

MAR 2 1998

APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE FILE 2500

BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 592)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school ready children grant program to be
2 administered by community empowerment area boards and the Iowa
3 empowerment board, making an appropriation, and providing an
4 effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2500

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 7I.1 DEFINITIONS.

2 For the purposes of this chapter:

3 1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic area
4 designated in accordance with this chapter.

5 2. "Community empowerment area board" or "community board"
6 means the board for a community empowerment area created in
7 accordance with this chapter.

8 3. "Iowa empowerment board" means the board or other body
9 designated in law by the general assembly to oversee the
10 formation of community empowerment areas and to administer the
11 school ready children grant program.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 7I.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS.

13 1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is to
14 enable local citizens to collaboratively manage funds on
15 behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing
16 in the area.

17 2. A community empowerment area shall be formed by using
18 existing school district and county boundaries to the extent
19 possible. Each county and school district in the state shall
20 have the option of participating in a community empowerment
21 area.

22 3. The formation of a community empowerment area and a
23 community empowerment area board is subject to the approval of
24 the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
25 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing for the initial
26 identification of community empowerment areas and procedures
27 for later changing the initially identified areas.

28 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 7I.3 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
29 BOARDS CREATED.

30 1. A community empowerment area shall be governed by a
31 community empowerment area board. The composition of a
32 community board shall be two-thirds members who are citizens,
33 elected officials, or volunteers and one-third members who are
34 employees of or are paid for representing any of the entities
35 listed in this subsection. The members of a community

1 empowerment area board shall include one or more
2 representatives of any of the following:

- 3 a. A school district.
- 4 b. A county.
- 5 c. A local board of health.
- 6 d. A hospital.
- 7 e. A charitable funding group.
- 8 f. The department of human services.
- 9 g. A religious institution.
- 10 h. An area education agency.
- 11 i. Juvenile court services.
- 12 j. An area substance abuse agency.
- 13 k. A community action program.

14 2. A community board may designate representatives of
15 service providers or public agency staff to provide technical
16 assistance to the community board.

17 3. A community board may designate a professional advisory
18 council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to
19 represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider
20 of service.

21 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 7I.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
22 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

23 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
24 following:

25 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in
26 section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for
27 other moneys administered by the community board.

28 b. Administer community empowerment block grant moneys
29 available to the community board. Eligibility for these block
30 grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards which
31 have developed an approved school ready children grant plan in
32 accordance with this chapter. Community empowerment block
33 grant moneys may include but are not limited to moneys
34 relating to any of the following:

- 35 (1) Child day care services.

- 1 (2) At-risk programs for preschool children.
- 2 (3) Head start programs.
- 3 (4) Parent education programs.
- 4 (5) Children's health programs.
- 5 (6) The family investment program, including the PROMISE
- 6 JOBS program.
- 7 (7) Substance abuse assessment and referral.
- 8 (8) Department of human services' field and program staff
- 9 supervision and oversight.
- 10 (9) Child welfare services, which may include group foster
- 11 care, rehabilitative treatment services, juvenile court
- 12 services, and other community-based juvenile justice services.
- 13 (10) Other moneys authorized in law for block grant
- 14 funding.
- 15 c. Assume other responsibilities established in law or
- 16 administrative rule.
- 17 2. A community board may do any of the following:
- 18 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant
- 19 moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.
- 20 b. Function as a coordinating body for services directed
- 21 to similar populations by the jurisdictions within the
- 22 community empowerment area.
- 23 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 7I.5 SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANT
- 24 PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.
- 25 1. The departments of education, human services, and
- 26 public health shall jointly develop a school ready children
- 27 grant program which shall provide for all of the following
- 28 components:
- 29 a. Identify the core indicators of performance that will
- 30 be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready
- 31 children grants, including increasing the basic skill levels
- 32 of students entering school, increasing health status of
- 33 children, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect,
- 34 increasing the access of children to an adult mentor,
- 35 increasing parental involvement with their children, and

1 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day care.

2 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for
3 determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for
4 administering school ready children grants.

5 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding
6 sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

7 2. The program developed and components identified under
8 subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment
9 board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum
10 flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys
11 included in a school ready children grant.

12 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be
13 used to provide the following:

14 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to
15 four-year-old children deemed at risk of not succeeding in
16 elementary school as determined by the community board and
17 specified in the grant plan developed in accordance with this
18 section.

19 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents of
20 children from birth through five years of age. Parent
21 education programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to
22 accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements,
23 and other needs of working families.

24 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan
25 developed by a community board for providing children's
26 services for children from birth through five years of age
27 including but not limited to child development, child care,
28 children's health and safety, assessment provisions to
29 identify chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
30 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of
31 the following:

32 (1) Describe community needs for children from birth
33 through five years of age as identified through ongoing
34 assessments.

35 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of community

1 coordination of services for children from birth through five
2 years of age.

3 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private
4 funding sources available in the community empowerment area
5 that will be used to provide services to children from birth
6 through five years of age.

7 (4) Describe how the funding source will be used
8 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be
9 combined to provide the necessary services.

10 (5) Identify the results the community board expects to
11 achieve through implementation of the school ready children
12 grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable
13 performance indicators that can be measured and reported in
14 the annual report.

15 5. An annual report on the effectiveness of the grant
16 program in addressing school readiness and children's health
17 and safety needs shall be submitted by the community board to
18 the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies.
19 The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the
20 community board in achieving state and locally determined
21 goals.

22 6. A school ready children grant to a community board
23 shall be awarded for a five-year period, with annual payments
24 made to the community board on or before October 1 of each
25 fiscal year. However, receipt of continued funding is subject
26 to submission of the required annual report.

27 The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute school ready
28 children grant moneys to community boards with approved
29 comprehensive school ready children grant plans in accordance
30 with the following formula:

31 a. An at-risk percentage shall be identified for each
32 school district in the state. The at-risk percentage shall be
33 the school district's proportion of the children who are
34 enrolled in the school district first through sixth grade
35 qualifying for free or reduced price meals for the school year

1 preceding the fiscal year in which the moneys are to be paid
2 compared to all children in the state who are enrolled in
3 first through sixth grade qualifying for free or reduced price
4 meals for the same school year.

5 b. A community empowerment area at-risk percentage shall
6 be determined by adding the at-risk percentages for each
7 school district in the community empowerment area.

8 c. The maximum annual grant amount for a community
9 empowerment area is the area's at-risk percentage of the
10 amount appropriated for school ready children grants for a
11 fiscal year less federal and state competitive grants and
12 project moneys to be received for the purposes of serving
13 children from birth through five years of age in that area for
14 the fiscal year.

15 7. The highest priority for school ready children grant
16 funds shall be to provide preschool services on a voluntary
17 basis to four-year-old children deemed at risk of not
18 succeeding in elementary school and parent education programs
19 on a voluntary basis to parents of children from birth through
20 five years of age. Remaining funds may be used to provide
21 other services to children from birth through five years of
22 age as specified in the comprehensive school ready children
23 grant plan.

24 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 71.6 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

25 1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state
26 treasury under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board.
27 The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to
28 section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated,
29 appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by
30 law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
31 earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund
32 shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the Iowa empowerment
33 fund may be used for cash flow purposes provided that any
34 moneys so allocated are returned to the fund by the end of
35 each fiscal year. However, the fund shall be considered a

1 special account for the purposes of section 8.53.

2 2. A school ready children grants account is created in
3 the Iowa empowerment fund and moneys credited to the account
4 shall be distributed in the form of grants to community
5 empowerment areas as provided in law.

6 Sec. 7. SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANTS. There is
7 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the Iowa
8 empowerment fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
9 and ending June 30, 1999, the following amount, or so much
10 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
11 designated:

12 For deposit to the credit of the school ready children
13 grants account:

14 \$ 5,200,000

15 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
16 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill establishes a school ready children grant program
19 to be administered by community empowerment area boards and
20 the Iowa empowerment board and appropriates moneys to the
21 program.

22 New Code section 7I.1 includes definitions of community
23 empowerment area, community empowerment area board, and Iowa
24 empowerment board.

25 New Code section 7I.2 provides requirements for designating
26 community empowerment areas.

27 New Code section 7I.3 provides requirements for counties
28 and school districts to designate community empowerment area
29 boards.

30 New Code section 7I.4 outlines the responsibilities and
31 authority of a community empowerment area board.

32 New Code section 7I.5 creates the school ready children
33 grant program.

34 The departments of education, human services, and public
35 health must jointly determine the core indicators of

1 performance that will be used to assess the effectiveness of
2 the grants, and establish guidelines and a process to be used
3 in selecting community empowerment areas for grants. The bill
4 directs the Iowa empowerment board to adopt rules to
5 administer the program.

6 The bill requires grantees to develop a plan and submit an
7 annual report, and the bill lists the programs and services a
8 grantee must provide.

9 A grant may be awarded for a five-year period contingent
10 upon a community empowerment area board submitting an annual
11 report. A funding formula is provided for determining the
12 distribution of grant moneys to community empowerment areas
13 for each fiscal year.

14 The highest priority for the school ready children grant
15 moneys is to provide preschool services on a voluntary basis
16 to four-year-old children deemed at-risk of not succeeding in
17 elementary school and parent education programs for parents of
18 children from birth through age five.

19 New Code section 7I.6 creates an Iowa empowerment fund.
20 Moneys deposited into the fund are not subject to reversion,
21 transfer, or appropriation except as provided by law.
22 Interest or earnings on moneys in the fund are to be credited
23 to the fund. A school ready children grants account is
24 created in the fund to be used for distribution of grants to
25 community empowerment areas. A general fund appropriation is
26 made to the account.

27 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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Grundberg, Ch
Boddicker
Thomson
Foerz
Brand

HSB 592

EDUCATION

Succeeded By

SF (HF) 2500

SENATE/HOUSE FILE

BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Passed Senate, Date _____

Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a building blocks of success grant program.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256D.1 INTENT.

2 It is the intent of the general assembly to provide
3 assistance to enable communities to reduce gaps in service and
4 eliminate duplication in meeting the needs of children from
5 birth through five years of age. These needs, at a minimum,
6 include child development, child care, children's health and
7 safety, and parent education needs.

8 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256D.2 BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESS
9 GRANT PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

10 1. The departments of education, human services, and
11 public health shall jointly develop a building blocks of
12 success grant program; establish criteria for the formation of
13 ongoing community collaborative groups; determine the core
14 indicators of performance that will be used to assess the
15 effectiveness of the community collaborative groups, including
16 increasing the basic skill levels of students entering school,
17 increasing health care coverage for low-income children,
18 reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect, increasing
19 the access of children to an adult mentor, and increasing the
20 quality and accessibility of child care; and establish
21 guidelines and a process to be used in selecting community
22 collaborative groups as recipients for building blocks of
23 success grants.

24 2. The department of education shall adopt rules, in
25 consultation with the departments of human services and public
26 health, pursuant to chapter 17A for the administration of this
27 chapter.

28 3. The departments shall provide maximum flexibility for
29 the use of the funds included in a community collaborative
30 plan.

31 4. The child development coordinating council, established
32 in section 256A.2, shall review the grant applications
33 submitted by community collaborative groups and shall at least
34 annually make grant award recommendations to the directors of
35 the departments of education, human services, and public

1 health. The directors shall review the recommendations of the
2 council and shall jointly award the grants.

3 5. The denial or termination of a grant may be appealed to
4 the director of the department of education.

5 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256D.3 COMPOSITION OF COMMUNITY
6 COLLABORATIVE GROUPS AS GRANTEES -- REQUIREMENTS.

7 1. For purposes of this chapter, a "community
8 collaborative group" shall include, at a minimum,
9 representatives of one or more school districts, a county
10 decategorization governance board, the innovation zone board
11 created in section 8A.2, a city, county, or district board of
12 health, and parents residing in the community. A community
13 collaborative group may include representatives of private and
14 public providers of education, child care, health, or social
15 services to children from birth through five years of age,
16 representatives of business and labor organizations and
17 religious institutions, and any other representatives deemed
18 necessary by the community collaborative group. Local
19 communities are encouraged to use or expand existing early
20 childhood partnerships and other community collaborative
21 endeavors to meet the requirements of this section. The
22 fiscal agent for a community collaborative group shall be a
23 public agency as defined in section 28E.2, as chosen by the
24 community collaborative group.

25 2. A community collaborative group receiving a grant
26 shall, at a minimum, provide the following:

27 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to
28 four-year-old children deemed at risk, in accordance with
29 criteria established for the definition of at-risk children by
30 the child development coordinating council, of not succeeding
31 in elementary school.

32 b. Parent education programs provided on a voluntary basis
33 to parents of children from birth through five years of age.

34 c. A comprehensive community plan developed by a community
35 collaborative group for providing children's services for

1 children from birth through five years of age including but
2 not limited to child development, child care, children's
3 health and safety, and parent education services. At a
4 minimum, the plan shall do all of the following:

5 (1) Describe community needs for children from birth
6 through five years of age as identified through ongoing
7 assessment.

8 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of community
9 coordination of services for children from birth through five
10 years of age.

11 (3) Identify all funding sources available in the
12 community that will be used to provide services to children
13 from birth through five years of age.

14 (4) Describe how such funds will be used collaboratively
15 and the degree to which the funds can be combined to provide
16 the necessary services.

17 (5) Identify the results the community collaborative group
18 expects to achieve through implementation of the building
19 blocks of success grant program, and identify community-
20 specific performance indicators that can be measured and
21 reported annually under paragraph "d".

22 d. An annual report on the effectiveness of the program in
23 addressing school readiness and children's health and safety
24 needs to be submitted to the child development coordinating
25 council and to the local governing boards of entities
26 represented in the community collaborative group. The annual
27 report shall indicate the effectiveness of the community
28 collaborative group in achieving state and locally determined
29 goals.

30 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 256D.4 GRANTS.

31 1. A grant to a community collaborative group shall be
32 awarded for a five-year period, with annual payments made by
33 the department of education to the community collaborative
34 group on or before October 1 of each fiscal year. In
35 determining the maximum annual amount of a grant that may be

1 awarded to a community collaborative group, the department of
2 education shall first determine maximum subamounts based upon
3 the characteristics of each school district located within the
4 community collaborative group. For each school district in
5 the community collaborative group, the department shall
6 calculate an at-risk multiplier. The at-risk multiplier is a
7 percent equal to the product of the percent of children
8 enrolled in the school district qualifying for free or reduced
9 price meals for the year in which application for the grant is
10 made and eight percent. The grant subamount is the product of
11 the regular program district cost of the district for the year
12 in which the grant application is made and the at-risk
13 multiplier for the district for that year. The maximum annual
14 amount for a community collaborative group is the sum of the
15 subamounts less the total of federal and state funds that were
16 received for the school year in which the grant application is
17 made for the purposes of serving children from birth through
18 five years of age within the local communities and school
19 districts in the community collaborative group, as determined
20 by the departments of education, human services, and public
21 health.

22 2. Highest priority for funds received under this chapter
23 shall be to provide preschool services on a voluntary basis to
24 four-year-old children deemed at risk of not succeeding in
25 elementary school and parent education programs on a voluntary
26 basis to parents of children from birth through five years of
27 age. Remaining funds may be used to provide other services to
28 children from birth through five years of age as specified in
29 the comprehensive community plan.

30 EXPLANATION

31 This bill requires the departments of education, human
32 services, and public health to jointly develop a building
33 blocks of success grant program for purposes of awarding
34 grants to community collaborative groups.

35 The highest priority for program funds is to provide on a

1 voluntary basis preschool services for four-year-old at-risk
2 children and parent education programs for parents of children
3 age birth through five years. Remaining funds may be used to
4 provide other services to children age birth through five
5 years as specified in the community plan.

6 The departments of education, human services, and public
7 health must also jointly establish the criteria for the
8 formation of ongoing community collaborative groups, determine
9 the core indicators of performance that will be used to assess
10 the effectiveness of the collaborative groups, and establish
11 guidelines and a process to be used in selecting community
12 collaborative groups for grants. The bill directs the
13 department of education, in consultation with the departments
14 of human services and public health, to adopt rules to
15 administer the program.

16 The bill provides that a "community collaborative group"
17 includes, at a minimum, representatives of one or more school
18 districts, a county decategorization board, the innovation
19 zone board, a city, county, or district board of health, and
20 parents residing in the community. The bill also lists other
21 organizations whose representatives may be represented in the
22 collaborative group. The collaborative group is required to
23 choose a public agency as a fiscal agent.

24 The child development coordinating council is required to
25 review grant applications and annually make award
26 recommendations to the directors of the departments, who will
27 jointly award the grants. Applicants or grantees may appeal
28 the denial or termination of a grant to the director of the
29 department of education.

30 The bill requires grantees to develop a plan and submit an
31 annual report, and the bill lists the programs and services a
32 grantee must provide.

33 A grant is awarded for a five-year period. The maximum
34 annual amount a community collaborative group is eligible to
35 receive under this chapter is the sum of the following for

1 each school district in the collaborative group: the
2 percentage equal to the product of eight percent and the
3 percent of children qualifying for free or reduced meals,
4 times the regular program district cost, less the amount of
5 existing federal and state funds received for purposes of
6 serving children from birth through five years of age as
7 determined by the departments of education, human services,
8 and public health, within the communities and school districts
9 in the collaborative group.

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HOUSE FILE 2501

H-8286

1 Amend House File 2501 as follows:

- 2 1. Page 5, line 32, by inserting after the word
3 "plan," the following: "to provide for a stipend for
4 the district facilitator,".

By RICHARDSON of Warren

H-8286 FILED MARCH 10, 1998

HOUSE FILE 2501

H-8287

1 Amend House File 2501 as follows:

- 2 1. Page 4, line 14, by inserting after the figure
3 "2." the following: "The board of directors may
4 contract with a public or private postsecondary
5 institution with an approved practitioner preparation
6 program, or with a member of the instructional staff
7 of an approved practitioner preparation program, to
8 perform the duties of the district facilitator in
9 accordance with this chapter."

By RICHARDSON of Warren

H-8287 FILED MARCH 10, 1998

HOUSE FILE 2501

H-8168

1 Amend House File 2501 as follows:

- 2 1. Page 14, line 12, by striking the word "a" and
3 inserting the following: "a if the teacher has
4 successfully completed a probationary period of
5 employment for another school district located in
6 Iowa, the probationary period in the current district
7 of employment shall not exceed one year. A".
8 2. Page 14, by striking lines 16 through 18 and
9 inserting the following: "the consent of the
10 teacher."

By RANTS of Woodbury

H-8168 FILED MARCH 3, 1998