

FEB 15 1999

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE  
BY SHOULTZ

*268*

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to, and making an appropriation to, the  
2 department of education for allocation to low-performing  
3 schools.

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

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*HF 268*

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. There is appropriated  
2 from the general fund of the state to the department of  
3 education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and  
4 ending June 30, 2000, the following amount, or so much thereof  
5 as is necessary, to be used for purposes of allocating grants  
6 to school districts with low-performing elementary attendance  
7 centers as provided in section 256.17:

8 ..... \$ 2,000,000

9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.17 LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOL  
10 GRANTS.

11 1. If the general assembly appropriates moneys to the  
12 department of education to provide low-performing school  
13 grants to school districts with low-performing elementary  
14 attendance centers, the department shall develop by  
15 inspection, supervision, or through reports submitted to the  
16 department as provided in section 256.7, subsection 21, and  
17 sections 280.12 and 280.18, a matrix of core indicators that  
18 compares the articulated goals of the school districts with  
19 each other and assign a value to the core indicators based on  
20 its relationship to student performance and core indicators  
21 from the matrix, the department shall establish a list of the  
22 twenty lowest-performing elementary attendance centers and  
23 shall administer and approve grants to the school districts in  
24 which the low-performing elementary attendance centers are  
25 located.

26 2. A school district that receives a low-performing school  
27 grant shall, for purposes only of improving student  
28 achievement at the low-performing attendance center, expend  
29 grant funds to reduce class sizes by hiring additional  
30 teachers, teachers aides, and para-educators; to support  
31 reading instruction and for research-based reading programs  
32 and materials; for other research-based instructional programs  
33 and materials designed to improve student achievement; and to  
34 increase parental involvement and provide parents with  
35 strategies to improve their child's academic achievement.

1 3. Each attendance center for which moneys are expended as  
2 provided under this section shall annually report to the board  
3 of directors of the school district, which shall submit the  
4 report to the department, the attendance center's progress  
5 made in improving student achievement and reaching school  
6 district goals on the academic and other core indicators in  
7 accordance with section 256.7, subsection 21. The department  
8 shall submit an annual report to the chairpersons and ranking  
9 members of the joint education appropriations subcommittee  
10 describing the ways in which school districts are using moneys  
11 received under this section, and the progress made by  
12 attendance centers toward improving student achievement.

13 4. For each fiscal year for which moneys are appropriated  
14 for purposes of this section, the amount of grant moneys  
15 allocated to a school district shall be in the proportion that  
16 the basic enrollment of the school district's low-performing  
17 elementary attendance center bears to the sum of the basic  
18 enrollments of all attendance centers for the budget year  
19 which are determined to be low-performing elementary  
20 attendance centers as provided in subsection 1.

21 5. For each year for which an appropriation is made for  
22 low-performing school grants, the department shall notify the  
23 department of revenue and finance of the amount to be paid to  
24 a school district based upon the distribution plan set forth  
25 under this section. The allocation made to a school district  
26 under this section shall be made in one payment on or about  
27 October 15 of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is  
28 made, taking into consideration the relative budget and cash  
29 position of the state resources.

30 6. Moneys received under this section shall not be  
31 commingled with state aid payments made under section 257.16  
32 to a school district and shall be accounted for by the school  
33 district separately from state aid payments. Payments made to  
34 school districts under this section are miscellaneous income  
35 for purposes of chapter 257. Each school district shall

1 maintain a separate listing within their budgets for payments  
2 received and expenditures made pursuant to this section.

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EXPLANATION

4 This bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund of  
5 the state to the department of education for fiscal year 1999-  
6 2000 for purposes of allocating grants to school districts  
7 with low-performing elementary attendance centers.

8 The bill requires the department, when the general assembly  
9 appropriates moneys for grants, to develop by inspection,  
10 supervision, or through student achievement goals and planning  
11 reports submitted to the department, a matrix that compares  
12 school district goals and indicators in order to establish a  
13 list of the 20 lowest performing elementary attendance  
14 centers, and directs the department to administer and approve  
15 grants to the school districts in which the low-performing  
16 elementary attendance centers are located. Grant moneys shall  
17 be distributed to qualifying school districts on a per pupil  
18 basis.

19 A school district that receives a low-performing school  
20 grant can expend grant moneys only for purposes of improving  
21 student achievement at the low-performing attendance center.  
22 Moneys can be used to reduce class sizes by hiring additional  
23 teachers, teachers aides, and para-educators; to support  
24 reading instruction and for research-based reading programs  
25 and materials; for other research-based instructional programs  
26 designed to improve student achievement; and to increase  
27 parental involvement and provide parents with strategies to  
28 improve their child's academic achievement.

29 Each attendance center for which grant moneys are expended  
30 shall annually report to the board of directors of the school  
31 district, which shall submit the report to the department, the  
32 attendance center's progress made in improving student  
33 achievement and reaching school district goals on the academic  
34 and other core indicators. The department shall submit an  
35 annual report to the chairpersons and ranking members of the

1 joint education appropriations subcommittee describing the  
2 ways school districts are using grant moneys and the progress  
3 made by attendance centers toward improving student  
4 achievement.

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