of whom shall have experience
25 or involvement within the field of education for the
26 deaf and hard-of-hearing or relating directly to deaf and
27 hard-of-hearing children. The advisory committee shall include
28 all of the following members:

29 (a) One parent or guardian of a child who is deaf or
30 hard-of-hearing and who uses both American sign language and
31 English or who uses spoken English.

32 (b) One licensed teacher who uses American sign language and
33 English.

34 (c) One licensed teacher who uses spoken English.

35 (d) One person who shall be the parent or guardian of a deaf

1 or hard-of-hearing child or an interpreter, speech pathologist,
2 teacher of the deaf, human rights advocate, child advocate, or
3 licensed education administrator.

4 (e) One advocate for the deaf or an advocate of American
5 sign language.

6 (f) One American sign language specialist, American sign
7 language professor, or native signer recommended by the Iowa
8 association of the deaf and the office of deaf services of the
9 department of human rights.

10 (g) One speech pathologist whose expertise is in spoken
11 English, or an early interventionist who uses spoken English.

12 c. The early language development consultant shall
13 convene the advisory committee by March 1, 2021, and as
14 frequently thereafter as the consultant deems necessary
15 for purposes of this section. The advisory committee shall
16 submit recommendations to the state board of education by
17 July 1, 2021, shall submit recommendations relating to plan
18 modifications developed pursuant to paragraph "b", subparagraph
19 (3), to the state board of education and to the general
20 assembly by December 1, 2021, and shall submit recommendations
21 thereafter as the consultant deems necessary.

22 6. *Activities — consistent with federal law.* All activities
23 of the department of education in implementing this section
24 shall be consistent with federal law for the education of
25 children from birth to eight years of age, inclusive.

26 7. *Annual report.* The department of education shall
27 annually compile, and publish on the department's internet
28 site, a report using existing data reported in compliance
29 with the state performance plan on pupils with disabilities,
30 required under federal law, that is specific to language and
31 literacy development in deaf and hard-of-hearing children
32 from birth to eight years of age, inclusive, including those
33 children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and have other
34 disabilities, relative to the children's peers who are not deaf
35 or hard-of-hearing.

1 8. *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, unless the
2 context otherwise requires:

3 a. "*English*" includes spoken English, written English, or
4 English with the use of visual supplements.

5 b. "*Federal law*" means the federal Individuals with
6 Disabilities Education Act, as amended by the federal
7 Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act, Pub. L. No.
8 108-446, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., as amended.>

SALMON of Black Hawk

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