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# Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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## ***Goals 2000: Educate America Act***

### **ISSUE**

Explanation of the *Goals 2000: Educate America Act* and the impact on the State of Iowa.

### **AFFECTED AGENCIES**

Department of Education and local school districts

### **CODE AUTHORITY**

Chapter 256, Code of Iowa

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 1983, when a national report "A Nation at Risk" indicated that the nation's public schools were not adequately preparing youth, state and national leaders have been engaged in school reform. In September 1989, the President and 50 Governors convened an Education Summit and agreed to set education goals for the nation. Six national education goals were announced by the President and adopted by the Governors in February 1990. The National Education Goals Panel was created in July 1990 to issue annual reports on the progress of the nation and states toward the 6 goals. The National Council on Education Standards and Testing was established by Congress in June 1991 to explore the desirability and feasibility of establishing national education standards and a method to assess attainment. The National Education Goals Panel released the first annual report on national and state progress toward the goals in September 1991. On March 31, 1994, President Clinton signed the *Goals 2000: Educate America Act*. The law codifies the national education goals, and charges the Goals Panel with new responsibilities. It also establishes a National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC), which in conjunction with the Panel, will review and certify voluntary state and national education standards.

**EXPLANATION OF GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT*****Title I: National Education Goals***

Title I codifies the 6 national education goals that were developed by the President and Governors, as well as 2 additional goals. These goals state that, by the year 2000:

1. All children in America will start school ready to learn.
2. The high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90.0%.
3. United States students will leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography, and every school in the United States will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so students may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our nation's economy.
4. The nation's teaching force will have access to programs for the continued improvement of their professional skills and the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to instruct and prepare all American students for the next century.
5. United States students will be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.
6. Every adult American will be literate and possess the skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
7. Every school in the United States will be free of drugs, firearms, alcohol, and violence, and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.
8. Every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional, and academic growth of children.

***Title II: National Education Reform Leadership, Standards, and Assessments***

Title II codifies the National Education Goals Panel, creates a National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC), and authorizes \$3.0 million for each in FFY 1994. This title provides for the development of voluntary national content standards, student performance standards, assessment, and opportunity-to-learn standards as examples for states to consider. Title II also authorizes \$2.0 million for grants to consortia of individuals and organizations to develop voluntary national opportunity-to-learn standards and \$5.0 million to provide states or local districts with funds to develop new systems of assessment, especially those for limited English proficiency students and students with disabilities. Title II establishes an Office of Educational Technology at the Department of Education to develop a long-range educational technology plan to bring coordination to the various federal K-12 technology programs and to bring national leadership to the issue.

***Title III: State and Local Education Systemic Improvement***

Title III establishes the guidelines by which state and local education agencies may apply for, and receive federal funds. It requires each participating state to develop a comprehensive state improvement plan. It describes how state education agencies may distribute the funds they receive to local districts and to consortia for professional development, and how local districts in turn may distribute funds to individual schools. It allows the Secretary of Education to provide technical

support and to waive statutory and regulatory requirements for states and localities that are implementing reforms. Major specifications of Title III include the following:

- Authorizes \$400.0 million in FFY 1994. The FFY 1994 appropriation is \$100.0 million. See Table 1 for the distribution to the states.
  - The Secretary of Education will receive up to 5.0% of the funds.
  - The remaining 95.0% will be allocated to states based 50.0% on Chapter 1 grants and 50.0% on Part A of Chapter 2 grants.
- Each state that wishes to receive a grant must submit either an application for a one-year grant to develop a state improvement plan or a completed state improvement plan to the Secretary.
- State education agencies must distribute funds as follows:
  - No more than 4.0% or \$100,000, whichever is greater, may be used for administrative expenses.
  - In the first year, each state must distribute at least 60.0% of its funds to local districts for local improvement plans, and to local districts or consortia for professional development.
  - In succeeding years, each state must use 90.0% of its funds to make subgrants to local districts and to professional development groups. The remaining 10.0% must be used for implementation of the state improvement plan.
  - In any year, at least 50.0% of the subgrant funds must be awarded to local districts that have a greater percentage or number of disadvantaged children than the statewide average for all districts.
- State educational agencies must make subgrants to local districts on a competitive basis.
- Local districts must distribute funds as follows:
  - In the first year, up to 25.0% may be used to develop a local improvement plan or for other local district activities, but at least 75.0% must be used to support individual school reform initiatives.
  - In subsequent years, at least 85.0% must be made available to individual schools.
  - In any year, at least 50.0% of the funds given to individual schools must be available to schools with a special need for assistance.
- State educational agencies must make subgrants to local districts or consortia of local districts, in cooperation with institutions of higher education and nonprofit educational organizations to support pre-service education and in-service professional development activities.
- The Secretary may use its 5.0% of the funds for national leadership activities to provide help and information to states and local districts, and to support model projects that integrate multiple content standards.
- Authorizes \$5.0 million for State Technology Planning Grants which are 2-year grants to states for a systemic statewide plan to increase the use of technology. The FFY 1994 appropriation is \$5.0 million.

***Titles IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X***

The remaining Titles of the *Goals 2000: Educate America Act* includes:

- Title IV includes various parent education programs, with funding for parental information and resource centers.
- Title V establishes a National Skill Standards Board to serve as a catalyst in stimulating the development and adoption of a voluntary national system of skill standards, and of assessment and certification and authorizes \$15.0 million in FFY 1994.
- Title VI authorizes \$11.0 million in FFY 1994 for the International Education Program, which will provide for the study of effective educational practices in other countries and for educational exchanges.
- Title VII authorizes \$50.0 million in FFY 1994 for the Safe Schools Program, under which the Secretary of Education is authorized to make competitive grants to local districts to enable them to ensure that all schools are safe and free of violence.
- Title VIII authorizes \$5.0 million in FFY 1995 for the Minority-focused Civics Education Program, under which the Secretary is authorized to make grants for the development and implementation of seminars in American government and civics for teachers and other educators who work with minority and Native American students.
- Title IX reauthorizes the Office of Educational Research and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education.
- Title X includes provisions relating to school prayer, protection of pupils, gun-free schools, environmental tobacco smoke, a Midnight Basketball program, and other miscellaneous items.

### **IMPACT ON THE STATE OF IOWA**

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is currently in the process of developing an application for a one-year grant to develop a state improvement plan. This application is due by June 30, 1995. As of the October issue of *Goals 2000 Community Update*, 29 states have been approved and have received funding, 6 states have applied, Iowa and 14 other states have not applied. Under Title III, Iowa is eligible to receive \$0.9 million for the first year of participation. These funds are designed to be used for developing educational improvement plans. During years 2-5, it is estimated that the State will receive \$6.1 million each year, however this amount is still subject to final approval by Congress. Funds allocated for years 2-5 are for implementation of improvement plans. The DE intends to use the Goals 2000 funds for continued implementation of the State Plan for Educational Excellence in the 21st Century: *Education is Iowa's Future*. The State's application must include:

- The process by which the DE will develop a comprehensive state improvement plan, including milestones, products, and timelines for the planning year.
- How the DE will make subgrants to local education agencies (LEAs) or consortia of LEAs for the purpose of developing local school improvement plans.
- How the DE will make subgrants to LEAs or consortia of LEAs to provide for pre-service teacher education and professional development activities.

- The process by which the DE will develop a systemic statewide plan to increase the use of state-of-the-art technologies that enhance elementary and secondary student learning and staff development.

State participation is voluntary. States are not required to apply for the Goals 2000 funding, are not required to meet voluntary national standards, and are not required to submit state standards for certification. Even if a state receives funds and the state's improvement plan and application are approved, the state is not required to submit specific standards for approval and certification by the Goals Panel and to the Council.

**BUDGET IMPACT**

Under Title III, Iowa is eligible to receive \$0.9 million for the first year of participation. During years 2-5, it is estimated that the State will receive \$6.1 million each year, however this amount is still subject to final approval by Congress. According to the DE, no additional State funds are needed to meet *Goals 2000: Educate America Act* beyond DE's current initiatives. The Goals 2000 funds are intended to supplement, not replace current federal, state, and local education programs and spending. The Act contains a maintenance of effort provision which requires State and local funding for these activities to be at least equal to the previous year's spending.

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