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SENATE FILE
BY CONNOLLY

120

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a grant process to provide school districts
2 with resources to implement volunteer student mentoring pilot
3 projects, making an appropriation, and providing emergency
4 rulemaking authority.

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

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SF 120 EDUCATION

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, 2003, and
4 ending June 30, 2004, the following amount, or so much thereof
5 as is necessary, to be used for the purpose designated:

6 For competitive grants to school districts for volunteer
7 student mentoring pilot projects:

8 \$ 500,000

9 Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered or unobligated
10 funds remaining on June 30, 2004, shall not revert but shall
11 be available for grants to school districts for volunteer
12 student mentoring pilot projects in the following fiscal year.

13 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.24 VOLUNTEER STUDENT MENTORING
14 PILOT PROJECTS.

15 1. The department shall administer and approve grants to
16 school districts to implement proven, research-based
17 structured volunteer student mentoring pilot projects, from
18 funds appropriated by the general assembly for purposes of
19 volunteer student mentoring pilot project grants. Grant
20 moneys shall be allocated on a competitive basis to school
21 districts, or to a collaboration of school districts, that
22 submit to the department a plan for implementation of a
23 volunteer student mentoring program. Grants shall be
24 equitably distributed geographically to three large school
25 districts, three medium-sized school districts, and three
26 small school districts. For purposes of this section, a large
27 school district is a district with an actual enrollment of
28 five thousand or more pupils; a medium-sized school district
29 is a district with an actual enrollment of two thousand or
30 more pupils, but less than five thousand pupils; and a small
31 school district is a district with an actual enrollment of
32 less than two thousand pupils.

33 2. Priority shall be given to plans that meet the
34 following criteria:

35 a. Provide for structured mentoring and systematic

1 intervention in a technology-based program that assists
2 teachers in addressing accountability issues by aligning
3 curriculum and connecting teaching materials to student
4 achievement goals, and include a database that organizes and
5 manages student and mentor data as well as generating
6 individualized lesson plans that address the instructional and
7 developmental level, learning style, and learning objectives
8 for a specific student or group of students.

9 b. Are recognized as promising educational practices for
10 accelerating student achievement and increasing a student's
11 self-esteem and interest in school.

12 c. Include a statement of purpose and a long-range plan.

13 d. Include a volunteer recruitment plan targeting, among
14 others, parents, retired persons, students, and the local
15 business and labor community.

16 e. Provide for eligibility screening, orientation, and
17 training of mentors.

18 f. Include a mentor and student matching strategy,
19 monitoring, and evaluation process.

20 g. Provide a support, recognition, and retention
21 component.

22 3. Grant amounts shall be distributed as determined by the
23 department.

24 4. A school district or collaboration of districts
25 receiving moneys under this section shall submit with the
26 report to the department required under section 256.7,
27 subsection 21, paragraph "c", a report describing the impact
28 the volunteer student mentoring pilot project funded under
29 this section had on school district progress in attaining
30 student achievement goals on the academic and other core
31 indicators and on districtwide progress made in attaining
32 locally established student learning goals. The department
33 shall summarize annually the school district reports and
34 submit the summary and any recommendations regarding the
35 grants and projects to the chairpersons and ranking members of

1 the senate and house standing education committees by January
2 1 of the school year succeeding the fiscal year in which the
3 appropriation is made.

4 Sec. 3. EMERGENCY RULES. The department of education may
5 adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection 2, and
6 section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the
7 provisions of this Act and the rules shall be effective
8 immediately upon filing unless a later date is specified in
9 the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance with this section
10 shall also be published as a notice of intended action as
11 provided in section 17A.4.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill appropriates \$500,000 for FY 2003-2004 from the
14 general fund of the state to the department of education for
15 competitive grants to school districts for implementation of
16 volunteer student mentoring pilot projects.

17 The department of education is directed to administer and
18 approve grants on a competitive basis. To qualify for grant
19 moneys, school districts must submit to the department a
20 project plan. Grants are to be equitably distributed
21 geographically to three large, three medium-sized, and three
22 small school districts. Priority shall be given to plans that
23 meet criteria specified in the bill.

24 School districts that receive grants are required to submit
25 a report describing the impact the pilot project had on the
26 district's progress in attaining student achievement goals.

27 The department must submit a summary of the school district
28 reports annually along with any recommendations regarding the
29 projects to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate
30 and house standing education committees.

31 The bill gives the department of education emergency
32 rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of the bill.

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