

SCHOOL STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEES ON SCHOOLS

Final Report

The Legislative Council at its July meeting approved a request, filed by Senator Charlene Conklin and Representative Charles Grassley, Chairmen of the Schools Committees of the General Assembly, for the establishment of a subcommittee to study the laws relating to school standards. The Legislative Council authorized a six-member subcommittee of the Standing Committees on Schools to hold three meetings. The members are:

Representative Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Senator Lucas J. De Koster
Senator Minnette F. Doderer
Senator Richard L. Stephens
Representative Leonard C. Andersen
Representative Michael K. Kennedy

At its first meeting, the Subcommittee met with the following persons from the Department of Public Instruction:

Dr. Leroy N. Jensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, State Department of Public Instruction
Dr. Wayland W. Osborn, Consultant, Planning and Development, State Department of Public Instruction
Mr. William J. Edgar, Director of Curriculum, State Department of Public Instruction
Mr. Earl L. Miller, Director of Supervision, State Department of Public Instruction

The Subcommittee was interested in the development of school standards, with special emphasis on an explanation of the implementation of the elementary guidance counselor standards and the elementary principal standards. The Subcommittee wished to learn the plans of the Department of Public Instruction for development of future standards, and the advisability of the passage of House File 204 which passed the House of Representatives during the 1969 session of the General Assembly.

The Subcommittee learned from the persons present that the Department of Public Instruction does not anticipate any new standards requirements. Persons from the Department of Public Instruction explained that although elementary principals will be required for each elementary school in 1970, the standard does not require that such persons be "full-time" principals, and they may also teach on a part-time basis. It was further learned that although the standard requires an elementary principal for each elementary school, the elementary school may have more than one attendance center.

With respect to the requirements relating to the employment of an elementary guidance counselor, the rule does not specify the employment of guidance counselors, but the rule merely states that every school must have an elementary guidance program, which program may only consist of in-service education for teachers in order that teachers may become more aware of their own guidance functions.

The Subcommittee strongly urged the Department of Public Instruction to develop explanations for each of its school standards in order that misunderstandings and misinterpretations will be avoided.

Mr. Sam Wiley, Consultant, Budget Review Committee, attended the second meeting of the Subcommittee in order to discuss the effect of proposed changes in the school aid formula on schools that are having difficulty in meeting the minimum state standards. The Subcommittee was attempting to determine whether a correlation exists between small school systems meeting only the minimum state standards and school districts exceeding the allowable growth factor in the state school aid formula. The Subcommittee determined that no recommendations can be made prior to legislative amendment to the present school aid formula.

The Subcommittee believes that it is important that the School Budget Review Committee does not become an agency for promoting and indirectly forcing school district reorganization. Mr. Wiley prepared several charts indicating the relationships among school district average daily membership, curriculum offerings, taxable value per child, proposed per-pupil reimbursement, and the teacher-pupil ratio. Copies of Mr. Wiley's charts are available in the Legislative Service Bureau offices.

The Subcommittee decided that a third meeting did not appear to be necessary.