

Senate Amendment to
House File 2612

H-8220

1 Amend House File 2612, as amended, passed, and reprinted by
2 the House, as follows:

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

5 <DIVISION I

6 DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

7 Section 1. Section 256.9, subsection 54, Code 2024, is
8 amended by striking the subsection.

9 Sec. 2. Section 256B.3, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
10 following new subsections:

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 15A. Beginning July 1, 2025, oversee the
12 operation of each area education agency to ensure the area
13 education agency complies with all applicable federal and state
14 laws related to special education.

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 15B. Beginning July 1, 2025, provide
16 guidance and standards to area education agencies for federal
17 and state education initiatives which the area education
18 agencies must implement statewide.

19 Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES
20 — STAFFING AND TRANSITION PLAN.

21 1. The department of education shall coordinate with
22 each area education agency, and with the division of special
23 education of the department, to develop a plan to transfer
24 employees of the area education agency whose primary job duties
25 involve providing oversight and compliance services to the area
26 education agency to ensure the area education agency complies
27 with all applicable federal and state laws related to special
28 education from employment under the area education agency to
29 employment under the division of special education of the
30 department, as needed. The plan shall include a description of
31 how the area education agency will accommodate any space needed
32 in the area education agency's facilities for employees of the
33 division of special education.

34 2. The department of education will compile all of the plans
35 created pursuant to subsection 1 and submit the compilation to

1 the general assembly on or before January 1, 2025.

2 DIVISION II

3 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — GENERAL PROVISIONS

4 Sec. 4. Section 273.1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 **273.1 Intent.**

7 It is the intent of the general assembly to provide an
8 effective, efficient, and economical means of identifying and
9 serving children from under five years of age through grade
10 twelve who require special education and any other children
11 requiring special education as defined in [section 256B.2](#); to
12 provide for media services and other programs and services
13 for pupils in grades kindergarten through twelve and children
14 requiring special education as defined in [section 256B.2](#); to
15 provide a method of financing the programs and services; and
16 ~~to avoid a duplication of programs and services provided by~~
17 ~~any other school corporation in the state; and to provide~~
18 services to school districts under a contract with those school
19 districts; to improve student achievement; and to close student
20 achievement gaps.

21 Sec. 5. Section 273.2, subsections 1, 3, and 4, Code 2024,
22 are amended to read as follows:

23 1. There are established throughout the state ~~fifteen~~ nine
24 area education agencies, each of which is governed by an area
25 education agency board of directors and, beginning July 1,
26 2025, by the division of special education of the department of
27 education to the extent described in section 256B.3, subsection
28 15A. The boundaries of an area education agency shall not
29 divide a school district. The director of the department of
30 education shall change boundaries of area education agencies
31 to take into account mergers of local school districts and
32 changes in boundaries of local school districts, when necessary
33 to maintain the policy of [this chapter](#) that a local school
34 district shall not be a part of more than one area education
35 agency.

1 3. a. (1) The Subject to subparagraph (2), the area
2 education agency board shall furnish educational services
3 and programs as provided in section 273.1, this section,
4 sections 273.3 through 273.8, and chapter 256B to the pupils
5 enrolled in public ~~or nonpublic~~ schools located within
6 its boundaries which are on the list of accredited schools
7 pursuant to section 256.11. The area education agency board
8 shall furnish educational and media services and programs
9 as provided in section 273.1, this section, sections 273.3
10 through 273.8, and chapter 256B to the pupils enrolled in
11 nonpublic schools located within its boundaries which are on
12 the list of accredited nonpublic schools pursuant to section
13 256.11 regardless of whether the school district in which the
14 accredited nonpublic school is located receives such services
15 and programs from the area education agency.

16 (2) A public school located within an area education
17 agency's boundaries that wishes to receive educational services
18 and programs from the area education agency must request to
19 receive such educational services and programs by February 1 of
20 the preceding school year, including by providing for a method
21 of payment for such services and programs and entering into an
22 agreement with the area education agency. If a public school
23 located within an area education agency's boundaries requests
24 to receive such services after February 1 of the preceding
25 school year, the area education agency board may furnish the
26 educational services and programs.

27 (3) The programs and services provided under this
28 subsection shall be at least commensurate with programs and
29 services existing on July 1, 1974.

30 (4) The programs and services provided to pupils enrolled
31 in nonpublic schools shall be comparable to programs and
32 services provided to pupils enrolled in public schools within
33 constitutional guidelines.

34 b. The area education agencies may furnish evidence-based
35 professional development services to public or nonpublic

1 schools located within its boundaries which are on the list of
2 accredited schools pursuant to section 256.11, subject to the
3 approval of the director of the department of education.

4 4. The area education agency board shall ~~provide~~ do all of
5 the following:

6 a. Provide for special education services and ~~media services~~
7 for the local school districts in the area and ~~shall encourage~~
8 that request to receive such services by February 1 of the
9 preceding school year, including by providing for a method of
10 payment for such services and entering into agreements with the
11 area education agency. An area education agency may provide
12 special education services for local school districts in the
13 area that request to receive such services after February 1 of
14 the preceding school year.

15 b. Encourage and assist school districts in the area to
16 establish programs for gifted and talented children. ~~The board~~
17 ~~shall assist~~

18 c. Assist in facilitating interlibrary loans of materials
19 between school districts and other libraries.

20 Sec. 6. Section 273.2, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
21 following new subsections:

22 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. The area education agency board shall
23 provide for media services for the local school districts in
24 the area that request to receive such services by February 1 of
25 the preceding school year, including by providing for a method
26 of payment for such services and entering into agreements
27 with the area education agency. An area education agency may
28 provide media services for local school districts in the area
29 that request to receive such services after February 1 of the
30 preceding school year.

31 NEW SUBSECTION. 12. The area education agency board shall
32 charge reasonable costs that are consistent with current
33 market rates for the educational services, special education
34 services, professional development services, and media services
35 established by the area education agency board.

1 NEW SUBSECTION. 13. The area education agency board
2 shall provide an annual report by October 1 of each year to
3 the general assembly and the department of education that
4 includes a description of the progress the area education
5 agency has made to improve the outcomes achieved by students
6 receiving special education services and a description of how
7 the area education agency is focusing the moneys it receives on
8 providing services in the classroom.

9 Sec. 7. Section 273.3, subsection 11, Code 2024, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 11. Employ personnel to carry out the functions of the
12 area education agency which shall include the employment of
13 an administrator who shall possess a license issued under
14 chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3. The administrator shall
15 be employed pursuant to [section 279.20](#) and [sections 279.23](#),
16 [279.24](#), and [279.25](#). The salary for an area education agency
17 administrator shall be established by the board based upon
18 the previous experience and education of the administrator;
19 provided, however, that the salary for an area education agency
20 administrator shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five percent
21 of the average salary of all superintendents of the school
22 districts that are located within the boundaries of the area
23 education agency. [Section 279.13](#) applies to the area education
24 agency board and to all teachers employed by the area education
25 agency. [Sections 279.23](#), [279.24](#), and [279.25](#) apply to the area
26 education board and to all administrators employed by the area
27 education agency. [Section 279.69](#) applies to the area education
28 agency board and employees of the board, including part-time,
29 substitute, or contract employees, who provide services to a
30 school or school district.

31 Sec. 8. Section 273.3, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
32 following new subsection:

33 NEW SUBSECTION. 26. Annually, on or before January 1 of
34 each year, prepare and submit to each school district within
35 the boundaries of the area education agency a report that

1 includes all of the following:

2 *a.* A monetary accounting of payments the area education
3 agency received from the school district, including payments
4 under section 257.35, during the previous fiscal year.

5 *b.* A description of the services the area education agency
6 provided to the school district during the previous fiscal
7 year, including a calculation of the cost per pupil for each
8 category of service the area education agency provided to the
9 school district.

10 Sec. 9. Section 273.4, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024,
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 Under direction of the board of directors of the area
13 education agency, and, beginning July 1, 2025, the division of
14 special education of the department of education, to the extent
15 described in section 256B.3, subsection 15A, the administrator
16 of the area education agency shall, in addition to other
17 duties:

18 Sec. 10. Section 273.5, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024,
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 There shall be established a division of special education
21 of the area education agency which shall provide for special
22 education programs and services to the local school districts.
23 The division of special education shall be headed by a director
24 of special education who meets certification standards of the
25 department of education. The director of special education
26 shall be an employee of the division of special education of
27 the department of education. The director of special education
28 shall have the responsibility for implementation of state
29 regulations and guidelines relating to special education
30 programs and services. The director of special education shall
31 have the following powers and duties:

32 Sec. 11. Section 273.8, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
33 to read as follows:

34 1. *Board of directors.*

35 *a.* The board of directors of an area education agency shall

1 consist of ~~not less than five nor more than nine members,~~
2 ~~each a resident of and elected in the manner provided in this~~
3 ~~section from a director district that is approximately equal~~
4 ~~in population to the other director districts in the area~~
5 ~~education agency.~~ Each director shall serve a four-year term
6 which commences at the organization meeting.

7 b. Five members of the board of directors of an area
8 education agency must be residents of and elected in the
9 manner provided in this section from a director district that
10 is approximately equal in population to the other director
11 districts in the area education agency.

12 c. Four members of the board of directors of an area
13 education agency must be appointed by the majority vote of
14 the superintendents of school districts located within the
15 boundaries of the area education agency. A member appointed
16 pursuant to this paragraph must be a superintendent of a school
17 district located within the boundaries of the area education
18 agency; provided, however, that a superintendent appointed
19 pursuant to this paragraph may designate any individual to
20 serve for all, or the remainder of, the superintendent's term.

21 Sec. 12. Section 273.8, subsection 2, paragraphs c and d,
22 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

23 c. The board of each separate school district that is
24 located entirely or partially inside an area education agency
25 director district shall cast a vote for director of the area
26 education agency board described in subsection 1, paragraph
27 "b", based upon the ratio that the population of the school
28 district, or portion of the school district, in the director
29 district bears to the total population in the director
30 district. The population of each school district or portion
31 shall be determined by the department of education. The member
32 of the area education agency board described in subsection 1,
33 paragraph "b", to be elected may be a member of a local school
34 district board of directors and shall be an elector and a
35 resident of the director district, but shall not be a school

1 district employee.

2 *d.* (1) Vacancies A vacancy, as defined in [section 277.29](#),
3 in ~~the~~ a membership position of the area education agency board
4 described in subsection 1, paragraph "b", shall be filled
5 for the unexpired portion of the term at a director district
6 convention called and conducted in the manner provided in
7 subsection 3.

8 (2) A vacancy, as defined in section 277.29, in a membership
9 position of the area education agency board described in
10 subsection 1, paragraph "c", shall be filled for the unexpired
11 portion of the term by an individual who is appointed by
12 the majority vote of the superintendents of school districts
13 located within the boundaries of the area education agency.

14 Sec. 13. Section 273.8, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 3. *Director district convention.* If no candidate files with
17 the area education agency secretary by the deadline specified
18 in [subsection 2](#), or a vacancy occurs, or if otherwise required
19 as provided in [section 273.23, subsection 3](#), a director
20 district convention, attended by members of the boards of
21 directors of the local school districts located within the
22 director district, shall be called to elect a board member
23 described in subsection 1, paragraph "b", for that director
24 district. The convention location shall be determined by the
25 area education agency administrator. Notice of the time, date,
26 and place of a director district convention shall be published
27 by the area education agency administrator in at least one
28 newspaper of general circulation in the director district at
29 least thirty days prior to the day of the convention. The cost
30 of publication shall be paid by the area education agency. A
31 candidate for election to the area education agency board shall
32 file a statement of candidacy with the area education agency
33 secretary at least ten days prior to the date of the director
34 district convention on forms prescribed by the department of
35 education, or nominations may be made at the convention by a

1 delegate from a board of directors of a school district located
2 within the director district. A statement of candidacy shall
3 include the candidate's name, address, and school district.
4 Delegates to director district conventions shall not be bound
5 by a school board or any school board member to pledge their
6 votes to any candidate prior to the date of the convention.

7 Sec. 14. Section 273.10, Code 2024, is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 **273.10 Accreditation of area education programs.**

10 1. The division of special education of the department
11 of education shall develop, in consultation with the area
12 education agencies, and establish an accreditation process for
13 area education agencies ~~by July 1, 1997~~. At a minimum, the
14 accreditation process shall consist of the following:

15 a. The timely submission by an area education agency of
16 information required by the division of special education of
17 the department on forms provided by the ~~department~~ division of
18 special education.

19 b. The use of an accreditation team appointed by the
20 ~~director~~ division of special education of the department of
21 education to conduct an evaluation, including an on-site visit
22 of each area education agency. The team shall include, but
23 is not limited to, department staff members, representatives
24 from the school districts served by the area education agency
25 being evaluated, area education agency staff members from area
26 education agencies other than the area education agency that
27 conducts the programs being evaluated for accreditation, and
28 other team members with expertise as deemed appropriate by the
29 ~~director~~ division of special education.

30 2. Prior to a visit to an area education agency, the
31 accreditation team shall have access to that area education
32 agency's program audit report filed with the ~~department~~
33 division of special education of the department of education.
34 After a visit to an area education agency, the accreditation
35 team shall determine whether the accreditation standards for

1 a program, including but not limited to standards established
2 pursuant to ~~section 256.9, subsection 54~~ section 256B.3,
3 subsection 15B, have been met and shall make a report to the
4 ~~director and the state board~~ division of special education,
5 together with a recommendation as to whether the programs of
6 the area education agency should receive initial accreditation
7 or remain accredited. The accreditation team shall report
8 strengths and weaknesses, if any, for each accreditation
9 standard and shall advise the area education agency of
10 available resources and technical assistance to further enhance
11 the strengths and improve areas of weakness. An area education
12 agency may respond to the accreditation team's report.

13 3. The ~~state board of education~~ division of special
14 education of the department of education shall determine
15 whether a program of an area education agency shall receive
16 initial accreditation or shall remain accredited.

17 a. Approval of area education agency programs by the ~~state~~
18 ~~board~~ division of special education shall be based upon the
19 ~~recommendation of the director of the department of education~~
20 after a study of the factual and evaluative evidence on record
21 about each area education agency program in terms of the
22 accreditation standards adopted by the state board.

23 b. Approval, if granted, shall be for a term of five years.
24 However, the ~~state board~~ division of special education may
25 grant conditional approval for a term of less than five years
26 if conditions warrant.

27 4. If the ~~state board of education~~ division of special
28 education of the department of education determines that an
29 area education agency's program does not meet accreditation
30 standards, the ~~director of the department of education~~
31 division of special education, in cooperation with the board
32 of directors of the area education agency, shall establish a
33 remediation plan prescribing the procedures that must be taken
34 to correct deficiencies in meeting the program standards,
35 and shall establish a deadline date for correction of the

1 deficiencies. ~~The remediation plan is subject to the approval~~
2 ~~of the state board.~~

3 5. The division of special education of the department
4 of education may suspend the accreditation of the area
5 education agency program shall remain accredited during the
6 implementation of the remediation plan. The accreditation
7 team shall visit the area education agency and shall determine
8 whether the deficiencies in the standards for the program have
9 been corrected and shall make a report and recommendation
10 to the director and the state board of education division
11 of special education. The state board division of special
12 education shall review the report and recommendation and shall
13 determine whether the deficiencies in the program have been
14 corrected. If the division of special education determines
15 that the deficiencies in the program have been corrected, the
16 division of special education shall reinstate the accreditation
17 of the area education agency program if such accreditation was
18 suspended pursuant to this subsection.

19 6. a. If the deficiencies in an area education program
20 have not been corrected, the ~~agency board~~ division of special
21 education of the department of education shall take one
22 of the following actions within sixty days from removal of
23 accreditation:

24 (1) Merge the deficient program with a program from another
25 accredited area education agency.

26 (2) Contract with another area education agency or other
27 public educational institution for purposes of program
28 delivery.

29 b. The rules developed by the state board of education for
30 the accreditation process shall include provisions for removal
31 of accreditation, including provisions for proper notice to the
32 administrator of the area education agency, each member of the
33 board of directors of the area education agency, the department
34 of education, and the superintendents and administrators of the
35 schools of the districts served by the area education agency.

1 Sec. 15. Section 273.11, Code 2024, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **273.11 Standards for accrediting area education programs.**

4 1. The state board of education, in consultation with the
5 division of special education of the department of education,
6 shall develop standards and rules for the accreditation of area
7 education agencies. Standards shall be general in nature,
8 but at a minimum shall identify requirements addressing the
9 services provided by each division, as well as identifying
10 indicators of quality that will permit area education agencies,
11 school districts, the division of special education of the
12 department of education, and the general public to judge
13 accurately the effectiveness of area education agency services.

14 2. Standards developed shall include, but are not limited
15 to, the following:

16 a. Support for school-community planning, including a means
17 of assessing needs, developing collaborative relationships
18 among community agencies, establishing shared direction, and
19 implementing program plans and reporting progress toward goals
20 for all students, including students with disabilities.

21 b. ~~Professional~~ Evidence-based professional development
22 programs that respond to current needs.

23 c. Support for curriculum development, instruction, and
24 assessment ~~for~~ services that address the areas of reading,
25 language arts, math, and science, using research-based
26 methodologies, for all students, including students with
27 disabilities.

28 d. Special education ~~compliance and~~ support.

29 e. Management services, including financial reporting and
30 purchasing as requested and funded by local districts.

31 f. Support for instructional media services that supplement
32 and support local district media centers and services.

33 g. Support for school technology planning and staff
34 development for implementing instructional technologies.

35 h. A program and services evaluation and reporting system

1 that includes information related to special education.

2 i. Support for school district libraries in accordance with
3 section 273.2, subsection 4.

4 j. Support for early childhood service coordination for
5 families and children, age birth through three years, to
6 meet health, safety, and learning needs, including service
7 coordination.

8 k. Timely submission of required reports and documents to
9 the state board of education, the department of education,
10 and the division of special education of the department of
11 education.

12 l. Support for schools and school districts in analyzing
13 student achievement data related to the learning environment,
14 comparing data to the external knowledge base, and using that
15 information to guide schools and school districts in setting
16 goals and implementing actions to improve student learning for
17 all students, including students with disabilities.

18 m. Support for addressing the diverse learning needs of
19 all children and youths, including children and youths who are
20 eligible for special education through services that include
21 direct services to students with disabilities.

22 n. Support for schools and school districts to ensure
23 compliance with rules adopted by the state board of education
24 related to special education.

25 o. Support necessary to implement effective instruction for
26 all students, including students with disabilities, through
27 school technology services.

28 p. Support for students using educational programs and
29 services in a manner that is consistent with the educational
30 standards established pursuant to section 256.11.

31 q. Support for staff development and adult learners
32 utilizing evidence-based professional development in a manner
33 that meets the professional needs of staff and adult learners
34 consistent with standards adopted by the state board of
35 education.

1 r. Compliance with all relevant federal and state laws
2 in the provision of services and supports to students with
3 disabilities.

4 Sec. 16. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

5 1. An area education agency that was accredited pursuant to
6 section 273.10 on or before the effective date of the section
7 of this division of this Act amending section 273.10 shall
8 remain accredited unless and until the division of special
9 education of the department of education takes action to remove
10 accreditation from the area education agency pursuant to
11 section 273.10, as amended in this division of this Act.

12 2. a. As of July 1, 2024, each area education agency shall
13 terminate the employment of all directors of special education
14 employed by the area education agency pursuant to section
15 273.5, as amended in this division of this Act.

16 b. Within a reasonable time after July 1, 2024, the
17 division of special education of the department of education
18 shall employ at least one individual to serve as a director
19 of special education in each area education agency. During
20 the hiring process associated with employing an individual to
21 serve as director of special education in an area education
22 agency, the division of special education shall give preference
23 to individuals whose employment was terminated pursuant to
24 paragraph "a".

25 Sec. 17. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following take effect July 1,
26 2025:

27 1. The section of this division of this Act amending section
28 273.10.

29 2. The section of this division of this Act amending section
30 273.11.

31 Sec. 18. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to
32 employment agreements entered into or renewed between an area
33 education agency and an area education agency administrator on
34 or after July 1, 2024:

35 The section of this division of this Act amending section

1 273.3, subsection 11.

2 Sec. 19. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to the
3 election of directors and vacancies occurring under section
4 273.8, as amended in this division of this Act, on or after
5 July 1, 2024:

6 The sections of this division of this Act amending section
7 273.8.

8 Sec. 20. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to school years
9 beginning on or after July 1, 2025:

10 1. The portion of the section of this division of this Act
11 amending section 273.2, subsection 3.

12 2. The portion of the section of this division of this Act
13 amending section 273.2, subsection 4.

14 3. The portion of the section of this division of this Act
15 enacting section 273.2, subsection 4A.

16 DIVISION III

17 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — FUNDING

18 Sec. 21. Section 257.1, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 3. *Computations rounded.* In making computations and
21 payments under [this chapter](#), except in the case of computations
22 relating to funding of special education support services,
23 media services, and educational services ~~provided through the~~
24 ~~area education agencies~~ under section 257.37, and the teacher
25 salary supplement, the professional development supplement,
26 the early intervention supplement, and the teacher leadership
27 supplement, the department of management shall round amounts to
28 the nearest whole dollar.

29 Sec. 22. Section 257.10, subsection 7, Code 2024, is amended
30 to read as follows:

31 7. *Special education support services district cost.* Special
32 education support services district cost for a school district
33 for a budget year is equal to the special education support
34 services district cost per pupil for the budget year multiplied
35 by the special education support services weighted enrollment

1 for the district for the budget year. If the special education
2 support services district cost for a school district for
3 a budget year is less than the special education support
4 services district cost for that district for the base year, the
5 department of management shall adjust the special education
6 support services district cost for that district for the budget
7 year to equal the special education support services district
8 cost for the base year. Funds calculated under this subsection
9 and received by a school district or an area education agency,
10 as applicable, shall be used for special education support
11 services.

12 Sec. 23. Section 257.10, subsection 8, paragraph a, Code
13 2024, is amended to read as follows:

14 a. Combined district cost is the sum of the regular program
15 district cost per pupil multiplied by the weighted enrollment,
16 the special education support services district cost, the
17 total teacher salary supplement district cost, the total
18 professional development supplement district cost, the total
19 early intervention supplement district cost, and the total
20 teacher leadership supplement district cost, plus the sum of
21 the additional district cost allocated to the district to fund
22 media services and educational services ~~provided through the~~
23 ~~area education agency~~ under section 257.37, the area education
24 agency total teacher salary supplement district cost and the
25 area education agency total professional development supplement
26 district cost.

27 Sec. 24. Section 257.35, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 1. a. (1) The For fiscal years beginning before July 1,
30 2024, the department of management shall deduct the amounts
31 calculated for special education support services, media
32 services, area education agency teacher salary supplement
33 district cost, area education agency professional development
34 supplement district cost, and educational services for each
35 school district from the state aid due to the district pursuant

1 to this chapter and shall pay the amounts to the respective
2 area education agencies on a monthly basis from September 15
3 through June 15 during each school year.

4 (2) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, the
5 department of management shall deduct the following amounts
6 from the state aid due to each school district pursuant to
7 this chapter and shall pay the amounts to the respective area
8 education agencies on a monthly basis from September 15 through
9 June 15 during each school year:

10 (a) The amount calculated for special education support
11 services for the school district.

12 (b) Forty percent of the amount calculated for media
13 services for the school district.

14 (c) The area education agency teacher salary supplement
15 district cost.

16 (d) The area education agency professional development
17 supplement district cost.

18 (e) Forty percent of the amount calculated in section 257.37
19 for educational services for the school district.

20 (3) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and each
21 fiscal year thereafter, the department of management shall
22 deduct the following from the state aid due to each school
23 district pursuant to this chapter and shall pay the amounts to
24 the respective area education agencies on a monthly basis from
25 September 15 through June 15 during each school year:

26 (a) The greater of the following:

27 (i) Ten percent of the amount calculated for special
28 education support services for the school district.

29 (ii) The amount calculated for special education support
30 services for the school district that is attributable to that
31 portion of the special education support services weighted
32 enrollment that is nonpublic school pupils served with special
33 education support services by the area education agency.

34 (b) The area education agency teacher salary supplement
35 district cost.

1 (c) The area education agency professional development
2 supplement district cost.

3 (d) The amount calculated in section 257.37 for media
4 services for the school district that is attributable to that
5 portion of the enrollment served, as defined in section 257.37,
6 subsection 4, that is nonpublic school pupils served with media
7 services by the area education agency.

8 (e) The amount calculated in section 257.37 for educational
9 services for the school district that is attributable to that
10 portion of the enrollment served, as defined in section 257.37,
11 subsection 4, that is nonpublic school pupils served with
12 educational services by the area education agency.

13 b. The department of management shall notify each school
14 district of the amount of state aid deducted for these purposes
15 and the balance of state aid shall be paid to the district. If
16 a district does not qualify for state aid under [this chapter](#)
17 in an amount sufficient to cover its amount due to the area
18 education agency as calculated by the department of management,
19 the school district shall pay the deficiency to the area
20 education agency from other moneys received by the district, on
21 a quarterly basis during each school year.

22 Sec. 25. Section 257.37, Code 2024, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 **257.37 Funding media and educational services.**

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

29 1. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and
30 succeeding budget years, the total amount funded in each area
31 for media services shall be computed as provided in this
32 subsection. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the
33 total amount funded in each area for media services in the
34 base year shall be divided by the enrollment served in the
35 base year to provide an area media services cost per pupil in

1 the base year, and the department of management shall compute
2 the state media services cost per pupil in the base year which
3 is equal to the average of the area media services costs per
4 pupil in the base year. For the budget year beginning July 1,
5 1991, and succeeding budget years, the department of management
6 shall compute the supplemental state aid for media services
7 in the budget year by multiplying the state media services
8 cost per pupil in the base year times the state percent of
9 growth for the budget year, and the total amount funded in each
10 area for media services cost in the budget year equals the
11 area media services cost per pupil in the base year plus the
12 supplemental state aid for media services in the budget year
13 times the enrollment served in the budget year. Funds shall be
14 paid to area education agencies as provided in [section 257.35](#).
15 Funds not required to be paid to the area education agency as
16 provided in section 257.35 may be used by the school district
17 for media services provided by the district or by contract
18 through the area education agency. A school district may use
19 unreserved fund balances for media services in a manner which
20 the school district determines is appropriate to best maintain
21 the level of special education services.

22 2. Up to thirty percent of the budget of an area for media
23 services may be expended for media resource material including
24 the purchase or replacement of material required in section
25 273.6, subsection 1. ~~Funds shall be paid to area education~~
26 ~~agencies as provided in [section 257.35](#).~~

27 3. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and
28 succeeding budget years, the total amount funded in each area
29 for educational services shall be computed as provided in this
30 subsection. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the
31 total amount funded in each area for educational services
32 in the base year shall be divided by the enrollment served
33 in the area in the base year to provide an area educational
34 services cost per pupil in the base year, and the department of
35 management shall compute the state educational services cost

1 per pupil in the base year, which is equal to the average of
2 the area educational services costs per pupil in the base year.
3 For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and succeeding
4 budget years, the department of management shall compute the
5 supplemental state aid for educational services by multiplying
6 the state educational services cost per pupil in the base year
7 times the state percent of growth for the budget year, and the
8 total amount funded in each area for educational services for
9 the budget year equals the area educational services cost per
10 pupil for the base year plus the supplemental state aid for
11 educational services in the budget year times the enrollment
12 served in the area in the budget year. Funds shall be paid
13 to area education agencies as provided in [section 257.35](#).

14 Funds not required to be paid to the area education agency as
15 provided in section 257.35 may be used by the school district
16 for educational services provided by the district or by
17 contract through the area education agency. A school district
18 may use unreserved fund balances for educational services in a
19 manner which the school district determines is appropriate to
20 best maintain the level of special education services.

21 4. "*Enrollment served*" means the basic enrollment of all
22 school districts within the boundaries of the area education
23 agency plus the number of nonpublic school pupils served by
24 the area education agency with media services or educational
25 services, as applicable, except that if a nonpublic school
26 pupil or a pupil attending another district under a whole grade
27 sharing agreement or open enrollment receives services through
28 an area other than the area of the pupil's residence, the
29 pupil shall be deemed to be served by the area of the pupil's
30 residence, which shall by contractual arrangement reimburse
31 the area through which the pupil actually receives services.
32 Each school district shall include in the enrollment report
33 submitted pursuant to [section 257.6, subsection 1](#), the number
34 of nonpublic school pupils within each school district for
35 media and educational services served by the area. However,

1 the school district shall not include in the enrollment report
2 nonpublic school pupils receiving classes or services funded
3 entirely by federal grants or allocations.

4 5. a. If an area education agency does not serve nonpublic
5 school pupils in a manner comparable to services provided
6 public school pupils for media and educational services, as
7 determined by the state board of education, the state board
8 shall instruct the department of management to reduce the funds
9 for media services and educational services within the area one
10 time by an amount to compensate for such reduced services. The
11 media services budget shall be reduced by an amount equal to
12 the product of the cost per pupil in basic enrollment for the
13 budget year for media services times the difference between
14 the enrollment served and the basic enrollment recorded for
15 the area. The educational services budget shall be reduced by
16 an amount equal to the product of the cost per pupil in basic
17 enrollment for the budget year for educational services times
18 the difference between the enrollment served and the basic
19 enrollment recorded for the area.

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

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

27 6. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2002, and each
28 succeeding budget year, notwithstanding the requirements of
29 this section for determining the budgets and funding of media
30 services and education services, an area education agency or
31 school district may, ~~within the limits of the total of the~~
32 ~~funds provided for the budget years pursuant to ~~section 257.35,~~~~
33 expend for special education support services an amount that
34 exceeds the payment for special education support services
35 ~~pursuant to ~~section 257.35~~~~ in order to maintain the level

1 of required special education support services in the area
2 education agency or the school district, as applicable.

3 Sec. 26. APPLICABILITY. This division of this Act applies
4 July 1, 2024, for school budget years beginning on or after
5 that date.

6 DIVISION IV

7 INITIAL TEACHER COMPENSATION

8 Sec. 27. Section 257.10, subsection 12, paragraph d, Code
9 2024, is amended to read as follows:

10 *d.* Except as otherwise allowed under this paragraph, for
11 the budget year beginning July 1, 2014, and succeeding budget
12 years, the use of the funds calculated under [this subsection](#)
13 shall comply with the requirements of [chapter 284](#) and shall
14 be distributed to teachers pursuant to [section 284.15](#). The
15 funds shall be used only to increase the payment for a teacher
16 assigned to a leadership role pursuant to a framework or
17 comparable system approved pursuant to [section 284.15](#); to
18 increase the percentages of teachers assigned to leadership
19 roles; to increase the minimum teacher starting salary to
20 ~~thirty-three thousand five hundred dollars~~ the amount provided
21 in section 284.15, subsection 2, paragraph "a", subparagraph
22 (1); to cover the costs for the time mentor and lead teachers
23 are not providing instruction to students in a classroom;
24 for coverage of a classroom when an initial or career
25 teacher is observing or co-teaching with a teacher assigned
26 to a leadership role; for professional development time to
27 learn best practices associated with the career pathways
28 leadership process; and for other costs associated with a
29 framework or comparable system approved by the department of
30 education under [section 284.15](#) with the goals of improving
31 instruction and elevating the quality of teaching and student
32 learning. If all requirements for the school district for
33 the use of funds calculated under [this subsection](#) are met
34 and funds received under [this subsection](#) remain unexpended
35 and unobligated at the end of a fiscal year beginning on or

1 after July 1, 2020, the school district may transfer all or a
2 portion of such unexpended and unobligated funds for deposit
3 in the school district's flexibility account established
4 under [section 298A.2, subsection 2](#). At the end of a fiscal
5 year beginning on or after July 1, 2022, school districts may
6 use all or a portion of funds under [this subsection](#) for the
7 purposes authorized under [subsection 9](#), paragraph "d", and,
8 notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, school
9 districts shall not be required to participate in or comply
10 with [section 284.15](#) in order to continue to receive funding
11 under [this subsection](#).

12 Sec. 28. Section 284.15, subsection 2, paragraph a,
13 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

14 (1) The salary for an initial teacher who has successfully
15 completed an approved practitioner preparation program as
16 defined in [section 256.145](#) or holds an initial or intern
17 teacher license issued under chapter 256, subchapter VII,
18 part 3, shall be at least ~~thirty-three thousand five hundred~~
19 forty-six thousand two hundred fifty-one dollars, which shall
20 also constitute the minimum salary for an Iowa teacher.

21 Sec. 29. Section 284.16, subsection 1, paragraph a,
22 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 The beginning teacher shall be paid not less than
25 ~~thirty-three thousand five hundred~~ forty-six thousand two
26 hundred fifty-one dollars and shall meet the following
27 requirements:

28 Sec. 30. Section 284.17, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 1. A minimum salary of ~~thirty-three thousand five hundred~~
31 forty-six thousand two hundred fifty-one dollars for a
32 full-time teacher.

33 DIVISION V

34 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — REQUIRED EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS

35 Sec. 31. AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — CONTINUOUS

1 IMPROVEMENT. On or before January 1, 2025, each area education
2 agency shall submit a report to the director of the department
3 of education and the general assembly that contains all of the
4 following information:

5 1. Progress the area education agency has made in reducing
6 expenditures associated with administration and administrators,
7 including chief administrators, directors and department heads,
8 regional administrators, regional and zone coordinators,
9 district coordinators, and human resources and personnel
10 managers by at least thirty percent by July 1, 2026.

11 2. A proposal for the reorganization of services provided by
12 area education agencies to centralize some services provided by
13 the area education agencies, including media services, and to
14 create centers of excellence for other services.

15 Sec. 32. AREA EDUCATION AGENCY FACILITIES AND PROPERTY. On
16 or before January 1, 2025, the department of administrative
17 services, in coordination with the department of education
18 and each area education agency, shall submit a report to
19 the general assembly that contains all of the following
20 information:

21 1. An inventory of all real property and facilities owned
22 by the area education agencies.

23 2. An evaluation of the value of all real property and
24 facilities owned by the area education agencies.

25 3. An evaluation of how the real property and facilities
26 owned by the area education agencies are used.

27 DIVISION VI

28 TEACHER SALARY SUPPLEMENT DISTRICT COST PER PUPIL

29 Sec. 33. Section 257.10, subsection 9, paragraph a, Code
30 2024, is amended to read as follows:

31 a. (1) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the
32 department of management shall add together the teacher
33 compensation allocation made to each district for the fiscal
34 year beginning July 1, 2008, pursuant to section 284.13,
35 subsection 1, paragraph "h", Code 2009, and the phase II

1 allocation made to each district for the fiscal year beginning
2 July 1, 2008, pursuant to [section 294A.9, Code 2009](#), and divide
3 that sum by the district's budget enrollment in the fiscal
4 year beginning July 1, 2009, to determine the teacher salary
5 supplement district cost per pupil. For the budget year
6 beginning July 1, 2010, and succeeding budget years beginning
7 before July 1, 2024, the teacher salary supplement district
8 cost per pupil for each school district for a budget year
9 is the teacher salary supplement program district cost per
10 pupil for the base year plus the teacher salary supplement
11 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

12 (2) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2024, the teacher
13 salary supplement district cost per pupil for a school district
14 shall be the greater of the following:

15 (a) The teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil
16 for the school district for the base year plus the teacher
17 salary supplement supplemental state aid amount for the budget
18 year.

19 (b) The per pupil amount necessary, as calculated by
20 the department of management, to allow the school district
21 to provide a minimum teacher starting salary of forty-six
22 thousand two hundred fifty-one dollars in accordance with
23 the requirements of chapter 284, including costs associated
24 with the employer's share of contributions to the Iowa public
25 employees' retirement system and the employer's share of the
26 tax imposed by the federal Insurance Contributions Act.

27 (3) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2025, and
28 succeeding budget years, the teacher salary supplement district
29 cost per pupil for each school district for a budget year
30 is the teacher salary supplement program district cost per
31 pupil for the base year plus the teacher salary supplement
32 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

33 DIVISION VII

34 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

35 Sec. 34. Section 256.9, Code 2024, is amended by adding the

1 following new subsections:

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 70. Develop and distribute to school
3 districts and accredited nonpublic schools a process to
4 facilitate the development of individualized education
5 programs and assist individualized education program teams
6 with decisions regarding free appropriate public education
7 and placement for students enrolled in accredited nonpublic
8 schools.

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 71. Provide professional learning and
10 other support materials and tools for individualized education
11 program teams, including students, families, teacher service
12 providers, and administrators of both school districts
13 and accredited nonpublic schools to help such individuals
14 understand the processes required under the federal law that
15 are relevant to students enrolled in accredited nonpublic
16 schools and to promote informed participation in individualized
17 education program meetings of students enrolled in accredited
18 nonpublic schools.

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 72. Provide information to individualized
20 education program teams and public agencies that nonpublic
21 schools shall be considered a placement option so long as the
22 individualized education program of a child with a disability
23 does not require some other arrangement.

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 73. Develop and distribute to school
25 districts professional learning and other materials for
26 meaningful consultation for representatives of area education
27 agencies, school districts, and accredited nonpublic schools.

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 74. Establish sustainable accountability
29 and data collection systems related to special education
30 that meet federal and state legal requirements and encourage
31 innovative models for meeting the needs of students.

32 NEW SUBSECTION. 75. Develop and distribute to school
33 districts and accredited nonpublic schools an implementation
34 plan related to identifying, evaluating, and promoting
35 strategies and models for providing special education and

1 related services with accredited nonpublic schools that improve
2 the experiences and outcomes for students with disabilities.

3

DIVISION VIII

4

STATE MANDATE

5 Sec. 35. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
6 3, shall not apply to this Act.>

7 2. Title page, by striking lines 1 through 7 and inserting
8 <An Act relating to education, including modifying provisions
9 related to the duties and powers of area education agencies,
10 the membership of the boards of directors of area education
11 agencies, the department of education, the department of
12 administrative services, area education agency funding, the
13 calculation of the teacher salary supplement district cost per
14 pupil and the minimum teacher starting salary, and including
15 transition, effective date, and applicability provisions.>