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SENATE FILE 348

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the career pathways program and to  
2 reimbursement claims for the costs of career pathways  
3 employability skills assessments, and making an appropriation.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 348  
EDUCATION

1 Section 1. Section 256.39, Code 1999, is amended by  
2 striking the section and inserting in lieu thereof the  
3 following:

4 256.39 CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAM -- GRANT -- ACTIVITIES --  
5 REPORTING.

6 1. The department shall develop and establish a career  
7 pathways grant program, criteria for the formation of ongoing  
8 career pathways consortia in each merged area, and guidelines  
9 and a process to be used in selecting career pathways  
10 consortium grant recipients, including a requirement that  
11 grant recipients provide matching funds or match grant funds  
12 with in-kind resources on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The  
13 grant program developed and established by the department  
14 shall also include the following components:

15 a. An existing partnership or organization, including a  
16 regional school-to-work partnership, that meets the  
17 established criteria, may be considered a consortium for grant  
18 application purposes. One or more school districts may be  
19 considered a consortium for grant application purposes,  
20 provided a district can demonstrate the manner in which a  
21 community college, area education agency, representatives from  
22 business and labor organizations, and others as determined  
23 within the region will be involved. Existing school-to-work  
24 partnerships are encouraged to assist the local consortia in  
25 developing a plan and budget. The department shall provide  
26 assistance to consortia in planning and implementing career  
27 pathways program efforts in assessment, and career guidance  
28 and exploration for students.

29 b. A career pathways program may include, but is not  
30 limited to, the following:

31 (1) Career guidance and exploration for students.

32 (2) Involvement and recognition of business, labor, and  
33 community organizations as partners in the career pathways  
34 program.

35 (3) Provision for program accountability.

1 (4) Encouragement of team teaching within the school or in  
2 partnership with postsecondary schools, and business, labor,  
3 community, and nonprofit organizations.

4 (5) Service learning opportunities for students.

5 c. Business, labor, and community organizations are  
6 encouraged to market the career pathways program established  
7 in accordance with this subsection to the local community and  
8 provide students with mentors, shadow professionals, speakers,  
9 field trip sites, summer jobs, internships, and job offers for  
10 students who graduate with high performance records. Students  
11 are encouraged to volunteer their time to community  
12 organizations in exchange for workplace learning opportunities  
13 that do not displace current employees.

14 d. In developing career pathways program efforts, each  
15 consortium shall make every effort to cooperate with the  
16 juvenile courts, the department of economic development, the  
17 department of workforce development, the department of human  
18 services, and the new Iowa schools development corporation.

19 e. The department shall direct and monitor the progress of  
20 each career pathways consortium in developing career pathways  
21 programs established in accordance with this subsection.

22 f. A career pathways program is a comprehensive school  
23 transformation program under section 294A.14.

24 2. The department shall provide technical and professional  
25 advice upon request to school districts and accredited  
26 nonpublic schools that wish to implement career pathways  
27 activities and measures to improve the employability skills of  
28 their students. The activities and measures shall include,  
29 but are not limited to, the following:

30 a. Measurement of the employability skills of students in  
31 grades nine or ten and twelve. Employability skills shall  
32 include, but are not limited to, reading for information,  
33 applied mathematics, listening, and writing. Employability  
34 skills assessments shall be considered an assessment measure  
35 for purposes of section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "c".

1 b. Curricula designed to integrate academic and work-based  
2 learning to achieve high employability skills by all students  
3 related to career pathways. The curricula shall be designed  
4 through the cooperative efforts of secondary and postsecondary  
5 education professionals, business professionals, and community  
6 services professionals.

7 c. Staff development to implement a high-standard  
8 curriculum. These efforts may include team teaching  
9 techniques that utilize expertise from partnership businesses  
10 and postsecondary institutions.

11 3. A school district or accredited nonpublic school that  
12 adopts and administers employability skills assessment tools  
13 as provided in this section or section 256.39A, shall develop  
14 and integrate specific career pathways goals and activities  
15 into the comprehensive school improvement plan required under  
16 section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "a".

17 4. Biennially, on or about January 15, the department  
18 shall submit to the general assembly a summary of the  
19 activities and results of the implementation of career  
20 pathways efforts, especially school district and accredited  
21 nonpublic school progress on the use of employability skills  
22 assessments.

23 **Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.39A CAREER PATHWAYS**  
24 **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS ASSESSMENTS -- PAYMENT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
25 **CLAIMS -- APPROPRIATIONS.**

26 1. The director of the department of education shall  
27 identify appropriate employability skills assessment tools  
28 that school districts shall use to meet the requirements of  
29 section 256.39, subsection 3, and the claim reimbursement  
30 requirements of this section.

31 2. A school district may submit a claim on forms provided  
32 by the department for reimbursement. A claim submitted to the  
33 department shall state the actual costs incurred and shall be  
34 accompanied by an affidavit of an officer of the public school  
35 district affirming the accuracy of the claim.

1 3. Employability skills assessment tools adopted and  
2 purchased by a school district may, and shall to the extent  
3 funds are appropriated to the department by the general  
4 assembly for the payment of claims under this section, be made  
5 available to students attending accredited nonpublic schools  
6 upon request of the student or the student's parent under  
7 comparable terms available to students attending public  
8 schools. However, the assessment tools must be comparable to  
9 the assessment tools of the district of attendance and cannot  
10 exceed the per pupil cost of the assessment tools of the  
11 district of attendance. A claim submitted under this section  
12 that includes costs for providing accredited nonpublic school  
13 pupils with employability skills assessment tools shall state  
14 the actual number of nonpublic students requesting the  
15 provision of employability skills assessment tools.

16 4. For each year in which an appropriation is made for the  
17 purposes described in this section, the department of  
18 education shall certify to the department of revenue and  
19 finance, by February 1 and on or about June 15, the amounts of  
20 approved claims to be paid, and the department of revenue and  
21 finance shall draw warrants payable to school districts with  
22 approved claims, taking into consideration the relative budget  
23 and cash position of the state resources.

24 5. Moneys received under this section shall not be  
25 commingled with state aid payments made under section 257.16  
26 to a school district and shall be accounted for by the school  
27 district separately from state aid payments. Payments made to  
28 a school district under this section are miscellaneous income  
29 for purposes of chapter 257.

30 6. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
31 state to the department of education, for purposes of  
32 reimbursing school districts for the costs of acquiring,  
33 using, and making available to nonpublic schools employability  
34 skills assessment tools in accordance with this section, the  
35 following amounts for the following fiscal years:

1 a. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending  
2 June 30, 2000, the amount of seven hundred fifty thousand  
3 dollars.

4 b. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, and ending  
5 June 30, 2001, the amount of one million six hundred thousand  
6 dollars.

7 7. If the director of the department of education  
8 determines that the moneys appropriated by the general  
9 assembly for payment of claims to reimburse school districts  
10 for the costs of acquiring and administering employability  
11 skills assessment tools in grades nine or ten and twelve are  
12 insufficient to pay in full all claims submitted and approved  
13 in accordance with this section, the amounts of approved  
14 claims to be paid shall be prorated among all school districts  
15 with approved claims. If a school district is providing  
16 employability skills assessments to accredited nonpublic  
17 school pupils as provided in subsection 2, any difference  
18 between the amount of the claim of a school district for the  
19 cost of providing employability skills assessments to  
20 accredited nonpublic school pupils and the amount of payment  
21 received from the department of education, shall be paid by  
22 the parent or guardian of the nonpublic school pupil served.

23 8. A school district and, an accredited nonpublic school  
24 if its pupils are provided with employability skills  
25 assessment tools under the provisions of this section, shall  
26 meet the requirements in section 256.39, subsection 2.

27 Sec. 3. FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS  
28 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS. Notwithstanding section 256.39A, for  
29 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30,  
30 2000, the department of education shall reimburse only the  
31 claims submitted for reimbursement of a school district's  
32 costs of acquiring, using, and making available to accredited  
33 nonpublic schools employability skills assessment tools for  
34 students enrolled in grade twelve. If moneys appropriated for  
35 purposes of claims reimbursement for fiscal year 1999-2000 are

1 insufficient to pay the claims received in full, the  
2 provisions of section 256.39A, subsection 6, shall apply.

3 EXPLANATION

4 This bill strikes the current Code section creating the  
5 career pathways program, and replaces it with a section that  
6 retains much of the current language, but adds provisions  
7 relating to employability skills assessments.

8 The bill also establishes a procedure by which school  
9 districts may submit a claim to the department of education  
10 for reimbursement of the costs of acquiring and using  
11 employability skills assessment tools for grades nine or 10  
12 and 12, and appropriates \$750,000 for FY 1999-2000, and \$1.6  
13 million for FY 2000-2001 for that purpose.

14 Under the bill, a school district that adopts and purchases  
15 employability skills assessment tools may, and shall to the  
16 extent funds are appropriated to the department of education  
17 by the general assembly for the payment of claims, be made  
18 available to pupils attending accredited nonpublic schools  
19 upon request of the pupil or the pupil's parent under  
20 comparable terms available to pupils attending public schools.

21 The bill requires the department to provide technical and  
22 professional advice upon request to school districts and  
23 accredited nonpublic schools that wish to implement career  
24 pathways activities and measures to improve the employability  
25 skills of their students. The activities and measures include  
26 measurement of the employability skills of students in grades  
27 nine or 10 and 12, curricula designed to integrate academic  
28 and work-based learning to achieve high employability skills  
29 by all students related to career pathways, and staff  
30 development to implement a high-standard curriculum.

31 The bill requires a school district or accredited nonpublic  
32 school that adopts and administers employability skills  
33 assessment tools to develop and integrate specific career  
34 pathways goals and activities into the comprehensive school  
35 improvement plan that the district or school is required under

1 Code section 256.7 to submit annually to the department.

2 The department is directed to biennially submit to the  
3 general assembly a summary of the activities and results of  
4 the implementation of career pathways efforts, especially  
5 school district and accredited nonpublic school progress on  
6 the use of employability skills assessments.

7 The department is also required under the bill to identify  
8 appropriate employability skills assessment tools that school  
9 districts must use in order to qualify for a reimbursement.  
10 If the appropriation is insufficient to pay in full the claims  
11 submitted, the bill provides that school districts will  
12 receive a prorated reimbursement amount. If a district is  
13 providing employability skills assessment tools to accredited  
14 nonpublic school pupils, parents, or guardians of those pupils  
15 are required to pay the difference between the cost of  
16 providing the employability skills assessment tools to their  
17 children and the amount reimbursed to the district by the  
18 department of education.

19 For fiscal year 1999-2000 only, the bill provides that only  
20 the claims for the costs of acquiring and using employability  
21 skills assessment tools at the 12th grade level will be  
22 reimbursed, and the reimbursement amount will be prorated if  
23 the appropriation made by the general assembly is insufficient  
24 to pay in full the claims received.

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