

House File 274 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 274

BY DOLECHECK

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to kindergarten programs offered by school
2 districts.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 For a school or school district with a school calendar
4 measuring instructional time in days pursuant to section
5 279.10, subsection 1, define the minimum school day as a day
6 consisting of six hours of instructional time for ~~grades one~~
7 kindergarten through grade twelve. The minimum hours shall be
8 exclusive of the lunch period, but may include passing time
9 between classes. Time spent on parent-teacher conferences
10 shall be considered instructional time. A school or school
11 district may record a day of school with less than the minimum
12 instructional hours as a minimum school day if any of the
13 following apply:

14 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 19, paragraph b, Code
15 2015, is amended to read as follows:

16 b. If the total hours of instructional school time for
17 ~~grades one~~ kindergarten through grade twelve for any five
18 consecutive school days equal a minimum of thirty hours,
19 even though any one day of school is less than the minimum
20 instructional hours because of a staff development opportunity
21 provided for the professional instructional staff or because
22 parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the
23 regular school day. Furthermore, if the total hours of
24 instructional time for the first four consecutive days equal at
25 least thirty hours because parent-teacher conferences have been
26 scheduled beyond the regular school day, a school or school
27 district may record zero hours of instructional time on the
28 fifth consecutive school day as a minimum school day.

29 Sec. 3. Section 256.9, subsection 33, paragraph a,
30 subparagraphs (2) and (3), Code 2015, are amended to read as
31 follows:

32 (2) Assist school districts in the development of child
33 care services and programs to complement ~~half-day and all-day~~
34 kindergarten programs.

35 (3) Assist school districts in the development of

1 appropriate curricula for ~~all-day, everyday~~ kindergarten
2 programs.

3 Sec. 4. Section 256D.2A, Code 2015, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **256D.2A Program funding.**

6 For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, and each
7 succeeding budget year, a school district shall expend funds
8 received pursuant to section 257.10, subsection 11, at the
9 kindergarten through grade three levels to reduce class sizes
10 to the state goal of seventeen students for every one teacher
11 and to achieve a higher level of student success in the basic
12 skills, especially reading. In order to support these efforts,
13 school districts may expend funds received pursuant to section
14 257.10, subsection 11, at the kindergarten through grade three
15 level on programs, instructional support, and materials that
16 include but are not limited to the following: additional
17 licensed instructional staff; additional support for students,
18 such as before and after school programs, tutoring, and
19 intensive summer programs; the acquisition and administration
20 of diagnostic reading assessments; the implementation of
21 research-based instructional intervention programs for students
22 needing additional support; the implementation of ~~all-day,~~
23 ~~everyday~~ kindergarten programs; and the provision of classroom
24 teachers with intensive training programs to improve reading
25 instruction and professional development in best practices
26 including but not limited to training programs related to
27 instruction to increase students' phonemic awareness, reading
28 abilities, and comprehension skills.

29 Sec. 5. Section 279.51, subsection 2, paragraph a,
30 subparagraph (2), subparagraph division (a), Code 2015, is
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (a) To school districts to establish programs for
33 three-year-old, four-year-old, and five-year-old at-risk
34 children which are a combination of preschool and ~~full-day~~
35 kindergarten.

1

EXPLANATION

2

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
3 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3

4

This bill makes kindergarten programs offered by school
5 districts subject to the minimum school day and instructional
6 requirements that currently apply to grades 1 through 12. The
7 bill eliminates references to half-day, full-day, and everyday
8 kindergarten programs.

9

Currently, students enrolled in kindergarten, whether in
10 full-day or half-day programs, are counted as one pupil for
11 purposes of state school foundation aid received by a school
12 district pursuant to Code chapter 257.

12