

# Senate Study Bill 2112

## Bill Text

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256D.1 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND  
1 2 INTENT.

1 3 The general assembly finds that it is in the best interest  
1 4 of the state to encourage and fund early education programs  
1 5 focused on kindergarten through grade three in the public  
1 6 school districts. The goal of these programs is to improve  
1 7 student achievement in the basic educational subject matters,  
1 8 such as reading, language arts, and mathematics, and to  
1 9 accomplish proficiency in those subjects by grade four.  
1 10 Toward that goal, it is the intent of this chapter to  
1 11 establish and fund an early education improvement program.

1 12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256D.2 EARLY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT  
1 13 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION.

1 14 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
1 15 state to the department of education for the fiscal year  
1 16 beginning July 1, 1998, and for each succeeding fiscal year,  
1 17 the sum of seven million dollars for the early education  
1 18 improvement program.

1 19 2. For each fiscal year for which moneys are appropriated  
1 20 in subsection 1, the amount of moneys allocated to school  
1 21 districts shall be in the proportion that the basic enrollment  
1 22 of a district bears to the sum of the basic enrollments of all  
1 23 school districts in the state for the budget year. However, a  
1 24 district shall not receive less than ten thousand dollars in a  
1 25 fiscal year. The Iowa braille and sight saving school, the  
1 26 state school for the deaf, and the Price laboratory school at  
1 27 the university of northern Iowa shall annually certify their  
1 28 basic enrollments to the department of education by October 1.

1 29 3. For each year for which an appropriation is made to the  
1 30 early education improvement program, the department of  
1 31 education shall notify the department of revenue and finance  
1 32 of the amount to be paid to each school district based upon  
1 33 the distribution plan set forth for the appropriation made  
1 34 pursuant to this section. The allocation to each school  
1 35 district under this section shall be made in one payment on or  
2 1 about October 15 of the fiscal year for which the  
2 2 appropriation is made, taking into consideration the relative  
2 3 budget and cash position of the state resources.

2 4 4. Moneys received under this section shall not be  
2 5 commingled with state aid payments made under section 257.16  
2 6 to a school district and shall be accounted for by the school  
2 7 district separately from state aid payments.

2 8 5. Payments made to school districts under this section  
2 9 are miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter 257 and are  
2 10 considered encumbered. Each school district shall maintain a  
2 11 separate listing within their budgets for payments received  
2 12 and expenditures made pursuant to this section.

2 13 6. Moneys received under this section shall not be used  
2 14 for payment of any collective bargaining agreement or  
2 15 arbitrator's decision negotiated or awarded under chapter 20.

2 16 7. For purposes of this chapter, "school district" means a  
2 17 public school district, the Iowa braille and sight saving  
2 18 school, the state school for the deaf, and the Price  
2 19 laboratory school at the university of northern Iowa.

2 20 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256D.3 EARLY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT  
2 21 PROGRAM REPORTS.

2 22 1. Progress, as determined by school districts through  
2 23 appropriate assessments, for children enrolled in kindergarten  
2 24 through grade three in attaining or surpassing student  
2 25 achievement goals as established under the accreditation  
2 26 process in chapter 256, and an accounting of the use of the  
2 27 moneys received by the school districts in accordance with  
2 28 this chapter, shall be submitted in an annual report to the  
2 29 department of education by September 1 in the fiscal year  
2 30 beginning July 1, 1999, and in each succeeding year. Each  
2 31 school district shall also certify, in the annual report to  
2 32 the department, that the school districts used the moneys  
2 33 received under this chapter to supplement, and not to  
2 34 supplant, the moneys otherwise received and used by the school  
2 35 district for kindergarten through grade three education

3 1 purposes.

3 2 2. Progress, as determined individually by the Iowa  
3 3 braille and sight saving school, the state school for the  
3 4 deaf, and the Price laboratory school at the university of  
3 5 northern Iowa, including the progress of children enrolled in  
3 6 kindergarten through grade three in attaining or surpassing  
3 7 student achievement goals, and an accounting of the use of the  
3 8 moneys received by the school districts in accordance with  
3 9 this chapter, shall be submitted in an annual report to the  
3 10 state board of regents and the department of education by  
3 11 September 1 in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and in  
3 12 each succeeding year. Each school district shall also  
3 13 certify, in the annual report to the board of regents and the  
3 14 department, that the school districts used the moneys received  
3 15 under this chapter to supplement, and not to supplant, the  
3 16 moneys otherwise received and used by the school districts for  
3 17 kindergarten through grade three education purposes.

3 18 3. The department shall submit, to the chairpersons and  
3 19 ranking members of the house and senate education committees  
3 20 by January 1, 2000, a report describing the ways in which the  
3 21 school districts are making use of the moneys received under  
3 22 this chapter, and including the school districts, if any, that  
3 23 used moneys received under this chapter to supplant funds the  
3 24 school district was already receiving for kindergarten through  
3 25 grade three education purposes.

3 26 4. The department shall submit, to the chairpersons and  
3 27 ranking members of the house and senate education committees  
3 28 by January 1, 2002, a report describing school district  
3 29 progress on attaining or surpassing student achievement goals.

3 30 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 256D.4 EARLY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT  
3 31 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES.

3 32 School districts shall expend funds received pursuant to  
3 33 section 256D.2 to support education practices, programs, or  
3 34 assistance for kindergarten through grade three that include,  
3 35 but are not limited to, the following: reducing adult to  
4 1 student ratios through the hiring of teachers and adult  
4 2 teaching assistants; volunteer coordinator programs;  
4 3 implementation of instructional programs designed to improve  
4 4 student achievement in the areas of reading, language arts,  
4 5 and mathematics; parental involvement programs; and  
4 6 contributions toward implementation of an extended school day  
4 7 or year program.

4 8 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 256D.5 FUTURE REPEAL.

4 9 This chapter is repealed effective July 1, 2002.

4 10 EXPLANATION

4 11 This bill establishes an early education improvement  
4 12 program, focused on kindergarten through grade three, with an  
4 13 annual appropriation of \$7 million from the state general fund  
4 14 to the department of education.

4 15 The general assembly finds, according to the bill, that it  
4 16 is in the best interest of the state to encourage and fund  
4 17 early education programs in public school districts. The bill  
4 18 defines the goals of an eligible early education improvement

4 19 program and lists the components of early education practices  
4 20 and programs for which state funding may be expended.

4 21 The bill provides for a per pupil annual distribution of  
4 22 the funds appropriated, but stipulates that a school district  
4 23 shall receive no less than \$10,000. The bill defines the term  
4 24 "school district" to include public school districts, the Iowa  
4 25 braille and sight saving school, the state school for the  
4 26 deaf, and the Price laboratory school at the university of  
4 27 northern Iowa.

4 28 The bill requires that school districts report to the  
4 29 appropriate state agencies progress made in attaining or  
4 30 surpassing student achievement goals. The bill also requires  
4 31 the department of education to submit to the chairpersons and  
4 32 ranking members of the house and senate committees on  
4 33 education reports describing the ways school districts are  
4 34 using early education moneys, whether any are suing the moneys  
4 35 to supplant other funding, and describing district progress on  
5 1 attaining or surpassing student achievement goals.

5 2 LSB 4304SC 77

5 3 kh/jw/5