

House File 2783

H-8443

1 Amend the amendment, H-8439, to House File 2783, as follows:

2 1. Page 28, after line 18 by inserting:

3 <DIVISION ____

4 SPECIAL EDUCATION WEIGHTING WORK GROUP

5 Sec. ____ . SPECIAL EDUCATION WEIGHTING WORK GROUP.

6 1. School funding in Iowa has not evolved as the
7 demographics of Iowa students have changed significantly, with
8 little attention paid to supporting the special education needs
9 of students. In order to meet the needs of such students and
10 to ensure access to special education across school districts,
11 the special education weighting work group shall review the
12 special education weighting plan under section 256B.9, which
13 has not been altered since 2004, and shall consider all of the
14 following:

15 a. How to increase special education weightings in a way
16 that both meets the needs of students and minimizes the need
17 for school districts to increase property taxes.

18 b. The standards associated with each special education
19 weighting.

20 c. Best practices in the United States related to funding
21 special education.

22 2. The school finance review committee met on December
23 16, 2024, and received a memo from the school budget review
24 committee that discussed how a review of special education
25 funding should be conducted.

26 3. The director of the department of education shall
27 establish and appoint members to a work group to make
28 recommendations to modify the special education weighting plan.
29 The department of education shall work cooperatively to provide
30 staffing assistance for the work group. The work group shall
31 be composed of at least all of the following:

32 a. One member representing the Iowa association of school
33 boards.

34 b. One member representing the area education agencies.

35 c. One member representing the Iowa state education

1 association.

2 d. One member representing the school administrators of
3 Iowa.

4 e. One member representing the urban education network of
5 Iowa.

6 f. One member representing the rural school advocates of
7 Iowa.

8 g. One member representing the professional educators of
9 Iowa.

10 h. One representative of the school district with the
11 highest basic enrollment under section 257.6 for the school
12 budget year beginning July 1, 2025.

13 i. One representative of a school district with a basic
14 enrollment under section 257.6 for the school budget year
15 beginning July 1, 2025, that is ranked in the highest one-third
16 among all school districts in the state.

17 j. One representative of a school district with a basic
18 enrollment under section 257.6 for the school budget year
19 beginning July 1, 2025, that is ranked in the middle one-third
20 among all school districts in the state.

21 k. One representative of a school district with a basic
22 enrollment under section 257.6 for the school budget year
23 beginning July 1, 2025, that is ranked in the lowest one-third
24 among all school districts in the state.

25 l. One representative of a school district located in whole
26 or in part less than one hundred miles from the eastern border
27 of this state.

28 m. One representative of a school district located in whole
29 or in part more than one hundred miles from both the eastern
30 border of this state and the western border of this state.

31 n. One representative of a school district located in whole
32 or in part less than one hundred miles from the western border
33 of this state.

34 o. Four ex officio, nonvoting legislative members
35 consisting of the following:

1 (1) Two state senators, one appointed by the majority leader
2 of the senate and one appointed by the minority leader of the
3 senate.

4 (2) Two state representatives, one appointed by the speaker
5 and one appointed by the minority leader of the house of
6 representatives.

7 4. By January 4, 2027, the work group shall submit
8 recommendations to the general assembly and the governor for
9 adjustments to the special education weightings.>

10 2. By renumbering as necessary.

MATSON of Polk