

FEB 18 1997  
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE  
BY THOMSON

284

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing student assistance program teams and making  
2 an appropriation.

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

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HF 284

1 Section 1. Section 279.51, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
2 1997, is amended by striking the paragraph and inserting in  
3 lieu thereof the following:

4 c. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, and for  
5 each fiscal year thereafter, two million eight hundred  
6 thousand dollars of the funds appropriated shall be allocated  
7 as provided in this lettered paragraph.

8 (1) Grants shall be made available to school districts for  
9 the establishment or continuation of student assistance  
10 programs. The funds shall be allocated to school districts  
11 which receive approval for project grants pursuant to an  
12 application form to be developed and reviewed by the  
13 department of education. The purpose of the project is to  
14 administer a systemic kindergarten through grade twelve  
15 prevention and intervention program designed to effect a  
16 positive change in at-risk student behavior, including but not  
17 limited to, dropping out of school; alcohol, tobacco, and  
18 other drug use; poor academic performance or poor coping  
19 skills; and gang membership. Student assistance teams shall  
20 be comprised of school faculty and may include support staff,  
21 parents, students, and other volunteers. The teams shall meet  
22 on a regular basis to evaluate at-risk student behavior  
23 suggesting a need for intervention, and to implement  
24 appropriate strategies designed to redirect students toward  
25 more positive behavior, or make referrals for area education  
26 agency testing, professional counseling, or treatment.

27 (2) The department of education, in conjunction with each  
28 area education agency, shall coordinate the development of a  
29 comprehensive, research-based training program to be offered  
30 annually to school districts within each region for team  
31 development or training. The department shall coordinate the  
32 selection of team trainers. Trainers shall be recognized  
33 experts in student assistance program administration, and  
34 shall be selected by the department based upon input from area  
35 education agency faculty and at-risk advisory committees.

1 Each area education agency shall be responsible for  
2 administering project training to team members utilizing the  
3 funds appropriated in paragraph "a".

4 (3) The department shall identify or develop evaluation  
5 tools designed to measure the effectiveness of student  
6 assistance program teams in reducing at-risk behavior,  
7 utilizing funds appropriated under this lettered paragraph.  
8 Evaluation results shall be reported by each school district  
9 receiving project grants to the department on an annual basis  
10 and the reports shall be submitted to the general assembly.

11 (4) The department shall take notice that federal drug-  
12 free schools moneys pursuant to the federal Safe and Drug-Free  
13 Schools and Communities Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7101, may be used to  
14 supplement the state funds allocated in this lettered  
15 paragraph for the financing of local student assistance  
16 program teams, which may include student-centered activities,  
17 parent involvement programs, and stipends for team personnel  
18 as allowed by the federal Act. School districts may utilize  
19 the state funds allocated in this lettered paragraph to  
20 provide for substitute teaching staff during training sessions  
21 for faculty who are student assistance program team members,  
22 or alternatively provide stipends to faculty for training  
23 conducted during periods when school is not in session.

24 (5) State funds allocated in this lettered paragraph which  
25 remain after the payment of staff development costs and the  
26 development of the evaluation mechanism shall be allocated on  
27 a per-pupil basis by rule in the same manner as are drug-free  
28 schools funds received pursuant to the federal Safe and Drug-  
29 Free Schools and Communities Act.

30 Sec. 2. The department shall adopt rules relating to  
31 implementation of this Act prior to the July 1, 1998, funding  
32 implementation date.

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#### EXPLANATION

34 This bill provides for the establishment of student  
35 assistance programs designed to develop and train student

1 assistance program teams to engage in student at-risk behavior  
2 prevention and intervention. Identified at-risk behaviors  
3 include, but are not limited to, dropping out of school; poor  
4 grades or poor coping skills; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug  
5 use; and gang membership. Teams may be comprised of school  
6 faculty, support staff, parents, students, and other  
7 volunteers. Teams will be trained at the regional area  
8 education agency for their school district by recognized  
9 experts in student assistance programs selected by the  
10 department of education with input from faculty and area  
11 education agency at-risk advisory committees. Training will  
12 be financed with a portion set aside from the funds in this  
13 paragraph. The department of education is directed to  
14 identify or develop an evaluation mechanism to assess project  
15 effectiveness, and to relay annual assessment reports from  
16 school districts receiving project grants to the general  
17 assembly.

18 The projects will be financed starting in the fiscal year  
19 beginning July 1, 1998, utilizing the \$2.8 million  
20 appropriation for school-based youth services education  
21 contained in section 279.51, subsection 1, paragraph "c", as  
22 amended in this bill. After paying administration and trainer  
23 costs and the cost of evaluation mechanism development and  
24 implementation, remaining funds shall be allocated to each  
25 school district on a per-pupil basis in the same manner as  
26 federal funds are distributed pursuant to the federal Safe and  
27 Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. The bill provides for  
28 the payment of stipends to faculty, or the furnishing of  
29 substitute teaching staff, during periods when training is  
30 taking place.

31 The department is directed to develop rules for project  
32 implementation prior to the July 1, 1998, funding  
33 implementation date.

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