

# House Study Bill 691

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a vanguard school grant program for school  
2 districts to be administered by the department of education.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TL5B 5795XL 81  
5 kh/je/5

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1 1 Section 1. Section 256.7, Code Supplement 2005, is amended  
1 2 by adding the following new subsection:  
1 3 NEW SUBSECTION. 27. Adopt rules specifying the criteria  
1 4 and process for awarding vanguard school grants to school  
1 5 districts in accordance with section 256.24.  
1 6 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.24 VANGUARD SCHOOL GRANTS.  
1 7 1. A vanguard school grant program is established to be  
1 8 administered by the department for purposes of building and  
1 9 supporting innovative and creative learning communities.  
1 10 Subject to the availability of funding, the department shall  
1 11 award five-year grants to school districts that submit  
1 12 applications, in the form required by the department, and  
1 13 which meet the criteria adopted by the state board pursuant to  
1 14 section 256.7, subsection 27.  
1 15 2. Priority in considering grant applications shall be  
1 16 given to applications that include, but are not limited to,  
1 17 plans that support areas of innovative programming which  
1 18 includes one or more of the following:  
1 19 a. Increased access to advanced placement courses and on-  
1 20 line learning opportunities.  
1 21 b. Assisting low-performing attendance centers.  
1 22 c. Recruiting and retaining teachers in areas experiencing  
1 23 teacher shortages.  
1 24 d. Establishing parent liaison programs.  
1 25 e. Sharing and consolidating school schedules and  
1 26 calendars.  
1 27 f. Expanding or maintaining technology in the classroom.  
1 28 g. Reestablishing fine arts courses in the schools.  
1 29 h. Offering sequential kindergarten through grade twelve  
1 30 media library programs that involve licensed teacher  
1 31 librarians.  
1 32 i. Providing extra learning opportunities.  
1 33 j. Offering sequential kindergarten through grade twelve  
1 34 articulated elementary-secondary guidance programs that  
1 35 involve licensed guidance counselors.  
2 1 3. Except as specifically provided in subsection 4, the  
2 2 state board of education may annually waive a regulatory  
2 3 provision under the state board's or department's authority  
2 4 for a vanguard school receiving funds pursuant to this section  
2 5 if the school is engaging in efforts that are broadly  
2 6 consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements, but  
2 7 require the waiver in order to implement the comprehensive  
2 8 school transformation effort within the school.  
2 9 4. The department shall not waive requirements implemented  
2 10 under any of the following provisions for vanguard schools  
2 11 awarded grants pursuant to this section:  
2 12 a. The provisions of chapters 22, 216, 216A, and 256B.  
2 13 b. The provisions of chapters 20 and 279 relating to  
2 14 contracts with and discharge of teachers and administrators.  
2 15 c. Program or funding requirements that comply with  
2 16 federal statute.  
2 17 EXPLANATION  
2 18 This bill establishes a vanguard school grant program to be  
2 19 administered by the department of education for purposes of  
2 20 building and supporting innovative and creative learning

2 21 communities. Subject to the availability of funding, the  
2 22 department shall award five-year grants to school districts  
2 23 that submit applications and meet the criteria the bill  
2 24 directs the state board of education to adopt by rule. The  
2 25 bill authorizes the state board of education to annually waive  
2 26 or modify a regulatory provision under its or the department's  
2 27 authority for vanguard schools, except with regard to rules  
2 28 relating to civil and human rights, student confidential  
2 29 records, teacher and administrator contracts and discharge,  
2 30 and federal program or funding requirements.

2 31 Priority in considering grant applications shall be given  
2 32 to applications that include, but are not limited to, plans  
2 33 that support areas of innovative programming such as  
2 34 increasing access to advanced placement courses and on-line  
2 35 learning opportunities, assisting low-performing attendance  
3 1 centers, recruiting and retaining teachers in teacher shortage  
3 2 areas, establishing parent liaison programs, sharing and  
3 3 consolidating school schedules and calendars, expanding or  
3 4 maintaining technology in the classroom, reestablishing fine  
3 5 arts courses in the schools, offering media library programs  
3 6 involving licensed teacher librarians, offering sequential  
3 7 elementary-secondary guidance programs and involving guidance  
3 8 counselors, or providing extra learning opportunities.

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