

House File 7

HOUSE FILE _____
BY ABDUL-SAMAD

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a parental involvement grant program and
2 making an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 1144HH 83
5 kh/nh/5

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.27 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
1 2 GRANT PROGRAM.
1 3 1. There is established a parental involvement grant
1 4 program within the department to provide competitive grants to
1 5 school districts that substantially involve parents and
1 6 guardians in efforts to improve the academic achievement of
1 7 at-risk and minority student subgroups at any or all grade
1 8 levels from prekindergarten through grade twelve.
1 9 2. Grant applications shall be evaluated by the department
1 10 based on the targeted student population and whether the
1 11 application meets all of the following conditions:
1 12 a. Includes a detailed plan to involve parents and
1 13 guardians in a school and the school culture. The plan shall
1 14 require a parent or guardian who agrees to participate in the
1 15 program to sign a compact with the school district in which
1 16 the school district agrees to maintain regular communication
1 17 and work collaboratively with the parent or guardian in the
1 18 child's education and the parent or guardian agrees to promote
1 19 the educational advancement of the child, attend
1 20 parent-teacher conferences, and assist the child with
1 21 activities recommended by the school district, including but
1 22 not limited to homework and community service.
1 23 b. Demonstrates partnerships and collaboration with
1 24 not-for-profit community organizations.
1 25 c. Demonstrates that the school district is able to
1 26 sustain the program after the grant is exhausted.
1 27 3. Grant moneys may be expended for services and
1 28 activities that include but are not limited to diagnostic
1 29 assessments and appropriate interventions to identify student
1 30 needs; tutoring and supplemental instruction in basic skills,
1 31 such as reading, math, and science; relationship building
1 32 among parents, guardians, educators, community leaders, and
1 33 public officials; promotion and support of parenting and
1 34 leadership skills and capabilities; conflict resolution; team
1 35 building; outreach strategies to involve families;
2 1 establishing or improving homework skills; counseling;
2 2 character development and civic participation; or mentoring.
2 3 4. The department shall provide grants to the following:
2 4 a. Three school districts, each of which with a budget
2 5 enrollment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, of more
2 6 than sixteen thousand students.
2 7 b. One school district with a budget enrollment for the
2 8 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, of more than ten thousand
2 9 eight hundred students, but less than eleven thousand
2 10 students.
2 11 c. One school district with a budget enrollment for the
2 12 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, of more than six hundred
2 13 forty-seven students, but less than six hundred forty-nine
2 14 students.
2 15 5. The department shall make every effort to leverage
2 16 additional funding from other public and private sources to
2 17 support the grant program.
2 18 6. Grant funding may be used for programming for multiple
2 19 fiscal years as proposed by the applicant and approved by the
2 20 department.

2 21 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION == PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
2 22 PROGRAM GRANTS. There is appropriated from the general fund
2 23 of the state to the department of education for the fiscal
2 24 year beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010, the
2 25 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
2 26 used for the purposes designated:

2 27 For competitive grants to school districts which
2 28 substantially involve parents and guardians to improve the
2 29 academic achievement of at-risk and minority student subgroups
2 30 at any or all grade levels from prekindergarten through grade
2 31 twelve in accordance with section 256.27:

2 32 \$ 500,000

2 33 EXPLANATION

2 34 This bill establishes a parental involvement grant program
2 35 to provide competitive grants to school districts that
3 1 substantially involve parents and guardians in efforts to
3 2 improve the academic achievement of at-risk and minority
3 3 student subgroups at any or all grade levels from
3 4 prekindergarten through grade 12. The bill appropriates
3 5 \$500,000 to the department of education to fund the grant
3 6 program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009.

3 7 Grant applications must include a detailed plan to involve
3 8 parents and guardians. Under the plan, a parent or guardian
3 9 who agrees to participate in the program must sign a compact
3 10 with the school district in which the school district agrees
3 11 to maintain regular communication and work collaboratively
3 12 with the parent or guardian and the parent or guardian agrees
3 13 to promote the educational advancement of the child, attend
3 14 parent-teacher conferences, and assist the child with
3 15 activities recommended by the school district. The
3 16 application must also demonstrate partnerships and
3 17 collaboration with not-for-profit community organizations.

3 18 The bill lists services and activities for which grant
3 19 recipients may expend grant funds.

3 20 The department is directed to award grants to five school
3 21 districts, including three school districts having enrollments
3 22 of more than 16,000, one school district with an enrollment
3 23 between 10,800 and 11,000, and one school district with an
3 24 enrollment between 647 and 649 students. Grant funding may be
3 25 used for programming for multiple fiscal years as proposed by
3 26 the applicant and approved by the department.

3 27 LSB 1144HH 83

3 28 kh/nh/5