

**Senate Study Bill 3073 - Introduced**

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to education, including modifying provisions  
2 related to the number of area education agencies in this  
3 state, the duties and powers of area education agencies,  
4 area education agency boards of directors, the department  
5 of administrative services, the director of the department  
6 of education, the division of special education within the  
7 department of education, the services provided by area  
8 education agencies, area education agency funding, the  
9 calculation of the teacher salary supplement district cost  
10 per pupil, and minimum teacher salaries, and including  
11 transition, effective date, and applicability provisions.

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

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DIVISION I

AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Section 273.1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

**273.1 Intent.**

It is the intent of the general assembly to provide an effective, efficient, and economical means of identifying and serving children from under five years of age through grade twelve who require special education and any other children requiring special education as defined in [section 256B.2](#); to provide ~~for media services and other programs and services~~ for pupils in grades kindergarten through twelve and children requiring special education as defined in [section 256B.2](#); to provide a method of financing the programs and services; ~~and to avoid a duplication of programs and services provided by any other school corporation in the state; and~~ to provide services to school districts under a contract with those school districts; to improve student achievement; and to close student achievement gaps.

Sec. 2. Section 273.2, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

**273.2 Area education agencies established — powers — services and programs.**

1. There are established throughout the state ~~fifteen~~ not more than nine area education agencies, as determined by the director of the department of education, each of which is governed by an area education agency board of directors under the general supervision of the director, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Each area education agency shall have an area education agency board of directors that shall serve in an advisory capacity. The boundaries of an area education agency shall not divide a school district. The director of the department of education shall change boundaries of area education agencies to take into account mergers of local school districts and changes in boundaries of local

1 school districts, when necessary to maintain the policy of this  
2 chapter that a local school district shall not be a part of  
3 more than one area education agency.

4 2. An area education agency established under [this chapter](#)  
5 is a body politic as a school corporation for the purpose of  
6 exercising powers granted under [this chapter](#), and may sue and  
7 be sued. An area education agency ~~may~~ shall not hold real  
8 ~~property and execute purchase agreements within two years of a~~  
9 ~~disaster as defined in [section 29C.2, subsection 4](#), and shall~~  
10 not enter into lease-purchase agreements pursuant to section  
11 273.3, subsection 7, and if the lease-purchase agreement  
12 exceeds ten years or the purchase price of the property to be  
13 acquired pursuant to a purchase or lease-purchase agreement  
14 exceeds the amount stated in [section 26.3, subsection 1](#), the  
15 area education agency shall conduct a public hearing on the  
16 proposed purchase or lease-purchase agreement and receive  
17 approval from the area education agency board of directors and  
18 the state board of education or its designee before entering  
19 into the agreement. The department of administrative services  
20 is responsible for providing real property and facilities to  
21 the area education agencies, as determined in consultation  
22 with the director of the department of education, pursuant to  
23 a management fee agreement. The area education agencies are  
24 responsible for the general maintenance and the grounds of the  
25 real property and facilities provided by the department of  
26 administrative services.

27 3. The area education agency ~~board~~ agencies shall furnish  
28 educational services and programs as provided in [section 273.1](#),  
29 this section, [sections 273.3 through 273.8](#), and [chapter 256B](#)  
30 to the pupils enrolled in public or nonpublic schools located  
31 within its boundaries which are on the list of accredited  
32 schools pursuant to [section 256.11](#). ~~The programs and services~~  
33 ~~provided shall be at least commensurate with programs and~~  
34 ~~services existing on July 1, 1974.~~ The programs and services  
35 provided to pupils enrolled in nonpublic schools shall be

1 comparable to programs and services provided to pupils enrolled  
2 in public schools within constitutional guidelines.

3 4. The area education ~~agency board~~ agencies shall provide  
4 for special education services and ~~media services~~ for the  
5 local school districts ~~in the area and shall encourage and~~  
6 ~~assist school districts in the area to establish programs for~~  
7 gifted and talented children that request to receive such  
8 services, including by entering into agreements with the area  
9 education agency. ~~The board shall assist in facilitating~~  
10 ~~interlibrary loans of materials between school districts and~~  
11 ~~other libraries.~~

12 5. The area education ~~agency board~~ agencies may provide for  
13 the following programs and services to local school districts,  
14 and at the request of local school districts to providers of  
15 child development services who have received grants under  
16 chapter 256A from the child development coordinating council,  
17 within the limits of funds available:

18 a. In-service training programs for employees of school  
19 districts and area education agencies, provided at the time  
20 programs and services are established they do not duplicate  
21 programs and services available in that area from the  
22 universities under the state board of regents and from other  
23 universities and four-year institutions of higher education in  
24 Iowa. The in-service training programs shall include but are  
25 not limited to regular training concerning mental or emotional  
26 disorders which may ~~afflict~~ affect children and the impact  
27 children with such disorders have upon their families.

28 b. Educational data processing pursuant to section 256.9,  
29 subsection 11.

30 c. Research, demonstration projects and models, and  
31 educational planning for children under five years of age  
32 through grade twelve and children requiring special education  
33 as defined in [section 256B.2](#) as approved by the state board of  
34 education.

35 d. Auxiliary services for nonpublic school pupils as

1 provided in [section 256.12](#). However, if auxiliary services are  
2 provided their funding shall be based on the type of service  
3 provided.

4 e. Other educational programs and services for children  
5 under five years through grade twelve and children requiring  
6 special education as defined in [section 256B.2](#) and for  
7 ~~employees of school districts and area education agencies as~~  
8 ~~approved by the state board of education.~~

9 6. ~~The board of directors of an area education agency shall~~  
10 ~~not establish programs and services which duplicate programs~~  
11 ~~and services which are or may be provided by the community~~  
12 ~~colleges under the provisions of [chapter 260C](#).~~ An area  
13 education agency shall contract, whenever practicable, with  
14 other school corporations for the use of personnel, buildings,  
15 facilities, supplies, equipment, programs, and services.

16 7. ~~The board of an~~ Subject to the approval of the director  
17 of the department of education, an area education agency or  
18 a consortium of two or more area education agencies shall  
19 contract with one or more licensed dietitians for the support  
20 of nutritional provisions in individual education plans  
21 developed in accordance with [chapter 256B](#) and to provide  
22 information to support school nutrition coordinators.

23 8. ~~The area education agency board shall collaborate~~  
24 ~~with the department of education to provide a statewide~~  
25 ~~infrastructure for educational data to create cost~~  
26 ~~efficiencies, provide storage and disaster mitigation, and~~  
27 ~~improve interconnectivity between schools and school districts.~~  
28 ~~In addition, the area education agency boards shall work~~  
29 ~~with the department to provide systemwide coordination in~~  
30 ~~the implementation of the statewide longitudinal data system~~  
31 ~~consistent with the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment~~  
32 ~~Act of 2009. The area education agencies shall provide support~~  
33 ~~to school districts' information technology infrastructure~~  
34 ~~that is consistent with the statewide infrastructure for the~~  
35 ~~educational data collaborative.~~

1 ~~9. The area education agency boards shall jointly develop a~~  
2 ~~three-year statewide strategic plan that supports goals adopted~~  
3 ~~by the state board of education pursuant to section 256.7,~~  
4 ~~subsection 4, and the accreditation standards established~~  
5 ~~pursuant to [section 256.11](#); establish performance goals; and~~  
6 ~~clearly identify the statewide efforts to improve student~~  
7 ~~learning and create efficiencies in management operations for~~  
8 ~~area education agencies and school districts. The statewide~~  
9 ~~strategic plan shall be approved by the state board of~~  
10 ~~education. The area education agency boards shall jointly~~  
11 ~~provide the state board with annual updates on the performance~~  
12 ~~measures.~~

13 ~~10.~~ 8. The Subject to the approval of the director  
14 of the department of education, an area education agency  
15 ~~board is encouraged to~~ may employ a child welfare liaison to  
16 provide services and guidance to local school districts to  
17 facilitate the efficient and effective transfer and enrollment  
18 of a child adjudicated under [chapter 232](#) or receiving foster  
19 care services to another school district, including but not  
20 limited to guidance relating to the transfer of credit earned  
21 for coursework taken by the student, enrollment transition  
22 planning, facilitating information sharing between education  
23 and child welfare agencies, and developing systems designed to  
24 ameliorate the transition issues faced by a child adjudicated  
25 under [chapter 232](#) or receiving foster care services who is  
26 transferring to and enrolling in a school district.

27 ~~11.~~ 9. Subject to an appropriation by the general assembly  
28 for such purpose, ~~the area education agency board~~ agencies  
29 shall, by July 1, 2024, dedicate at least one full-time  
30 equivalent position to maintain a dyslexia specialist. ~~The~~  
31 An area education agency ~~board~~ may hire such a specialist  
32 or may provide appropriate training to qualify an existing  
33 employee as a specialist on dyslexia. The specialist shall  
34 provide technical guidance and assistance, including but  
35 not limited to professional development, strategies, and

1 materials to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools  
2 relating to identification of and instruction for students with  
3 characteristics of dyslexia. The specialist shall be highly  
4 trained in dyslexia and have a minimum of three years of field  
5 experience in screening, identifying, and treating dyslexia and  
6 related disorders. ~~In the absence of an appropriation, each~~  
7 ~~area education agency board is encouraged to employ a highly~~  
8 ~~qualified dyslexia specialist.~~

9 10. a. An area education agency may establish a plan, in  
10 accordance with section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code,  
11 as defined in section 422.3, for employees, which plan shall  
12 consist of one or more investment contracts, on a group or  
13 individual basis, acquired from a company, or a salesperson for  
14 that company, that is authorized to do business in this state.

15 b. The selection of investment contracts to be included  
16 within the plan established by the area education agency shall  
17 be made either pursuant to a competitive bidding process  
18 conducted by the area education agency, in coordination with  
19 employee organizations representing employees eligible to  
20 participate in the plan, or pursuant to an agreement with  
21 the department of administrative services to make available  
22 investment contracts included in a deferred compensation or  
23 similar plan established by the department of administrative  
24 services pursuant to section 8A.438, which plan meets the  
25 requirements of this subsection. The determination of whether  
26 to select investment contracts for the plan pursuant to a  
27 competitive bidding process or by agreement with the department  
28 of administrative services shall be made by agreement between  
29 the area education agency and the employee organizations  
30 representing employees eligible to participate in the plan.

31 c. The area education agency may make elective deferrals in  
32 accordance with the plan as authorized by an eligible employee  
33 for the purpose of making contributions to the investment  
34 contract on behalf of the employee. The deferrals shall be  
35 made in the manner which will qualify contributions to the

1 investment contract for the benefits under section 403(b)  
2 of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in section 422.3.  
3 In addition, the area education agency may make nonelective  
4 employer contributions to the plan.

5 d. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise  
6 requires, "investment contract" shall mean a custodial account  
7 utilizing mutual funds or an annuity contract which meets the  
8 requirements of section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as  
9 defined in section 422.3.

10 11. An area education agency may establish and pay all  
11 or any part of the cost of group health insurance plans,  
12 nonprofit group medical service plans and group life insurance  
13 plans adopted by the area education agency for the benefit of  
14 employees of the area education agency, from funds available  
15 to the board.

16 12. An area education agency may issue school credit  
17 cards allowing area education agency employees to pay for the  
18 actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of  
19 work-related duties.

20 13. An area education agency may purchase equipment as  
21 provided in section 279.48.

22 14. By January 15 of each year, the area education agencies  
23 shall submit to the department of education the area education  
24 agency's staffing plans and job classifications, including  
25 contracted salary, bonus wages and benefits, annuity payments,  
26 or any other benefit, for the employees of the area education  
27 agency. The director of the department of education shall  
28 review the staffing plans and job classifications submitted by  
29 the area education agencies and either approve or reject the  
30 continuation of each position by March 1 of each year. The  
31 area education agencies shall align all job classifications  
32 with the job classifications established by the department of  
33 administrative services. The area education agencies shall  
34 comply with all applicable requirements of 29 U.S.C. ch. 23 and  
35 chapter 84C if a reduction in force occurs.



1     15. The area education agencies shall require that, by  
2 July 1, 2024, any person employed by the area education agency  
3 who holds a license, certificate, statement of recognition,  
4 or authorization other than a coaching authorization, issued  
5 by the board of educational examiners to complete the Iowa  
6 reading research center dyslexia overview module. Such persons  
7 employed after July 1, 2024, shall complete the module within  
8 one year of the employee's initial date of hire.

9     16. The area education agency shall collaborate with the  
10 department of education to provide a statewide infrastructure  
11 for educational data to create cost efficiencies, provide  
12 storage and disaster mitigation, and improve interconnectivity  
13 between schools and school districts. In addition, the area  
14 education agency shall work with the department to provide  
15 systemwide coordination in the implementation of the statewide  
16 longitudinal data system consistent with the federal American  
17 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

18     Sec. 3. Section 273.3, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20     **273.3 Duties and powers of area education agency board —**  
21 **additional powers of area education agencies.**

22     ~~The board in carrying out the provisions of section 273.2~~  
23 ~~shall do all of the following:~~

24     ~~1. Determine the policies of~~ Advise and consult with the  
25 area education agency on policies and procedures for providing  
26 programs and services.

27     ~~2. Be authorized to receive and expend money for providing~~  
28 ~~programs and services as provided in sections 273.1, 273.2,~~  
29 ~~this section, sections 273.4 through 273.8, and chapters 256B~~  
30 ~~and 257. All costs incurred in providing the programs and~~  
31 ~~services, including administrative costs, shall be paid from~~  
32 ~~funds received pursuant to sections 273.1, 273.2, this section,~~  
33 ~~sections 273.4 through 273.8, and chapters 256B and 257.~~

34     ~~3.~~ 2. Provide data and prepare reports as directed by  
35 the director of the department of education or the executive

1 director of the area education agency.

2 ~~4. Provide for advisory committees as deemed necessary.~~

3 ~~5. 3. Be authorized, subject to rules of the state board of~~  
4 ~~education, to provide directly or by contractual arrangement~~  
5 ~~with public or private agencies for special education programs~~  
6 ~~and services, media services, and educational programs and~~  
7 ~~services requested by the local boards of education as provided~~  
8 ~~in this chapter, including but not limited to contracts for~~  
9 ~~the area education agency to provide programs or services to~~  
10 ~~the local school districts and contracts for local school~~  
11 ~~districts, other educational agencies, and public and private~~  
12 ~~agencies to provide programs and services to the local school~~  
13 ~~districts in the area education agency in lieu of the area~~  
14 ~~education agency providing the services. Contracts may be made~~  
15 ~~with public or private agencies located outside the state if~~  
16 ~~the programs and services comply with the rules of the state~~  
17 ~~board. Rules adopted by the state board of education shall~~  
18 ~~be consistent with rules, adopted by the board of educational~~  
19 ~~examiners, relating to licensing of practitioners.~~

20 ~~6. 4. Area education agencies may Be authorized to~~  
21 ~~cooperate and contract between themselves and with other~~  
22 ~~public agencies to provide special education programs and~~  
23 ~~services, media services, and educational services to schools~~  
24 ~~and children residing within their respective areas. Area~~  
25 ~~education agencies may provide print and nonprint materials to~~  
26 ~~public and private colleges and universities that have teacher~~  
27 ~~education programs approved by the state board of education.~~

28 ~~7. Be authorized to lease, purchase, or lease purchase,~~  
29 ~~subject to the approval of the state board of education or~~  
30 ~~its designee and to receive by gift and operate and maintain~~  
31 ~~facilities and buildings necessary to provide authorized~~  
32 ~~programs and services. However, a lease for less than ten~~  
33 ~~years and with an annual cost of less than the amount stated in~~  
34 ~~section 26.3, subsection 1, does not require the approval of~~  
35 ~~the state board. The state board shall not approve a lease,~~

~~1 purchase, or lease-purchase until the state board is satisfied  
2 by investigation that public school corporations within the  
3 area do not have suitable facilities available. A purchase of  
4 property that is not a lease-purchase may be made only within  
5 two years of a disaster as defined in section 29C.2, subsection  
6 4, and subject to the requirements of [this subsection](#).~~

7 ~~8.~~ 5. Be authorized, subject to the approval of the  
8 director of the department of education, to enter into  
9 agreements for the joint use of personnel, buildings,  
10 facilities, supplies, and equipment with school corporations as  
11 deemed necessary to provide authorized programs and services.

12 ~~9.~~ 6. Be authorized to make application for, accept,  
13 and expend state and federal funds that are available for  
14 programs of educational benefit approved by the director of the  
15 department of education, and cooperate with the department in  
16 the manner provided in federal-state plans or department rules  
17 in the effectuation and administration of programs approved by  
18 the director, or approved by other educational agencies, which  
19 agencies have been approved as state educational authorities.

20 ~~10.~~ 7. Be authorized to perform all other acts necessary to  
21 carry out the provisions and intent of [this chapter](#).

22 ~~11.~~ 8. Employ personnel to carry out the functions of the  
23 area education agency which shall include the employment of  
24 an ~~administrator~~ executive director who shall possess a an  
25 administrator license and either a teaching license with a  
26 special education endorsement or a special education support  
27 personnel authorization, issued under chapter 256, subchapter  
28 VII, part 3 by the board of educational examiners. The  
29 ~~administrator shall be employed pursuant to section 279.20~~  
30 ~~and [sections 279.23, 279.24, and 279.25](#).~~ The salary for an  
31 area education agency administrator executive director shall  
32 be established by the ~~board~~ director of the department of  
33 education based upon the previous experience and education  
34 of the administrator. [Section 279.13](#) applies to the area  
35 ~~education agency board and to all teachers employed by the area~~

1 education agency. ~~Sections 279.23, 279.24, and 279.25~~ apply to  
2 the area education board and to all administrators employed by  
3 the area education agency. ~~Section 279.69~~ applies to the area  
4 education agency board and employees of the board, including  
5 part-time, substitute, or contract employees, who provide  
6 services to a school or school district.

7 ~~12.~~ 9. Prepare an annual budget estimating income and  
8 expenditures for programs and services as provided in sections  
9 273.1, 273.2, this section, sections 273.4 through 273.8, and  
10 chapter 256B within the limits of funds provided under section  
11 256B.9 and chapter 257. The board executive director shall  
12 ~~post notice of a public hearing on~~ submit the proposed budget  
13 ~~on the area education agency's internet site and by publication~~  
14 ~~in the newspaper of general circulation in the territory of~~  
15 ~~the area education agency in which the principal place of~~  
16 ~~business of a school district that is a part of the area~~  
17 ~~education agency is located~~ to the director of the department  
18 of education for approval not later than March 1 of each year.  
19 ~~The notice shall specify the date, which shall be not later~~  
20 ~~than March 1 of each year, the time, and the location of the~~  
21 ~~public hearing.~~ The proposed budget as approved by the board  
22 director of the department of education shall then be submitted  
23 to the state board of education, on forms provided by the  
24 department, no later than March 15 preceding the next fiscal  
25 year for approval. The state board shall review the proposed  
26 budget of each area education agency and shall before May 1,  
27 either grant approval or return the budget without approval  
28 with comments of the state board included. An unapproved  
29 budget shall be resubmitted to the state board for final  
30 approval not later than May 15. The state board shall give  
31 final approval only to budgets submitted by area education  
32 agencies accredited by the state board or that have been given  
33 conditional accreditation by the state board.

34 ~~13.~~ 10. Be authorized to pay, out of funds available to the  
35 board reasonable annual dues to an Iowa association of school

1 boards. Membership shall be limited to those duly elected  
2 members of the area education agency board.

3 ~~14. a. The board may establish a plan, in accordance with~~  
4 ~~section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in~~  
5 ~~section 422.3, for employees, which plan shall consist of one~~  
6 ~~or more investment contracts, on a group or individual basis,~~  
7 ~~acquired from a company, or a salesperson for that company,~~  
8 ~~that is authorized to do business in this state.~~

9 ~~b. The selection of investment contracts to be included~~  
10 ~~within the plan established by the board shall be made either~~  
11 ~~pursuant to a competitive bidding process conducted by the~~  
12 ~~board, in coordination with employee organizations representing~~  
13 ~~employees eligible to participate in the plan, or pursuant to~~  
14 ~~an agreement with the department of administrative services~~  
15 ~~to make available investment contracts included in a deferred~~  
16 ~~compensation or similar plan established by the department~~  
17 ~~pursuant to section 8A.438, which plan meets the requirements~~  
18 ~~of this subsection. The determination of whether to select~~  
19 ~~investment contracts for the plan pursuant to a competitive~~  
20 ~~bidding process or by agreement with the department of~~  
21 ~~administrative services shall be made by agreement between the~~  
22 ~~board and the employee organizations representing employees~~  
23 ~~eligible to participate in the plan.~~

24 ~~c. The board may make elective deferrals in accordance with~~  
25 ~~the plan as authorized by an eligible employee for the purpose~~  
26 ~~of making contributions to the investment contract on behalf of~~  
27 ~~the employee. The deferrals shall be made in the manner which~~  
28 ~~will qualify contributions to the investment contract for the~~  
29 ~~benefits under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code,~~  
30 ~~as defined in section 422.3. In addition, the board may make~~  
31 ~~nonelective employer contributions to the plan.~~

32 ~~d. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise~~  
33 ~~requires, "investment contract" shall mean a custodial account~~  
34 ~~utilizing mutual funds or an annuity contract which meets the~~  
35 ~~requirements of section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as~~

1 ~~defined in [section 422.3](#).~~

2 ~~15. Be authorized to establish and pay all or any part~~  
3 ~~of the cost of group health insurance plans, nonprofit group~~  
4 ~~medical service plans and group life insurance plans adopted by~~  
5 ~~the board for the benefit of employees of the area education~~  
6 ~~agency, from funds available to the board.~~

7 ~~16.~~ 11. Meet at least annually with the members of the  
8 boards of directors of the merged areas in which the area  
9 education agency is located to discuss coordination of programs  
10 and services and other matters of mutual interest to the  
11 boards.

12 ~~17. Be authorized to issue warrants and anticipatory~~  
13 ~~warrants pursuant to [chapter 74](#). The applicable rate of~~  
14 ~~interest shall be determined pursuant to [sections 74A.2, 74A.3,](#)~~  
15 ~~and [74A.7](#). This subsection shall not be construed to authorize~~  
16 ~~a board to levy a tax.~~

17 ~~18. Be authorized to issue school credit cards allowing area~~  
18 ~~education agency employees to pay for the actual and necessary~~  
19 ~~expenses incurred in the performance of work-related duties.~~

20 ~~19. Pursuant to rules adopted by the state board of~~  
21 ~~education, be authorized to charge user fees for certain~~  
22 ~~materials and services that are not required by law or by rules~~  
23 ~~of the state board of education and are specifically requested~~  
24 ~~by a school district or accredited nonpublic school.~~

25 ~~20. Be authorized to purchase equipment as provided in~~  
26 ~~[section 279.48](#).~~

27 ~~21. Be authorized to sell, lease, or dispose of, in whole~~  
28 ~~or in part, property belonging to the area education agency.~~  
29 ~~Before the area education agency may sell property belonging~~  
30 ~~to the agency, the board of directors shall comply with the~~  
31 ~~requirements set forth in [section 297.22](#). Before the board~~  
32 ~~of directors of an area education agency may lease property~~  
33 ~~belonging to the agency, the board shall obtain the approval of~~  
34 ~~the director of the department of education.~~

35 ~~22.~~ 12. Meet annually with the members of the boards of

1 directors of the school districts located within its boundaries  
2 if requested by the school district boards.

3 ~~23. By October 1 of each year, submit to the department of~~  
4 ~~education the following information:~~

5 ~~a. The contracted salary including bonus wages and benefits,~~  
6 ~~annuity payments, or any other benefit for the administrators~~  
7 ~~of the area education agency.~~

8 ~~b. The contracted salary and benefits and any other expenses~~  
9 ~~related to support for governmental affairs efforts, including~~  
10 ~~expenditures for lobbyists and lobbying activities for the area~~  
11 ~~education agency.~~

12 ~~24. Be authorized to sell software and support services,~~  
13 ~~professional development programs and materials, online~~  
14 ~~professional development, and online training to entities~~  
15 ~~other than school districts within the state and to school~~  
16 ~~districts and other public agencies located outside of the~~  
17 ~~state. The board may also sell to school districts within this~~  
18 ~~state software and support services, professional development~~  
19 ~~programs and materials, online professional development,~~  
20 ~~and online training which the area education agency is not~~  
21 ~~otherwise required to provide to a school district under this~~  
22 ~~chapter or [chapter 256B](#) or [257](#).~~

23 ~~25. Require, by July 1, 2024, any person employed by~~  
24 ~~the area education agency who holds a license, certificate,~~  
25 ~~statement of recognition, or authorization other than a~~  
26 ~~coaching authorization, issued by the board of educational~~  
27 ~~examiners under [chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3](#), to~~  
28 ~~complete the Iowa reading research center dyslexia overview~~  
29 ~~module. Such persons employed after July 1, 2024, shall~~  
30 ~~complete the module within one year of the employee's initial~~  
31 ~~date of hire.~~

32 Sec. 4. Section 273.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
33 follows:

34 **273.4 Duties of administrator executive director.**

35 Under direction of the board of directors of the area

1 ~~education agency, the administrator of the area education~~  
2 ~~agency shall~~ director of the department of education, each  
3 area education agency shall employ one executive director.  
4 The executive director shall be appointed by and serve at the  
5 pleasure of the director of the department of education. The  
6 executive director shall be responsible for the administration,  
7 financial operations, and management of the area education  
8 agency, and in addition to other duties, shall do all of the  
9 following:

10 1. Cooperate with boards of directors of local school  
11 districts of the area education agency in considering and  
12 developing plans for the improvement of the educational  
13 programs and services in the area education agency.

14 2. When requested, provide such other assistance as  
15 possible to school districts of the area education agency for  
16 the general improvement of their educational programs and  
17 operations.

18 3. Submit program plans each year to the department of  
19 education, for approval by the director of the department,  
20 ~~to reflect the needs of the area education agency for media~~  
21 ~~services as provided in~~ section 273.6.

22 4. When requested, provide information and prepare reports  
23 for the director of the department of education.

24 5. With the approval of the director of the department of  
25 education, employ such personnel as are necessary to support  
26 the administrative, general education, and special education  
27 programs and services of the area education agency.

28 6. With the approval of the administrator of the division of  
29 special education within the department of education, contract  
30 with public schools, nonpublic schools, and area education  
31 agencies, located either within this state or in a contiguous  
32 state, for special education programs and services.

33 Sec. 5. Section 273.5, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 **273.5 ~~Special~~ Additional duties of the executive director —**



1 special education.

2 ~~There shall be established a division of special education~~  
3 ~~of the area education agency which~~ The executive director  
4 of each area education agency shall provide for special  
5 education programs and services to the local school districts,  
6 consistent with state regulations and guidelines related to  
7 special education programs and services. ~~The division of~~  
8 ~~special education shall be headed by a director of special~~  
9 ~~education who meets certification standards of the department~~  
10 ~~of education. The director of special education shall have~~  
11 ~~the responsibility for implementation of state regulations and~~  
12 ~~guidelines relating to special education programs and services.~~  
13 The executive director of special education shall have the  
14 following additional powers and duties:

- 15 1. Properly identify children requiring special education.
- 16 2. Insure that each child requiring special education in  
17 the area receives an appropriate special education program or  
18 service.
- 19 3. Assign appropriate weights for each child requiring  
20 special education programs or services as provided in section  
21 256B.9.
- 22 4. Supervise special education support personnel.
- 23 5. Provide each school district within the area served and  
24 the department of education with a special education weighted  
25 enrollment count, including the additional enrollment because  
26 of special education for December 1 of each year.
- 27 6. Submit to the department of education special education  
28 instructional and support program plans and applications,  
29 subject to criteria listed in [chapter 256B](#) and [this chapter](#),  
30 for approval by February 15 of each year for the school year  
31 commencing the following July 1.
- 32 7. Coordinate the special education program within the area  
33 served.

34 Sec. 6. Section 273.7A, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
35 follows:

1     **273.7A Services Special education services to school**  
2 **districts.**

3     1. a. ~~The board of an~~ An area education agency may only  
4 provide special education services to school districts located  
5 in the area education agency under if the school district  
6 requests to receive such services and pursuant to a contract  
7 with between the school districts district and the area  
8 education agency. ~~These services may include, but are not~~  
9 ~~limited to, superintendency services, personnel services,~~  
10 ~~business management services, specialized maintenance services,~~  
11 ~~and transportation services.~~ ~~In addition, the board of the~~  
12 ~~area education agency may provide for furnishing expensive~~  
13 ~~and specialized equipment for school districts.~~ The term  
14 of the contract between the school district and the area  
15 education agency related to the provision of special education  
16 services shall not be less than two years. A school district  
17 must provide notice to the area education agency and to the  
18 department of education indicating that the school district  
19 requests to receive special education services from the area  
20 education agency not later than September 30 of the school year  
21 preceding the school year such services will be provided.

22     b. School districts shall pay to area education agencies the  
23 cost of providing the services.

24     2. ~~The board of an~~ An area education agency may also provide  
25 services authorized to be performed by ~~area education agencies~~  
26 the director of the department of education to other area  
27 education agencies in this state and to provide a method of  
28 payment for these services.

29     Sec. 7. Section 273.8, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2024,  
30 is amended to read as follows:

31     a. Notice of the election shall be published by the  
32 executive director of the area education agency administrator  
33 not later than September 15 of the odd-numbered year in at  
34 least one newspaper of general circulation in the director  
35 district. The cost of publication shall be paid by the area

1 education agency.

2 Sec. 8. Section 273.8, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 3. *Director district convention.* If no candidate files  
5 with the area education agency secretary by the deadline  
6 specified in subsection 2, or a vacancy occurs, or if otherwise  
7 required as provided in section 273.23, subsection 3, a  
8 director district convention, attended by members of the  
9 boards of directors of the local school districts located  
10 within the director district, shall be called to elect a  
11 board member for that director district. The convention  
12 location shall be determined by the executive director of the  
13 area education agency ~~administrator~~. Notice of the time,  
14 date, and place of a director district convention shall be  
15 published by the executive director of the area education  
16 agency ~~administrator~~ in at least one newspaper of general  
17 circulation in the director district at least thirty days  
18 prior to the day of the convention. The cost of publication  
19 shall be paid by the area education agency. A candidate  
20 for election to the area education agency board shall file a  
21 statement of candidacy with the area education agency secretary  
22 at least ten days prior to the date of the director district  
23 convention on forms prescribed by the department of education,  
24 or nominations may be made at the convention by a delegate from  
25 a board of directors of a school district located within the  
26 director district. A statement of candidacy shall include the  
27 candidate's name, address, and school district. Delegates to  
28 director district conventions shall not be bound by a school  
29 board or any school board member to pledge their votes to any  
30 candidate prior to the date of the convention.

31 Sec. 9. Section 273.8, subsections 6, 7, and 8, Code 2024,  
32 are amended by striking the subsections.

33 Sec. 10. Section 273.9, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 **273.9 Funding.**

1 1. School districts shall pay for the programs and services  
2 provided through the area education agency when the school  
3 district requests to receive the programs or services or  
4 otherwise agrees to receive the programs or services and shall  
5 include expenditures for the programs and services in their  
6 budgets, in accordance with [this section](#).

7 2. ~~School~~ When school districts agree to receive special  
8 education instructional programs from an area education  
9 agency, school districts shall pay the costs of special  
10 education instructional programs with the moneys available to  
11 the districts for each child requiring special education, by  
12 application of the special education weighting plan in section  
13 256B.9. Special education instructional programs shall be  
14 provided at the local level if practicable, or otherwise by  
15 contractual arrangements with the area education agency ~~board~~  
16 as provided in section 273.3, subsection ~~5~~ 3, but in each case  
17 the total money available through [section 256B.9](#) and chapter  
18 257 because of weighted enrollment for each child requiring  
19 special education instruction shall be made available to  
20 the district or agency which provides the special education  
21 instructional program to the child, subject to adjustments  
22 for transportation or other costs which may be paid by the  
23 school district in which the child is enrolled. Each district  
24 shall cooperate with its area education agency to provide  
25 an appropriate special education instructional program for  
26 each child who requires special education instruction, as  
27 identified and counted within the certification by the area  
28 director of special education or as identified by the area  
29 executive director of special education ~~the area education~~  
30 agency subsequent to the certification, and shall not provide  
31 a special education instructional program to a child who has  
32 not been so identified and counted within the certification or  
33 identified subsequent to the certification.

34 3. The costs of special education support services provided  
35 through the area education agency shall be funded as provided

1 in [chapter 257](#). Special education support services shall not  
2 be funded until the program plans submitted by the ~~special~~  
3 ~~education executive~~ directors of each area education agency  
4 as required by [section 273.5](#) are modified as necessary and  
5 approved by the director of the department of education  
6 according to the criteria and limitations of [chapters 256B](#) and  
7 [257](#).

8 ~~4. The costs of media services provided through the area~~  
9 ~~education agency shall not be funded until the program plans~~  
10 ~~submitted by the administrators of each area education agency~~  
11 ~~as required by [section 273.4](#) are modified as necessary and~~  
12 ~~approved by the director of the department of education~~  
13 ~~according to the criteria of [section 273.6](#).~~

14 ~~5.~~ 4. The state board of education shall adopt rules under  
15 chapter 17A relating to the approval of program plans under  
16 this section.

17 Sec. 11. Section 273.10, subsection 6, paragraph a,  
18 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 If the deficiencies in an area education program have not  
21 been corrected, the ~~agency board~~ director of the department of  
22 education shall take one of the following actions within sixty  
23 days from removal of accreditation:

24 Sec. 12. Section 273.10, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code  
25 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 *b.* The rules developed by the state board of education for  
27 the accreditation process shall include provisions for removal  
28 of accreditation, including provisions for proper notice to the  
29 ~~administrator~~ executive director of the area education agency,  
30 each member of the board of directors of the area education  
31 agency, the department of education, and the superintendents  
32 and administrators of the schools of the districts served by  
33 the area education agency.

34 Sec. 13. Section 273.11, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
35 follows:

1       **273.11 Standards for accrediting area education programs.**

2       1. The state board of education, in consultation with the  
3 department of education, shall develop standards and rules  
4 for the accreditation of area education agencies. Standards  
5 shall be general in nature, but at a minimum shall identify  
6 requirements addressing the services provided by each division,  
7 as well as identifying indicators of quality that will permit  
8 area education agencies, school districts, the department of  
9 education, and the general public to judge accurately the  
10 effectiveness of area education agency services.

11       2. Standards developed shall include, but are not limited  
12 to, the following:

13       a. Support for school-community planning, including a means  
14 of assessing needs, developing collaborative relationships  
15 among community agencies, establishing shared direction, and  
16 implementing program plans and reporting progress toward goals  
17 for students with disabilities.

18       ~~b. Professional development programs that respond to current~~  
19 ~~needs.~~

20       ~~c. b.~~ Support for curriculum development, instruction,  
21 and assessment ~~for~~ services that address the areas of reading,  
22 language arts, math, and science, ~~using research-based~~  
23 methodologies for students with disabilities.

24       ~~d. Special education compliance and support.~~

25       ~~e. Management services, including financial reporting and~~  
26 ~~purchasing as requested and funded by local districts.~~

27       ~~f. Support for instructional media services that supplement~~  
28 ~~and support local district media centers and services.~~

29       c. Support for schools and school districts in analyzing  
30 student achievement data related to the learning environment,  
31 comparing data to the external knowledge base, and using that  
32 information to guide schools and school districts in setting  
33 goals and implementing actions to improve student learning for  
34 students with disabilities.

35       d. Support for addressing the diverse learning needs of

1 all children and youths with disabilities who are eligible for  
2 special education, including through services that include  
3 direct services to students with disabilities.

4 e. Support for schools and school districts to ensure  
5 compliance rules adopted by the state board of education  
6 related to special education.

7 ~~g. f.~~ Support for necessary to implement effective  
8 instruction for all students with disabilities through school  
9 ~~technology planning and staff development for implementing~~  
10 ~~instructional technologies services.~~

11 ~~h. g.~~ A program and services evaluation and reporting  
12 system related to special education.

13 ~~i. Support for school district libraries in accordance with~~  
14 ~~section 273.2, subsection 4.~~

15 ~~j. h.~~ Support for early childhood service coordination  
16 for families and children, age birth through three years, to  
17 meet health, safety, and learning needs, including service  
18 coordination.

19 Sec. 14. Section 273.13, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 **273.13 Administrative expenditures.**

22 The administrative expenditures as a percent of an area  
23 education agency's general fund for a base year shall not  
24 exceed five percent. Annually, the ~~board of directors~~  
25 executive director of each area education agency shall  
26 certify to the department of education the amounts of the area  
27 education agency's expenditures and its general fund. For the  
28 purposes of [this section](#), "base year" means the same as defined  
29 in [section 257.2](#), and "administrative expenditures" means  
30 expenditures for executive administration.

31 Sec. 15. Section 273.14, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 **273.14 Emergency repairs.**

34 When emergency repairs costing more than the competitive  
35 bid threshold in [section 26.3](#), or the adjusted competitive

1 bid threshold established in section 314.1B, subsection 2,  
2 are necessary in order to ensure the use of an area education  
3 agency facility, the provisions of law with reference to  
4 advertising for bids shall not apply within two years of a  
5 disaster as defined in section 29C.2, subsection 2, and the  
6 ~~area education agency board~~ department of administrative  
7 services may contract for such emergency repairs without  
8 advertising for bids. ~~However, before such emergency repairs~~  
9 ~~can be made to an area education agency facility, the state~~  
10 ~~board of education or its designee must certify that such~~  
11 ~~emergency repairs are necessary to ensure the use of the area~~  
12 ~~education agency facility.~~

13 Sec. 16. Section 273.15, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 1. The board of directors of each area education agency  
16 shall appoint an advisory group to make recommendations on  
17 policy, programs, and services to the ~~board~~ area education  
18 agency. The advisory group shall provide input, feedback,  
19 and recommendations ~~to the board~~ regarding projected future  
20 needs, and shall provide a review and response to any  
21 state-directed study or task force report on area education  
22 agency efficiencies or reorganization.

23 Sec. 17. Section 273.15, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 5. The advisory group shall meet at least twice annually and  
26 shall submit its recommendations in a report to the ~~board of~~  
27 ~~directors~~ executive director of the area education agency at  
28 least once annually. The report shall be timely submitted to  
29 allow for consideration of the recommendations prior to program  
30 planning and budgeting for the following fiscal year.

31 Sec. 18. REPEAL. Sections 273.6, 273.7, and 273.16, Code  
32 2024, are repealed.

33 Sec. 19. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

34 1. An area education agency shall not transfer any ownership  
35 interest existing as of January 1, 2024, that the area



1 education agency has in real property or facilities until such  
2 interests are transferred to the department of administrative  
3 services pursuant to subsection 2.

4 2. a. On or before July 1, 2024, all ownership interests  
5 that area education agencies have in real property and  
6 facilities attached to real property shall be transferred to  
7 the department of administrative services. Prior to July  
8 1, 2024, the area education agencies and the area education  
9 agency boards of directors shall collaborate with the director  
10 of the department of administrative services to arrange for  
11 the orderly conveyance of all ownership interests in real  
12 property from the area education agencies to the department  
13 of administrative services. The department of administrative  
14 services shall be responsible for all costs associated with  
15 the conveyance of real property pursuant to this paragraph and  
16 shall assume all encumbrances attached to such real property.

17 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
18 contrary, the department of administrative services shall have  
19 the authority to dispose of all interests in real property  
20 conveyed to the department pursuant to paragraph "a". Moneys  
21 generated by the sale of such interests in real property shall  
22 be deposited in the general fund of the state.

23 3. Prior to July 1, 2024, all interests that area education  
24 agencies have in real property lease agreements shall be  
25 transferred to the department of administrative services.

26 4. a. On or before May 30, 2024, each area education  
27 agency shall submit to the department of education an inventory  
28 detailing all media center and professional development  
29 equipment and property owned by the area education agency. If  
30 the area education agency would like to retain any particular  
31 items of media center or professional development equipment or  
32 property to support its special education program and services,  
33 the area education agency shall include a request to retain  
34 such equipment or property in the inventory.

35 b. On or before June 14, 2024, the department of education

1 shall review all inventories and requests submitted pursuant to  
2 paragraph "a" and shall provide notice to each area education  
3 agency, as applicable, indicating whether the department  
4 approves or denies the area education agency's request to  
5 retain media center or professional development equipment or  
6 property.

7 c. On or before July 1, 2024, all of the following media  
8 center and professional development equipment and property  
9 shall be transferred from the area education agency to the  
10 department of administrative services:

11 (1) Media center and professional development equipment  
12 and property that the area education agency did not request to  
13 retain.

14 (2) Media center and professional development equipment and  
15 property that the area education agency requested to retain,  
16 but that the department denied.

17 d. (1) The department of administrative services shall  
18 transfer to the department for the blind all media center and  
19 professional development equipment and property transferred to  
20 the department pursuant to paragraph "c" that can be utilized  
21 by the commission for the blind to provide library services to  
22 persons who are blind and persons with disabilities.

23 (2) The department of administrative services may dispose  
24 of media center and professional development equipment and  
25 property transferred to the department pursuant to paragraph  
26 "c", with preference being given to lower-performing public  
27 schools in this state. Moneys generated from the sale of media  
28 center or professional development equipment or property shall  
29 be deposited in the general fund of the state.

30 5. On July 1, 2024, the employment of all area education  
31 agency administrators employed pursuant to section 273.3,  
32 subsection 11, as amended in this division of this Act, is  
33 terminated, unless terminated earlier by the director of  
34 the department of education who, notwithstanding any other  
35 provision of law to the contrary, is authorized to terminate

1 the employment of such area education agency administrators.  
2 The changes to chapter 273 constitute just cause for discharge  
3 of the area education administrators under section 279.25,  
4 and the provisions of section 279.24 shall not apply to the  
5 discharge of the area education administrators. The director  
6 of the department of education shall appoint an executive  
7 director for each area education agency pursuant to section  
8 273.4, as amended in this division of this Act. The director,  
9 or the director's designee, may exercise the authority of an  
10 executive director until such appointment is made.

11 6. Notwithstanding the January 15 and March 1 deadlines  
12 in section 273.2, subsection 14, as enacted by this division  
13 of this Act, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and  
14 ending June 30, 2025, the area education agencies shall submit  
15 the information required under section 273.2, subsection 14,  
16 as enacted by this division of this Act, to the department  
17 of education on or before June 7, 2024, and the department  
18 of education shall review and either approve or reject the  
19 continuation of each position by June 30, 2024.

20 7. In employing oversight personnel, the division of  
21 special education within the department of education shall give  
22 preference to qualified personnel who seek employment with the  
23 division of special education because their employment with an  
24 area education agency terminated as a result of this division  
25 of this Act. Any former employee of an area education agency  
26 whose employment with an area education agency terminated as  
27 a result of this division of this Act and who is employed by  
28 the division of special education no later than August 1, 2024,  
29 shall not experience a break in service credit for their Iowa  
30 public employees' retirement system benefits and shall not  
31 incur any loss in sick leave or vacation time.

32 8. Notwithstanding the September 30 deadline in section  
33 273.7A, as amended by this division of this Act, for the school  
34 year beginning July 1, 2024, school districts must provide  
35 notice to the area education agency and to the department of

1 education indicating that the school district requests to  
2 receive special education services from the area education  
3 agency not later than April 30, 2024.

4 Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being  
5 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

6 DIVISION II

7 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — REORGANIZATION OR DISSOLUTION

8 Sec. 21. Section 273.20, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
9 follows:

10 **273.20 Definitions.**

11 When used in [this subchapter](#), unless the context otherwise  
12 requires:

13 1. *"Affected area education agency" or "affected agency"*  
14 means ~~an~~ any of the following:

15 a. An area education agency whose ~~board of directors~~  
16 is ~~executive directors are~~ contemplating or engaged in  
17 reorganization efforts in accordance with [this subchapter](#).

18 b. An area education agency that the director of the  
19 department determines should be reorganized or dissolved in  
20 accordance with this subchapter.

21 ~~2. "Affected board" means the board of directors of an~~  
22 ~~area education agency that is contemplating or engaged in~~  
23 ~~reorganization efforts in accordance with [this subchapter](#).~~

24 ~~3.~~ 2. "Department" means the department of education.

25 ~~4.~~ 3. "State board" means the state board of education.

26 Sec. 22. Section 273.21, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 **273.21 Voluntary reorganization Reorganization and**  
29 **dissolution.**

30 1. a. Two or more area education agencies may voluntarily  
31 reorganize under this [subchapter](#) ~~if the area education~~  
32 ~~agencies are contiguous, a majority of the members of each~~  
33 ~~of the affected boards approve the reorganization, and the~~  
34 pursuant to a reorganization plan submitted to the state board  
35 pursuant to [subsection 3](#) is approved by the state board that

1 is prepared jointly by the executive directors of the affected  
2 area education agencies and submitted to the director of the  
3 department pursuant to subsection 2.

4 b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", the director of the  
5 department may reorganize two or more area education agencies  
6 under this subchapter. If the director of the department  
7 determines two or more area education agencies should be  
8 reorganized, the director shall direct the executive directors  
9 of the affected area education agencies to jointly prepare  
10 and submit a reorganization plan to the director pursuant to  
11 subsection 2.

12 c. The director of the department may dissolve an area  
13 education agency under this subchapter.

14 ~~2. If twenty percent or more of the school districts within~~  
15 ~~an affected area education agency file a petition by December~~  
16 ~~1 with the affected area education agency board to consider~~  
17 ~~reorganization, the affected board shall consider the request~~  
18 ~~and vote on the petition. If a majority of the affected board~~  
19 ~~members vote to study the reorganization of the affected area~~  
20 ~~education agency, the affected board shall immediately begin~~  
21 ~~the study to consider reorganization effective by July 1 of the~~  
22 ~~next year.~~

23 ~~3.~~ 2. The executive directors of the affected boards  
24 contemplating a voluntary reorganization area education  
25 agencies shall do the following:

26 a. Develop detailed studies of the facilities, property,  
27 services, staffing necessities, equipment, programs, and other  
28 capabilities available in each of the affected area education  
29 agencies for the purpose of providing for the reorganization of  
30 the area education agencies in order to effect more economical  
31 operation and the attainment of higher standards of educational  
32 services for the schools.

33 b. Survey the school districts within the affected area  
34 education agencies to determine the districts' current and  
35 future programs and services, professional development, and

1 technology needs.

2 c. Consult with the officials of school districts within the  
3 affected area and other citizens and periodically hold public  
4 hearings during the development of a plan for reorganization,  
5 as well as a public hearing on the final plan to be submitted to  
6 the director of the department.

7 d. Consult with the director of the department ~~of education~~  
8 in the development of surveys and plans. The director of the  
9 department ~~of education~~ shall provide assistance and advice  
10 to the affected area education ~~agency boards~~ agencies as  
11 requested.

12 e. Develop a reorganization plan that demonstrates improved  
13 efficiency and effectiveness of programs to meet accreditation  
14 standards, includes a preliminary budget for reorganized areas,  
15 documents public comment from the public hearings held pursuant  
16 to paragraph "c", and provides for a board of directors, and  
17 the number of members that the board shall consist of, in  
18 accordance with [section 273.8](#).

19 f. Set forth the assets and liabilities of the affected  
20 area education agencies, which shall become the responsibility  
21 of the ~~board of directors of the~~ newly formed area education  
22 agency on the effective date of the reorganization.

23 g. Transmit the completed plan to the ~~state board~~ director  
24 of the department by July ~~August~~ 15. ~~Plans received by~~  
25 ~~the state board after July 15 shall be considered for area~~  
26 ~~education agency reorganization taking effect no sooner than~~  
27 ~~July 1 after the next succeeding fiscal year.~~

28 4. 3. The ~~state board~~ director of the department shall  
29 review the reorganization plan and shall, prior to September  
30 30, either approve the plan as submitted, approve the plan  
31 contingent upon compliance with the ~~state board's~~ director's  
32 recommendations, or disapprove the plan. A contingently  
33 approved plan shall be resubmitted with modifications to the  
34 director of the department not later than October 30. An  
35 approved plan shall take effect on July 1 of the fiscal year

1 following the date of approval by the ~~state board~~ director of  
2 the department.

3 Sec. 23. Section 273.22, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **273.22 Contracts of new area education agency.**

6 1. The terms of employment of the ~~administrator~~ executive  
7 director and staff of affected area education agencies ~~for the~~  
8 ~~school year~~ beginning with the effective date of the formation  
9 of the new area education agency ~~shall not~~ may be affected  
10 by the formation of the new area education agency, except in  
11 accordance with the provisions of sections 279.15 through  
12 279.18, and ~~279.24~~, and the authority and responsibility to  
13 offer new contracts or to continue, modify, or terminate  
14 existing contracts pursuant to sections 279.12, 279.13, and  
15 279.15 through 279.21, 279.23, and 279.24 for the school  
16 year beginning with the effective date of the reorganization  
17 shall be transferred from the ~~boards of the~~ existing area  
18 education agencies to the ~~board of the~~ new area education  
19 agency following approval of the reorganization plan by the  
20 ~~state board~~ director of the department as provided in section  
21 273.21, subsection 4 3.

22 2. a. The collective bargaining agreement of the area  
23 education agency with the largest basic enrollment, as  
24 defined in section 257.6, for the year prior to the year the  
25 reorganization is effective, shall serve as the base agreement  
26 in the new area education agency and the employees of the other  
27 area education agencies involved in the formation of the new  
28 area education agency shall automatically be accreted to the  
29 bargaining unit of that collective bargaining agreement for  
30 purposes of negotiating the contracts for the following years  
31 without further action by the public employment relations  
32 board. If only one collective bargaining agreement is in  
33 effect among the area education agencies that are party to  
34 the reorganization, that agreement shall serve as the base  
35 agreement, and the employees of the other agencies involved

1 in the formation of the new area education agency shall  
2 automatically be accreted to the bargaining unit of that  
3 collective bargaining agreement for purposes of negotiating  
4 the contracts for the following years without further action  
5 by the public employment relations board. The department of  
6 administrative services shall be the chief negotiator for the  
7 area education agencies involved in the formation of the new  
8 area education agency.

9     *b.* ~~The board of the~~ newly formed area education agency,  
10 using the base agreement as its existing contract, shall  
11 bargain with the combined employees of the affected agencies  
12 ~~for the school year that begins~~ on the effective date of the  
13 reorganization. The bargaining shall be completed by the  
14 dates specified in [section 20.17](#) ~~prior to the school year~~  
15 ~~in which the reorganization becomes effective~~ or within one  
16 hundred eighty days after the organization of the new ~~board~~  
17 area education agency, whichever is later. If a bargaining  
18 agreement was already concluded by the ~~board~~ area education  
19 agency and employees of the affected area education agency  
20 with the contract serving as the base agreement ~~for the school~~  
21 ~~year~~ beginning with the effective date of the reorganization,  
22 that agreement shall be void. However, if the base agreement  
23 contains multiyear provisions affecting school years subsequent  
24 to the effective year of the reorganization, the base agreement  
25 shall remain in effect as specified in the agreement.

26     *c.* The provisions of the base agreement shall apply to the  
27 offering of new contracts or continuation, modification, or  
28 termination of existing contracts as provided in [subsection 1.](#)

29     3. The terms of a contract between the board of directors  
30 of a school district and ~~the board of directors of~~ an affected  
31 area education agency shall be carried out by the school board  
32 and the ~~board of directors of the~~ newly formed area education  
33 agency except as provided in [this section](#).

34     4. The board of directors of a school district that is under  
35 a contract with an affected area education agency may petition



1 ~~the boards of directors of the~~ affected area education agencies  
2 for release from the contract. If the petition ~~receives a~~  
3 ~~majority of the votes cast by the members of the boards of the~~  
4 ~~affected area education agencies,~~ the petition is approved and  
5 by the director of the department, then the contract shall be  
6 terminated on the effective date of the area education agency  
7 reorganization.

8 5. Not later than fifteen days after the ~~state board~~  
9 director of the department notifies an area education agency  
10 of its approval of the area education agency's reorganization  
11 ~~plan or dissolution proposal,~~ the area education agency shall  
12 notify, by certified mail, the school districts located within  
13 the area education agency boundaries, the school districts and  
14 area education agencies that are contiguous to its boundaries,  
15 and any other school district under contract with the area  
16 education agency, of the ~~state board's~~ director's approval  
17 of the plan ~~or proposal,~~ and shall provide the department of  
18 education with a copy of any notice sent in accordance with  
19 this subsection. A petition ~~to join an area education agency~~  
20 ~~or~~ for release from a contract with an area education agency,  
21 in accordance with ~~subsections 4, 6, and 7~~ subsection 4, shall  
22 be filed not later than forty-five days after the ~~state board~~  
23 director of the department approves a reorganization plan ~~or~~  
24 ~~dissolution proposal~~ in accordance with this chapter.

25 6. ~~Within forty-five days of the state board's approval,~~  
26 ~~the board of directors of a school district that is contiguous~~  
27 ~~to a newly reorganized area education agency may petition the~~  
28 ~~board of directors of their current area education agency~~  
29 ~~and the newly reorganized area education agency to join the~~  
30 ~~newly reorganized area education agency. If the initial,~~  
31 ~~or new board is established in time under section 273.23,~~  
32 ~~subsection 3, and the board of the contiguous area education~~  
33 ~~agency approve the petition, the reorganization, including any~~  
34 ~~school district whose petition to join the newly reorganized~~  
35 ~~area education agency has been approved, shall take effect in~~

1 ~~accordance with the dates established under section 273.21,~~  
2 ~~subsection 4. Both the initial, or new, and the contiguous~~  
3 ~~area education agency boards must act within forty-five days of~~  
4 ~~the deadline, as set forth in [this subsection](#), for the filing~~  
5 ~~of the school district's petition. Within ten days of an area~~  
6 ~~education agency board's action, a school district may appeal~~  
7 ~~to the state board the decision of an area education agency~~  
8 ~~board to deny the school district's petition.~~

9     7. ~~Within forty-five days of the state board's approval,~~  
10 ~~the board of directors of a school district that is within~~  
11 ~~a newly reorganized area education agency and whose school~~  
12 ~~district is contiguous to another area education agency not~~  
13 ~~included in the newly reorganized area education agency may~~  
14 ~~petition the board of directors of the newly reorganized area~~  
15 ~~education agency and the contiguous area education agency to~~  
16 ~~join that area education agency. If the initial, or new board~~  
17 ~~if established in time under [section 273.23, subsection 3](#), and~~  
18 ~~the board of the contiguous area education agency approve the~~  
19 ~~petition, the reorganization, excluding any school district~~  
20 ~~whose petition to join an area education agency contiguous to~~  
21 ~~the newly reorganized area education agency has been approved,~~  
22 ~~shall take effect in accordance with the dates established~~  
23 ~~under [section 273.21, subsection 4](#). Both the initial, or~~  
24 ~~new, and the contiguous area education agency boards must act~~  
25 ~~within forty-five days of the deadline, as set forth in this~~  
26 ~~subsection, for the filing of the school district's petition.~~  
27 ~~Within ten days of an area education agency board's action, a~~  
28 ~~school district may appeal to the state board the decision of~~  
29 ~~an area education agency board to deny the school district's~~  
30 ~~petition.~~

31     Sec. 24. Section 273.23, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33     **273.23 Initial board.**

34     1. A petition filed under [section 273.21](#) shall state the  
35 number of directors on the initial board which shall be either

1 ~~seven or nine directors.~~ The petition reorganization plan  
2 submitted pursuant to section 273.21 shall specify the number  
3 of directors to be retained from each area, and those numbers  
4 shall be proportionate to the populations of the affected area  
5 education agencies. If the proportionate balance of directors  
6 among the affected area education agencies specified in the  
7 reorganization plan is affected by school districts petitioning  
8 to be excluded from the reorganization, or if the proposal  
9 specified in the plan does not comply with the requirement for  
10 proportionate representation, the ~~state board~~ director of the  
11 department shall modify the proposal. However, all affected  
12 area education agencies affected shall retain at least one  
13 member.

14 2. Prior to the organization meeting of the board of  
15 directors of the newly formed area education agency, the boards  
16 of the former area education agencies shall designate directors  
17 to be retained as members to serve on the initial board of  
18 the newly formed area education agency. A vacancy occurs if  
19 an insufficient number of former board members reside within  
20 the newly formed area education agency's boundaries or if an  
21 insufficient number of former board members are willing to  
22 serve on the board of the newly formed area education agency.  
23 Vacancies, as defined in [section 277.29](#), in the membership of  
24 the newly formed area education agency board shall be filled  
25 for the unexpired portion of the term at a director district  
26 convention called and conducted in the manner provided in  
27 section 273.8 for director district conventions.

28 3. Not later than January 15 of the calendar year in which  
29 the reorganization takes effect, the initial board shall call a  
30 director district convention under the provisions of section  
31 273.8, subsection 3, for the purpose of electing a board for  
32 the reorganized area education agency. ~~The new board shall~~  
33 ~~have control of the employment of all personnel for the newly~~  
34 ~~formed area education agency for the ensuing school year.~~  
35 ~~Following the organization of the new board, the board shall~~

1 ~~have authority to establish policy, enter into contracts, and~~  
2 ~~complete such planning and take such action as is essential for~~  
3 ~~the efficient management of the newly formed area education~~  
4 ~~agency.~~

5 4. The initial board of the newly formed district area  
6 education agency shall appoint an acting administrator  
7 chairperson and an acting board secretary. ~~The appointment of~~  
8 ~~the acting administrator shall not be subject to the continuing~~  
9 ~~contract provisions of [sections 279.20, 279.23, and 279.24.](#)~~  
10 The acting chair shall serve until the executive director of  
11 the area education agency appoints a chairperson, who shall  
12 serve at the pleasure of the executive director.

13 5. ~~The initial board, or new board if established in time~~  
14 ~~under [subsection 3](#), of the newly formed agency shall prepare an~~  
15 ~~annual budget estimating income and expenditures for programs~~  
16 ~~and services as provided in sections 273.1 through 273.9~~  
17 ~~and [chapter 256B](#) within the limits of funds provided under~~  
18 ~~[section 256B.9](#) and [chapter 257](#). The board shall give notice~~  
19 ~~of a public hearing on the proposed budget by publication in~~  
20 ~~an official county newspaper in each county in the territory~~  
21 ~~of the area education agency in which the principal place~~  
22 ~~of business of a school district that is a part of the area~~  
23 ~~education agency is located. The notice shall specify the~~  
24 ~~date, which shall not be later than March 1, the time, and~~  
25 ~~the location of the public hearing. The proposed budget as~~  
26 ~~approved by the board shall be submitted to the state board, on~~  
27 ~~forms provided by the department, no later than March 15 for~~  
28 ~~approval. The state board shall review the proposed budget of~~  
29 ~~the newly formed area education agency and shall, before May~~  
30 ~~1, either grant approval or return the budget without approval~~  
31 ~~with comments of the state board included. An unapproved~~  
32 ~~budget shall be resubmitted to the state board for final~~  
33 ~~approval not later than May 15. The state board shall give~~  
34 ~~final approval only to budgets submitted by area education~~  
35 ~~agencies accredited by the state board or that have been given~~

1 ~~conditional accreditation by the state board.~~

2 ~~6. For the school year beginning on the effective date of~~  
3 ~~an area education agency reorganization as provided in this~~  
4 ~~subchapter, the media services cost per pupil as determined~~  
5 ~~under [section 257.37](#) for all districts in a newly formed area~~  
6 ~~education agency for the budget year shall be the highest~~  
7 ~~amount of media services cost per pupil for any of the affected~~  
8 ~~area education agencies.~~

9 ~~7. For the school year beginning on the effective date~~  
10 ~~of an area education agency reorganization as provided in~~  
11 ~~[this subchapter](#), the educational services cost per pupil as~~  
12 ~~determined under [section 257.37](#) for all districts in a newly~~  
13 ~~formed area education agency for the budget year shall be the~~  
14 ~~highest amount of educational services cost per pupil for any~~  
15 ~~of the affected area education agencies.~~

16 ~~8. For the school year beginning on the effective date~~  
17 ~~of an area education agency reorganization as provided in~~  
18 ~~[this subchapter](#), the special education support services~~  
19 ~~cost per pupil shall be based upon the combined base year~~  
20 ~~budgets for special education support services of the area~~  
21 ~~education agencies that reorganized to form the newly formed~~  
22 ~~area education agency, divided by the total of the weighted~~  
23 ~~enrollment for special education support services in the~~  
24 ~~reorganized area education agency for the base year plus the~~  
25 ~~supplemental state aid amount per pupil for special education~~  
26 ~~support services for the budget year as calculated in section~~  
27 ~~257.8.~~

28 ~~9. 5. Within one year of the effective date of the~~  
29 ~~reorganization, a newly formed area education agency shall meet~~  
30 ~~the accreditation requirements set forth in [section 273.10](#),~~  
31 ~~and the standards set forth in [section 273.11](#). The newly~~  
32 ~~formed area education agency shall be considered accredited~~  
33 ~~for purposes of budget approval by the state board pursuant~~  
34 ~~to [section 273.3](#). The state board shall inform the newly~~  
35 ~~formed area education agency of the accreditation on-site visit~~

1 schedule.

2 ~~10. The special education support cost per pupil, the media~~  
3 ~~cost per pupil, and the educational services cost per pupil for~~  
4 ~~a school district petitioning into an area education agency~~  
5 ~~shall be the special education support cost per pupil, media~~  
6 ~~cost per pupil, and educational services cost per pupil of the~~  
7 ~~area education agency into which it petitions if the petition~~  
8 ~~is approved.~~

9 ~~11.~~ 6. Unless the reorganization of an area education  
10 agency takes effect less than two years before the taking  
11 of the next federal decennial census, a newly formed area  
12 education agency shall, within one year of the effective date  
13 of the reorganization, redraw the boundary lines of director  
14 districts in the area education agency if a petition filed by a  
15 school district to join the newly formed area education agency,  
16 or for release from the newly formed area education agency,  
17 in accordance with section 273.22, ~~subsections 4, 6, and 7~~  
18 subsection 4, was approved. Until the boundaries are redrawn,  
19 the boundaries for the newly formed area education agency shall  
20 be as provided in the reorganization plan approved by the state  
21 ~~board~~ director of the department in accordance with section  
22 273.21.

23 Sec. 25. REPEAL. Sections 273.24, 273.25, 273.26, and  
24 273.27, Code 2024, are repealed.

25 DIVISION III

26 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — FUNDING

27 Sec. 26. Section 257.1, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
28 2024, is amended to read as follows:

29 *b.* For the budget year commencing July 1, 1999, and for  
30 each succeeding budget year beginning before July 1, 2022,  
31 the regular program foundation base per pupil is eighty-seven  
32 and five-tenths percent of the regular program state cost per  
33 pupil. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2022, and for  
34 each succeeding budget year, the regular program foundation  
35 base per pupil is eighty-eight and four-tenths percent of the

1 regular program state cost per pupil. For the budget year  
2 commencing July 1, 1991, and for each succeeding budget year  
3 the special education support services foundation base is  
4 seventy-nine percent of the special education support services  
5 state cost per pupil. The combined foundation base is the sum  
6 of the regular program foundation base, the special education  
7 support services foundation base, the total teacher salary  
8 supplement district cost, the total professional development  
9 supplement district cost, the total early intervention  
10 supplement district cost, the total teacher leadership  
11 supplement district cost, and the total area education agency  
12 teacher salary supplement district cost, ~~and the total area~~  
13 ~~education agency professional development supplement district~~  
14 ~~cost.~~

15 Sec. 27. Section 257.1, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
16 to read as follows:

17 3. *Computations rounded.* In making computations and  
18 payments under [this chapter](#), except in the case of computations  
19 relating to funding of special education support services,  
20 ~~media services, and educational services~~ provided through the  
21 area education agencies, and the teacher salary supplement, the  
22 professional development supplement, the early intervention  
23 supplement, and the teacher leadership supplement, the  
24 department of management shall round amounts to the nearest  
25 whole dollar.

26 Sec. 28. Section 257.4, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
27 subparagraph (7), Code 2024, is amended by striking the  
28 subparagraph.

29 Sec. 29. Section 257.9, subsection 10, Code 2024, is amended  
30 by striking the subsection.

31 Sec. 30. Section 257.10, subsection 8, paragraph a, Code  
32 2024, is amended to read as follows:

33 a. Combined district cost is the sum of the regular program  
34 district cost per pupil multiplied by the weighted enrollment,  
35 the special education support services district cost, the

1 total teacher salary supplement district cost, the total  
2 professional development supplement district cost, the total  
3 early intervention supplement district cost, and the total  
4 teacher leadership supplement district cost, plus the ~~sum of~~  
5 ~~the additional district cost allocated to the district to fund~~  
6 ~~media services and educational services provided through the~~  
7 ~~area education agency,~~ the area education agency total teacher  
8 salary supplement district cost and ~~the area education agency~~  
9 ~~total professional development supplement district cost.~~

10 Sec. 31. Section 257.11, subsection 5, paragraph a,  
11 subparagraph (2), subparagraph division (b), Code 2024, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (b) "*Political subdivision*" means a city, township, county,  
14 school corporation, merged area, ~~area education agency,~~  
15 institution governed by the state board of regents, or any  
16 other governmental subdivision except for an area education  
17 agency.

18 Sec. 32. Section 257.11, subsection 5, paragraph e, Code  
19 2024, is amended to read as follows:

20 e. Supplementary weighting pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall  
21 be available to an area education agency during the period  
22 commencing with the budget year beginning July 1, 2014, through  
23 the budget year beginning July 1, ~~2034~~ 2023. The minimum  
24 amount of additional funding for which an area education  
25 agency shall be eligible in a budget year is thirty thousand  
26 dollars, and the maximum amount of additional funding for which  
27 an area education agency shall be eligible is two hundred  
28 thousand dollars. The department of management shall annually  
29 set a weighting for each area education agency to generate  
30 the approved operational sharing expense using the area  
31 education agency's special education cost per pupil amount and  
32 foundation level. Criteria for determining the qualification  
33 of operational functions for supplementary weighting shall be  
34 determined by the department by rule, through consideration of  
35 increased student opportunities.



1     Sec. 33. Section 257.15, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3     a. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the  
4 department of management shall calculate for each district the  
5 difference between the sum of the revenues generated by the  
6 foundation property tax and the additional property tax in the  
7 district calculated under [this chapter](#) and the revenues that  
8 would have been generated by the foundation property tax and  
9 the additional property tax in that district for that budget  
10 year calculated under [chapter 442, Code 1989](#), if chapter 442,  
11 Code 1989, were in effect, except that the revenues that  
12 would have been generated by the additional property tax levy  
13 under [chapter 442, Code 1989](#), shall not include revenues  
14 generated for the school improvement program. However in  
15 making the calculation of the difference in revenues under  
16 this subsection, the department shall not include the revenues  
17 generated under [section 257.37, Code 1989](#), and under chapter  
18 442, Code 1989, for funding media and educational services  
19 through the area education agencies. If the property tax  
20 revenues for a district calculated under [this chapter](#) exceed  
21 the property tax revenues for that district calculated under  
22 chapter 442, Code 1989, the department of management shall  
23 reduce the revenues raised by the additional property tax levy  
24 in that district under [this chapter](#) by that difference and  
25 the department of education shall pay property tax adjustment  
26 aid to the district equal to that difference from moneys  
27 appropriated for property tax adjustment aid.

28     Sec. 34. Section 257.16, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended  
29 to read as follows:

30     4. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if  
31 the governor orders budget reductions in accordance with  
32 section 8.31, the teacher salary supplement district cost,  
33 the professional development supplement district cost, the  
34 early intervention supplement district cost, and the teacher  
35 leadership supplement district cost as calculated under section

1 257.10, subsections 9, 10, 11, and 12, and the area education  
2 agency teacher salary supplement district cost ~~and the area~~  
3 ~~education agency professional development supplement district~~  
4 ~~cost~~ as calculated under section 257.37A, ~~subsections 1 and 2,~~  
5 shall be paid in full as calculated and the reductions in the  
6 appropriations provided in accordance with **this section** shall  
7 be reduced from the remaining moneys appropriated pursuant  
8 to **this section** and shall be distributed on a per pupil  
9 basis calculated with the weighted enrollment determined in  
10 accordance with **section 257.6, subsection 5.**

11 Sec. 35. Section 257.32, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
12 2024, is amended to read as follows:

13 a. An area education agency budget review procedure is  
14 established for the school budget review committee created  
15 in **section 257.30**. The school budget review committee, in  
16 addition to its duties under **section 257.31**, shall meet and  
17 hold hearings each year to review unusual circumstances of  
18 area education agencies, either upon the committee's motion or  
19 upon the request of an area education agency. The committee  
20 may grant supplemental aid to the area education agency from  
21 funds appropriated to the department of education for area  
22 education agency budget review purposes, or an amount may be  
23 added to the area education agency special education support  
24 services modified supplemental amount for districts in an area  
25 ~~or an additional amount may be added to district cost for media~~  
26 ~~services or educational services for all districts in an area~~  
27 for the budget year either on a temporary or permanent basis,  
28 ~~or both.~~

29 Sec. 36. Section 257.32, subsection 1, paragraph b,  
30 subparagraphs (2) and (3), Code 2024, are amended by striking  
31 the subparagraphs.

32 Sec. 37. Section 257.35, subsections 1, 17, and 19, Code  
33 2024, are amended to read as follows:

34 1. The department of management shall deduct the amounts  
35 calculated for special education support services, ~~media~~

1 ~~services, and~~ area education agency teacher salary supplement  
2 district cost, ~~area education agency professional development~~  
3 ~~supplement district cost, and educational services~~ for each  
4 school district from the state aid due to the district pursuant  
5 to this chapter that has entered into an agreement with the  
6 area education agency pursuant to section 273.7A to provide  
7 services for the applicable budget year and shall pay the  
8 amounts to the respective area education agencies on a monthly  
9 basis from September 15 through June 15 during each school  
10 year. The department of management shall notify each school  
11 district of the amount of state aid deducted for these purposes  
12 and the balance of state aid shall be paid to the district. If  
13 a district does not qualify for state aid under this chapter  
14 in an amount sufficient to cover its amount due to the area  
15 education agency as calculated by the department of management,  
16 the school district shall pay the deficiency to the area  
17 education agency from other moneys received by the district, on  
18 a quarterly basis during each school year.

19 17. a. Notwithstanding subsection 1, and in addition to the  
20 reductions applicable pursuant to subsection 2 and paragraph  
21 "b" of this subsection, the state aid for area education  
22 agencies and the portion of the combined district cost  
23 calculated for these agencies related to expenditures other  
24 than expenditures for professional development for the fiscal  
25 year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, shall  
26 be reduced by the department of management by fifteen million  
27 dollars. The reduction for each area education agency shall be  
28 prorated based on the reduction that the agency received in the  
29 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003.

30 b. Notwithstanding subsection 1, and in addition to  
31 the reductions applicable pursuant to subsection 2 and  
32 paragraph "a" of this subsection, the state aid for area  
33 education agencies and the portion of the combined district  
34 cost calculated for these agencies related to professional  
35 development expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July

1 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, shall be reduced by the  
2 department of management by an amount equal to the sum of the  
3 area education agency professional development supplement  
4 district cost for all area education agencies determined under  
5 section 257.37A, subsection 2, Code 2022, for the budget  
6 year beginning July 1, 2022. The reduction for each area  
7 education agency shall be equal to the area education agency's  
8 professional development district cost determined under section  
9 257.37A, subsection 2, Code 2022, for the budget year beginning  
10 July 1, 2022. The amounts reduced under this paragraph shall  
11 be considered funds paid to school districts and area education  
12 agencies under **chapter 284** for purposes of requirements for  
13 providing professional development opportunities.

14 19. ~~Notwithstanding section 257.37, an~~ An area education  
15 agency may use the funds determined to be available under this  
16 section in a manner which the area education agency determines  
17 is appropriate to best maintain the level of required area  
18 education agency special education services. An area education  
19 agency may also use ~~unreserved~~ fund balances for media services  
20 or education services, as received under section 257.37, Code  
21 2024, in a manner which the area education agency determines  
22 is appropriate to best maintain the level of required area  
23 education agency special education services.

24 Sec. 38. Section 257.37A, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
25 follows:

26 **257.37A Area education agency salary supplement funding.**

27 ~~1. Area education agency teacher salary supplement cost per~~  
28 ~~pupil and district cost.~~

29 ~~a.~~ 1. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the  
30 department of management shall add together the teacher  
31 compensation allocation made to each area education agency for  
32 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, pursuant to section  
33 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph "i", Code 2009, and the phase II  
34 allocation made to each area education agency for the fiscal  
35 year beginning July 1, 2008, pursuant to section 294A.9, Code

1 2009, and divide that sum by the special education support  
2 services weighted enrollment in the fiscal year beginning July  
3 1, 2009, to determine the area education agency teacher salary  
4 supplement cost per pupil. For the budget year beginning July  
5 1, 2010, and succeeding budget years, the area education agency  
6 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for each area  
7 education agency for a budget year is the area education agency  
8 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for the base  
9 year plus the area education agency teacher salary supplement  
10 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

11 ~~b.~~ 2. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and  
12 succeeding budget years, if the department of management  
13 determines that the unadjusted area education agency teacher  
14 salary supplement district cost of an area education agency  
15 for a budget year is less than one hundred percent of the  
16 unadjusted area education agency teacher salary supplement  
17 district cost for the base year for the area education agency,  
18 the area education agency shall receive a budget adjustment for  
19 that budget year equal to the difference.

20 ~~c.~~ ~~(1)~~ 3. a. The unadjusted area education agency  
21 teacher salary supplement district cost is the area education  
22 agency teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for  
23 each area education agency for a budget year multiplied by the  
24 special education support services weighted enrollment for that  
25 area education agency.

26 ~~(2)~~ b. The total area education agency teacher salary  
27 supplement district cost is the sum of the unadjusted area  
28 education agency teacher salary supplement district cost plus  
29 the budget adjustment for that budget year.

30 ~~d.~~ 4. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the  
31 use of the funds calculated under this ~~subsection~~ section  
32 shall comply with requirements of [chapter 284](#) and shall be  
33 distributed to teachers pursuant to [section 284.3A](#). For the  
34 budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and succeeding budget  
35 years, the use of the funds calculated under this ~~subsection~~

1 section and fund balances received for area education agency  
2 professional development for a budget year beginning before  
3 July 1, 2024, shall comply with the requirements of chapter  
4 284 and shall be distributed to teachers pursuant to section  
5 284.3A.

6 ~~2.—Area education agency professional development supplement~~  
7 ~~cost per pupil and district cost.~~

8 ~~a.—For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the~~  
9 ~~department of management shall divide the area education~~  
10 ~~agency professional development supplement made to each~~  
11 ~~area education agency for the fiscal year beginning July 1,~~  
12 ~~2008, pursuant to [section 284.13, subsection 1](#), paragraph~~  
13 ~~“d”, Code 2009, by the special education support services~~  
14 ~~weighted enrollment in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009,~~  
15 ~~to determine the professional development supplement cost~~  
16 ~~per pupil. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and~~  
17 ~~succeeding budget years, the area education agency professional~~  
18 ~~development supplement district cost per pupil for each area~~  
19 ~~education agency for a budget year is the area education agency~~  
20 ~~professional development supplement district cost per pupil~~  
21 ~~for the base year plus the area education agency professional~~  
22 ~~development supplement supplemental state aid amount for the~~  
23 ~~budget year.~~

24 ~~b.—For the budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and~~  
25 ~~succeeding budget years, if the department of management~~  
26 ~~determines that the unadjusted area education agency~~  
27 ~~professional development supplement district cost of an area~~  
28 ~~education agency for a budget year is less than one hundred~~  
29 ~~percent of the unadjusted area education agency professional~~  
30 ~~development supplement district cost for the base year for~~  
31 ~~the area education agency, the area education agency shall~~  
32 ~~receive a budget adjustment for that budget year equal to the~~  
33 ~~difference.~~

34 ~~c.—(1) The unadjusted area education agency professional~~  
35 ~~development supplement district cost is the area education~~

1 ~~agency professional development supplement district cost~~  
2 ~~per pupil for each area education agency for a budget year~~  
3 ~~multiplied by the special education support services weighted~~  
4 ~~enrollment for that area education agency.~~

5 ~~(2) The total area education agency professional~~  
6 ~~development supplement district cost is the sum of the~~  
7 ~~unadjusted area education agency professional development~~  
8 ~~supplement district cost plus the budget adjustment for that~~  
9 ~~budget year.~~

10 ~~d. The use of the funds calculated under this subsection~~  
11 ~~shall comply with requirements of [chapter 284](#).~~

12 Sec. 39. Section 284.3A, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 4. The teacher salary supplement district cost as  
15 calculated under [section 257.10, subsection 9](#), and the area  
16 education agency teacher salary supplement district cost as  
17 calculated under [section 257.37A, subsection 1](#), are not subject  
18 to a uniform reduction in accordance with [section 8.31](#).

19 Sec. 40. Section 284.4, subsection 1, paragraph b,  
20 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

21 (3) Determine, following the adoption of the Iowa  
22 professional development model by the state board of education,  
23 the use and distribution of the professional development  
24 funds calculated and paid to the school district ~~or agency~~ as  
25 provided in [section 257.9, subsection 10](#), ~~or section 257.10,~~  
26 ~~subsection 10~~, based upon school district ~~or agency~~, attendance  
27 center, and individual teacher and professional development  
28 plans.

29 Sec. 41. Section 284.6, subsections 8 and 9, Code 2024, are  
30 amended to read as follows:

31 8. For each year in which a school district receives funds  
32 calculated and paid to school districts for professional  
33 development pursuant to [section 257.10, subsection 10](#), ~~or~~  
34 ~~section 257.37A, subsection 2~~, the school district shall create  
35 quality professional development opportunities. Not less than

1 thirty-six hours in the school calendar, held outside of the  
2 minimum school day, shall be set aside during nonpreparation  
3 time or designated professional development time to allow  
4 practitioners to collaborate with each other to deliver  
5 educational programs and assess student learning, or to engage  
6 in peer review pursuant to [section 284.8, subsection 1](#). The  
7 funds may be used to implement the professional development  
8 provisions of the teacher career paths and leadership roles  
9 specified in [section 284.15](#), including but not limited to  
10 providing professional development to teachers, including  
11 additional salaries for time beyond the normal negotiated  
12 agreement; activities and pay to support a beginning teacher  
13 mentoring and induction program that meets the requirements  
14 of [section 284.5](#); pay for substitute teachers, professional  
15 development materials, speakers, and professional development  
16 content; textbooks and curriculum materials used for classroom  
17 purposes if such textbooks and curriculum materials include  
18 professional development; administering assessments pursuant to  
19 [section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "b", subparagraphs \(1\)](#)  
20 [and \(2\)](#), if such assessments include professional development;  
21 and costs associated with implementing the individual  
22 professional development plans. The use of the funds shall  
23 be balanced between school district, attendance center,  
24 and individual professional development plans, making every  
25 reasonable effort to provide equal access to all teachers.

26 9. Moneys received pursuant to [section 257.10, subsection](#)  
27 [10, or ~~section 257.37A, subsection 2~~](#), shall be maintained  
28 as a separate listing within a school district's ~~or area~~  
29 ~~education agency's~~ budget for funds received and expenditures  
30 made pursuant to [this subsection](#). The department shall not  
31 require a school district ~~or area education agency~~ to allocate  
32 a specific amount or percentage of moneys received pursuant to  
33 [section 257.10, subsection 10, or ~~section 257.37A, subsection~~](#)  
34 [2](#), for professional development related to implementation of  
35 the core curriculum under [section 256.7, subsection 26](#). A



1 school district shall certify to the department how the school  
2 district allocated the funds and that moneys received under  
3 this subsection were used to supplement, not supplant, the  
4 professional development opportunities the school district  
5 would otherwise make available. For budget years beginning  
6 on or after July 1, 2017, all or a portion of the moneys  
7 received pursuant to [section 257.10, subsection 10](#), that remain  
8 unexpended and unobligated at the end of a fiscal year may,  
9 pursuant to [section 257.10, subsection 10](#), paragraph “d”, be  
10 transferred for deposit in the school district’s flexibility  
11 account established under [section 298A.2, subsection 2](#).

12 Sec. 42. Section 298.4, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
13 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

14 ~~The~~ Subject to a reduction under subsection 3, the board of  
15 directors of a school district may certify for levy by April 30  
16 of a school year, a tax on all taxable property in the school  
17 district for a district management levy. The revenue from the  
18 tax levied in [this section](#) shall be placed in the district  
19 management levy fund of the school district. The district  
20 management levy shall be expended only for the following  
21 purposes:

22 Sec. 43. Section 298.4, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
23 following new subsection:

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. A tax levied under this section may  
25 be reduced by the department of management if the department  
26 determines that the reduction in the school district’s combined  
27 district cost as a result of the repeal of [section 257.37](#), Code  
28 2024, and elimination of [section 257.37A, subsection 2](#), Code  
29 2024, does not result in a corresponding reduction in the total  
30 amount of property taxes levied by the school district for the  
31 budget year. The department of management may evaluate the  
32 amounts of property taxes levied by the school district and  
33 purposes for which such revenues are budgeted to determine the  
34 adequacy of the reduction in the school district’s total amount  
35 of property taxes.

1 Sec. 44. REPEAL. Section 257.37, Code 2024, is repealed.

2 Sec. 45. APPLICABILITY. This division of this Act applies  
3 July 1, 2024, for school budget years beginning on or after  
4 that date.

5 DIVISION IV

6 TEACHER COMPENSATION

7 Sec. 46. Section 257.10, subsection 12, paragraph d, Code  
8 2024, is amended to read as follows:

9 d. Except as otherwise allowed under this paragraph, for  
10 the budget year beginning July 1, 2014, and succeeding budget  
11 years, the use of the funds calculated under [this subsection](#)  
12 shall comply with the requirements of [chapter 284](#) and shall  
13 be distributed to teachers pursuant to [section 284.15](#). The  
14 funds shall be used only to increase the payment for a teacher  
15 assigned to a leadership role pursuant to a framework or  
16 comparable system approved pursuant to [section 284.15](#); to  
17 increase the percentages of teachers assigned to leadership  
18 roles; to increase the minimum teacher starting salary to  
19 ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand ~~five-hundred~~ dollars; to cover the  
20 costs for the time mentor and lead teachers are not providing  
21 instruction to students in a classroom; for coverage of a  
22 classroom when an initial or career teacher is observing or  
23 co-teaching with a teacher assigned to a leadership role;  
24 for professional development time to learn best practices  
25 associated with the career pathways leadership process; and for  
26 other costs associated with a framework or comparable system  
27 approved by the department of education under [section 284.15](#)  
28 with the goals of improving instruction and elevating the  
29 quality of teaching and student learning. If all requirements  
30 for the school district for the use of funds calculated  
31 under [this subsection](#) are met and funds received under this  
32 subsection remain unexpended and unobligated at the end of a  
33 fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2020, the school  
34 district may transfer all or a portion of such unexpended  
35 and unobligated funds for deposit in the school district's

1 flexibility account established under section 298A.2,  
2 subsection 2. At the end of a fiscal year beginning on or after  
3 July 1, 2022, school districts may use all or a portion of  
4 funds under [this subsection](#) for the purposes authorized under  
5 subsection 9, paragraph “d”, and, notwithstanding any provision  
6 of law to the contrary, school districts shall not be required  
7 to participate in or comply with [section 284.15](#) in order to  
8 continue to receive funding under [this subsection](#).

9 Sec. 47. Section 284.15, subsection 2, paragraph a,  
10 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

11 (1) The salary for an initial teacher who has successfully  
12 completed an approved practitioner preparation program as  
13 defined in [section 256.145](#) or holds an initial or intern  
14 teacher license issued under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part  
15 3, shall be at least ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand ~~five-hundred~~  
16 dollars, which shall also constitute the minimum salary for an  
17 Iowa teacher.

18 Sec. 48. Section 284.15, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
19 following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. The salary for a career teacher, model  
21 teacher, mentor teacher, or lead teacher, who holds a valid  
22 license issued under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3, and  
23 who has been a teacher for at least twelve years, shall be at  
24 least sixty-two thousand dollars.

25 Sec. 49. Section 284.16, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
26 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 The beginning teacher shall be paid not less than  
29 ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand ~~five-hundred~~ dollars and shall meet  
30 the following requirements:

31 Sec. 50. Section 284.16, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
32 following new subsection:

33 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. A career teacher, instructional coach,  
34 curriculum and professional development leader, or model  
35 teacher, who has been a teacher for at least twelve years,

1 shall be paid not less than sixty-two thousand dollars.

2 Sec. 51. Section 284.17, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
3 to read as follows:

4 1. A minimum salary of ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand five  
5 ~~hundred~~ dollars for a full-time teacher who has less than  
6 twelve years of teaching experience and a minimum salary of  
7 sixty-two thousand dollars for a full-time teacher who has at  
8 least twelve years of teaching experience.

9

DIVISION V

10

CONFORMING CHANGES — DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

11

Sec. 52. Section 256.7, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code

12

2024, is amended to read as follows:

13

a. Prescribe standards and procedures for the approval of  
14 practitioner preparation programs and professional development  
15 programs offered in this state by practitioner preparation  
16 institutions located within or outside this state ~~and by area~~  
17 ~~education agencies.~~

18

Sec. 53. Section 256.7, subsections 16 and 22, Code 2024,  
19 are amended to read as follows:

20

16. Adopt rules that set standards for approval of family  
21 support preservice and in-service training programs, offered  
22 by ~~area education agencies and~~ practitioner preparation  
23 institutions, and family support programs offered by or through  
24 local school districts.

25

22. Adopt rules and a procedure for the approval of  
26 para-educator preparation programs offered by a public school  
27 district, ~~area education agency,~~ community college, institution  
28 of higher education under the state board of regents, or  
29 an accredited private institution as defined in section  
30 256.183, subsection 1. The programs shall train and recommend  
31 individuals for para-educator certification under section  
32 256.157.

33

Sec. 54. Section 256.7, subsection 32, paragraph c, Code  
34 2024, is amended to read as follows:

35

c. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall require

1 that online learning coursework offered by school districts,  
2 accredited nonpublic schools, and area education agencies be  
3 rigorous, high-quality, aligned with the Iowa core and core  
4 content requirements and standards and the national standards  
5 of quality for online courses issued by an internationally  
6 recognized association for kindergarten through grade twelve  
7 online learning, and taught by a teacher licensed under  
8 subchapter VII, part 3, who has specialized training or  
9 experience in online learning, including but not limited to an  
10 online-learning-for-Iowa-educators-professional-development  
11 project offered by ~~area education agencies~~, a teacher  
12 preservice program, or comparable coursework.

13 Sec. 55. Section 256.9, subsections 18, 26, 32, 37, 55, 62,  
14 and 68, Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

15 18. Prepare forms and procedures as necessary to be used by  
16 area education agency boards, area education agencies, district  
17 boards, school officials, principals, teachers, and other  
18 employees, and to insure uniformity, accuracy, and efficiency  
19 in keeping records in both pupil and cost accounting, the  
20 execution of contracts, and the submission of reports, and  
21 notify the area education agency ~~board~~, district board, or  
22 school authorities when a report has not been filed in the  
23 manner or on the dates prescribed by law or by rule that  
24 the school will not be accredited until the report has been  
25 properly filed. The director shall include, on any report  
26 for which the department prescribes the form and manner of  
27 its submission, a reference to any state or federal statute,  
28 rule, or regulation that requires the inclusion of certain  
29 information in the report.

30 26. Approve the salaries of area education agency  
31 ~~administrators~~ executive directors.

32 32. Develop, ~~or direct the area education agencies to~~  
33 ~~develop~~, a statewide technical assistance support network to  
34 provide school districts or district subcontractors under  
35 section 279.49 with assistance in creating developmentally

1 appropriate programs under [section 279.49](#).

2 37. Develop in-service and preservice training programs  
3 through ~~the area education agencies and~~ practitioner  
4 preparation institutions and guidelines for school districts  
5 for the establishment of family support programs. Guidelines  
6 developed shall describe barriers to learning and development  
7 which can affect children served by family support programs.

8 55. Develop and maintain a list of approved online  
9 providers that provide course content through an online  
10 learning platform taught by a teacher licensed under  
11 subchapter VII, part 3, who has specialized training or  
12 experience in online learning including but not limited to an  
13 online-learning-for-Iowa-educators-professional-development  
14 project offered by ~~area education agencies~~, a teacher  
15 preservice program, or comparable coursework, and whose online  
16 learning coursework meets the requirements established by  
17 rule pursuant to [section 256.7, subsection 32](#), paragraph "c".  
18 Providers shall apply for approval annually or as determined  
19 by the department.

20 62. Develop, establish, and distribute to all school  
21 districts evidence-based standards, guidelines, and  
22 expectations for the appropriate and inappropriate responses  
23 to behavior in the classroom that presents an imminent threat  
24 of bodily injury to a student or another person and for the  
25 reasonable, necessary, and appropriate physical restraint  
26 of a student, consistent with rules adopted by the state  
27 board pursuant to [section 280.21](#). The director shall ~~consult~~  
28 ~~with the area education agencies~~ to create comprehensive and  
29 consistent standards and guidance for professional development  
30 relating to successfully educating individuals in the least  
31 restrictive environment, and for evidence-based interventions  
32 consistent with the standards established pursuant to this  
33 subsection.

34 68. Develop and distribute to school districts and area  
35 education agencies a list of all professional development

1 programs and other training programs in which employees of  
2 school districts and area education agencies are required to  
3 participate pursuant to federal law or state law, including  
4 ~~chapter~~ chapters 273 and 284.

5 Sec. 56. Section 256.9, subsection 25, Code 2024, is amended  
6 by striking the subsection.

7 Sec. 57. Section 256.9, subsection 30, paragraph a,  
8 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
9 follows:

10 ~~Conduct or direct the area education agency to conduct~~  
11 feasibility surveys and studies, if requested under section  
12 282.11, of the school districts ~~within the area education~~  
13 ~~agency service areas~~ and all adjacent territory, including but  
14 not limited to contiguous districts in other states, for the  
15 purpose of evaluating and recommending proposed whole grade  
16 sharing agreements requested under [section 282.7](#) and section  
17 282.10, subsections 1 and 4. The surveys and studies shall be  
18 revised periodically to reflect reorganizations which may have  
19 taken place in the area education agency, adjacent territory,  
20 and contiguous districts in other states. The surveys and  
21 studies shall include a cover page containing recommendations  
22 and a short explanation of the recommendations. The factors to  
23 be used in determining the recommendations include but are not  
24 limited to:

25 Sec. 58. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph a, Code  
26 2024, is amended to read as follows:

27 a. ~~Develop and distribute, in collaboration with the area~~  
28 ~~education agencies,~~ core curriculum technical assistance and  
29 implementation strategies that school districts and accredited  
30 nonpublic schools shall utilize, including but not limited to  
31 the development and delivery of formative and end-of-course  
32 model assessments classroom teachers may use to measure student  
33 progress on the core curriculum adopted pursuant to section  
34 256.7, subsection 26. The department shall, in collaboration  
35 with the advisory group convened in accordance with paragraph

1 "b" and educational assessment providers, identify and make  
2 available to school districts end-of-course and additional  
3 model end-of-course and additional assessments to align with  
4 the expectations included in the Iowa core curriculum.

5 Sec. 59. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph c,  
6 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 Establish, subject to an appropriation of funds by the  
9 general assembly, an Iowa reading research center which shall  
10 ~~collaborate with the area education agencies in implementing~~  
11 implement the provisions of this paragraph "c".

12 Sec. 60. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph c,  
13 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (e), Code 2024, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (e) Professional development strategies and materials to  
16 support teacher effectiveness in student literacy development.  
17 Subject to an appropriation of funds by the general assembly,  
18 the center shall collaborate and coordinate with the ~~area~~  
19 ~~education agencies and the~~ department to develop and offer to  
20 school districts at no cost professional development services  
21 to enhance the skills of elementary teachers in the use of  
22 evidence-based strategies to improve the literacy skills of all  
23 students.

24 Sec. 61. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph c,  
25 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 (2) The first efforts of the center shall focus on  
27 kindergarten through grade three. The center shall draw  
28 upon national and state expertise in the field of literacy  
29 proficiency, including experts from Iowa's institutions of  
30 higher education ~~and area education agencies~~ with backgrounds  
31 in literacy development. The center shall seek support from  
32 the Iowa research community in data report development and  
33 analysis of available information from Iowa education data  
34 sources. The center shall work with the department to identify  
35 additional needs for tools and technical assistance for Iowa



1 schools to help schools achieve literacy proficiency goals  
2 and seek public and private partnerships in developing and  
3 accessing necessary tools and technical assistance.

4 Sec. 62. Section 256.11, subsection 11, paragraph e, Code  
5 2024, is amended to read as follows:

6 e. If the deficiencies have not been corrected, and the  
7 conditional accreditation alternatives contained in the report  
8 are not mutually acceptable to the state board and the local  
9 board, the state board shall deaccredit the school district and  
10 merge the territory of the school district with one or more  
11 contiguous school districts at the end of the school year. The  
12 state board may place a district under receivership for the  
13 remainder of the school year. The receivership shall be under  
14 the direct supervision and authority of the ~~area education~~  
15 ~~agency in which the district is located~~ department or the  
16 department's designee, which may include a contiguous school  
17 district. The decision of whether to deaccredit the school  
18 district or to place the district under receivership shall  
19 be based upon a determination by the state board of the best  
20 interests of the students, parents, residents of the community,  
21 teachers, administrators, and school district board members and  
22 upon the recommendations of the accreditation committee and the  
23 director.

24 Sec. 63. Section 256.11, subsection 12, paragraph a,  
25 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
26 follows:

27 Division of assets and liabilities of the deaccredited  
28 school district shall be as provided in this paragraph "a" and  
29 in sections 275.29 ~~through~~ and 275.31.

30 Sec. 64. Section 256.11, subsection 17, paragraph c,  
31 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 If the provisions of **subsection 5**, paragraphs "a" through "e"  
34 and "g" through "j", are made inapplicable under paragraph "a",  
35 or are waived under paragraph "b", the specified subject shall

1 be provided by ~~an area education agency under section 273.16,~~  
2 ~~or by~~ the school district or accredited nonpublic school if an  
3 online alternative satisfying the requirements of subparagraph  
4 (1), (2), or (3) can be made available by the school district  
5 or accredited nonpublic school. Any course not required under  
6 subsection 5 may also be provided by ~~an area education agency~~  
7 ~~under section 273.16 or by~~ the school district or accredited  
8 nonpublic school. However, in either case, if offered by the  
9 school district or accredited nonpublic school, the specified  
10 subject or course shall be offered through any of the following  
11 means:

12 Sec. 65. Section 256.11, subsection 17, paragraph c,  
13 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

14 (3) An online learning platform offered, subject to the  
15 initial availability of federal funds, by the department in  
16 ~~collaboration with one or more area education agencies or in~~  
17 partnership with school districts and accredited nonpublic  
18 schools. The online learning platform may deliver distance  
19 education to students, including students receiving competent  
20 private instruction under chapter 299A, provided such students  
21 register with the school district of residence and the  
22 coursework offered by the online learning platform is taught  
23 and supervised by a teacher licensed under subchapter VII, part  
24 3, who has online learning experience and the course content  
25 meets the requirements established by rule pursuant to section  
26 256.7, subsection 32, paragraph "c". ~~The department and the~~  
27 ~~area education agencies operating online learning programs~~  
28 ~~pursuant to section 273.16~~ shall coordinate the online learning  
29 platforms to ensure the most effective use of resources and  
30 delivery of services. Federal funds, if available, may be used  
31 to offset what would otherwise be costs to school districts for  
32 participation in the program.

33 Sec. 66. Section 256.12, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
34 2024, is amended to read as follows:

35 a. This section does not deprive the respective boards

1 of public school districts of any of their legal powers,  
2 statutory or otherwise, and in accepting the specially enrolled  
3 students, each of the boards shall prescribe the terms of the  
4 special enrollment, including but not limited to scheduling  
5 of courses and the length of class periods. In addition,  
6 the board of the affected public school district shall be  
7 given notice by the department of its decision to permit the  
8 special enrollment not later than six months prior to the  
9 opening of the affected public school district's school year,  
10 except that the board of the public school district may waive  
11 the notice requirement. School districts and area education  
12 ~~agency boards~~ agencies shall make public school services, which  
13 shall include special education programs and services and  
14 may include health services, services for remedial education  
15 programs, guidance services, and school testing services,  
16 available to children attending nonpublic schools in the same  
17 manner and to the same extent that they are provided to public  
18 school students. Service activities shall be similar to those  
19 undertaken for public school students. Health services,  
20 special education support, and related services provided by  
21 area education agencies for the purpose of identifying children  
22 with disabilities, assistance with physical and communications  
23 needs of students with physical disabilities, and services of  
24 an educational interpreter may be provided on nonpublic school  
25 premises with the permission of the lawful custodian of the  
26 property. Other special education services may be provided  
27 on nonpublic school premises at the discretion of the school  
28 district or area education agency provider of the service and  
29 with the permission of the lawful custodian of the property.

30 Sec. 67. Section 256.32A, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
31 2024, is amended to read as follows:

32 *b.* To the area education agencies regarding the required and  
33 preferred qualifications for dyslexia specialists required in  
34 accordance with section 273.2, subsection ~~11~~ 9.

35 Sec. 68. Section 256.33, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 1. The department shall consort with school districts,  
3 ~~area education agencies~~, community colleges, and colleges  
4 and universities to provide assistance to them in the use  
5 of educational technology for instruction purposes. The  
6 department shall consult with the advisory committee on  
7 telecommunications, established in [section 256.7, subsection 7](#),  
8 and other users of educational technology on the development  
9 and operation of programs under [this section](#).

10 Sec. 69. Section 256.39, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 1. If the general assembly appropriates moneys for the  
13 establishment of a career pathways program, the department  
14 of education shall develop a career pathways grant program,  
15 criteria for the formation of ongoing career pathways consortia  
16 in each merged area, and guidelines and a process to be used  
17 in selecting career pathways consortium grant recipients,  
18 including a requirement that grant recipients shall provide  
19 matching funds or match grant funds with in-kind resources on a  
20 dollar-for-dollar basis. A portion of the moneys appropriated  
21 by the general assembly shall be made available to schools to  
22 pay for the issuance of employability skills assessments to  
23 public or nonpublic school students. An existing partnership  
24 or organization, including a regional career and technical  
25 education planning partnership, that meets the established  
26 criteria, may be considered a consortium for grant application  
27 purposes. One or more school districts may be considered  
28 a consortium for grant application purposes, provided the  
29 district can demonstrate the manner in which a community  
30 college, ~~area education agency~~, representatives from business  
31 and labor organizations, and others as determined within  
32 the region will be involved. Existing regional career and  
33 technical education planning partnerships are encouraged to  
34 assist the local consortia in developing a plan and budget.  
35 The department shall provide assistance to consortia in

1 planning and implementing career pathways program efforts.

2 Sec. 70. Section 256.82, subsection 1, paragraph b,  
3 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

4 (3) One member shall be appointed jointly by the  
5 ~~administrators of the area education agencies created by~~  
6 ~~chapter 273~~ director of the department.

7 Sec. 71. Section 256.136, subsection 4, paragraph c, Code  
8 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph.

9 Sec. 72. Section 256.136, subsection 5, Code 2024, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 5. Convening the regional career and technical education  
12 planning partnership shall be the ~~joint~~ responsibility of the  
13 ~~area education agency and~~ community college located within  
14 the region. In convening the regional career and technical  
15 education planning partnership, the ~~area education agency and~~  
16 ~~the~~ community college shall include stakeholders from each  
17 member district of the partnership.

18 Sec. 73. Section 256.145, subsection 4, Code 2024, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 4. "*License*" means the authority that is given to allow  
21 a person to legally serve as a practitioner, a school, an  
22 institution, or a course of study to legally offer professional  
23 development programs, other than those programs offered by  
24 practitioner preparation schools, institutions, or courses of  
25 study, ~~or area education agencies~~. A license is the exclusive  
26 authority to perform these functions.

27 Sec. 74. Section 256.146, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
28 2024, is amended to read as follows:

29 c. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection establishing  
30 licensure renewal requirements shall provide that up to half  
31 of the units needed for licensure renewal may be earned upon  
32 the successful completion of an individualized professional  
33 development plan as verified by the supervising licensed  
34 evaluator, or by successful completion of professional  
35 development courses or programs offered by a professional

1 development program licensed by the board, or by a practitioner  
2 preparation institution ~~or area education agency~~ approved by  
3 the state board of education.

4 Sec. 75. Section 256.146, subsection 17, Code 2024, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 17. May adopt rules for practitioners who are not eligible  
7 for a statement of professional recognition under [subsection 9](#),  
8 but have received a baccalaureate degree and provide a service  
9 to students at any or all levels from prekindergarten through  
10 grade twelve for a school district, accredited nonpublic  
11 school, ~~area education agency~~, or preschool program established  
12 pursuant to [chapter 256C](#).

13 Sec. 76. Section 256.151, subsection 1, Code 2024, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 1. A license issued under board authority is valid for  
16 the period of time for which it is issued, unless the license  
17 is suspended or revoked. Except as provided in section  
18 256.146, subsection 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph (2),  
19 permanent licenses shall not be issued. A person employed as  
20 a practitioner shall hold a valid license with an endorsement  
21 for the type of service for which the person is employed.  
22 This section does not limit the duties or powers of a school  
23 board to select or discharge practitioners or to terminate  
24 practitioners' contracts. A professional development program,  
25 except for a program offered by a practitioner preparation  
26 institution ~~or area education agency~~ and approved by the state  
27 board of education, must possess a valid license for the types  
28 of programs offered.

29 Sec. 77. Section 256.160, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
30 subparagraph (1), unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 The board of directors of a school district or the executive  
33 director of an area education agency, the superintendent of a  
34 school district, ~~the chief administrator of an area education~~  
35 ~~agency~~, and the authorities in charge of an accredited

1 nonpublic school shall report to the board any instance of  
2 disciplinary action taken against a licensed school employee by  
3 the board of directors of the school district or the executive  
4 director of an area education agency, the superintendent of the  
5 school district, ~~the chief administrator of the area education~~  
6 ~~agency~~, or the authorities in charge of the accredited  
7 nonpublic school for conduct constituting any of the following:

8 Sec. 78. Section 256.160, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
9 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

10 (2) The board of directors of a school district ~~or area~~  
11 ~~education agency~~, the superintendent of a school district, the  
12 ~~chief administrator~~ executive director of an area education  
13 agency, and the authorities in charge of an accredited  
14 nonpublic school shall report to the board the nonrenewal or  
15 termination, for reasons of alleged or actual misconduct,  
16 of a person's contract executed under [sections 279.12](#),  
17 [279.13](#), [279.15](#), [279.16](#), [279.18 through 279.21](#), [279.23](#), and  
18 [279.24](#), and the resignation of a person who holds a license,  
19 certificate, or authorization issued by the board as a result  
20 of or following an incident or allegation of misconduct that,  
21 if proven, would constitute a violation of the rules adopted  
22 by the board to implement [section 256.146, subsection 13](#),  
23 paragraph "b", subparagraph (1); soliciting, encouraging, or  
24 consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship  
25 with a student; falsifying student grades, test scores,  
26 or other official information or material; or converting  
27 public property or funds to the personal use of the school  
28 employee, when the board or reporting official has a good  
29 faith belief that the incident occurred or the allegation is  
30 true. The board may deny a license or revoke the license  
31 of an administrator if the board finds by a preponderance  
32 of the evidence that the administrator failed to report the  
33 termination or resignation of a school employee holding a  
34 license, certificate, statement of professional recognition,  
35 or coaching authorization, for reasons of alleged or actual

1 misconduct, as defined by [this section](#).

2 Sec. 79. Section 256.165, subsection 6, Code 2024, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 6. The state board of education shall work with institutions  
5 of higher education, private colleges and universities,  
6 community colleges, ~~area education agencies,~~ and professional  
7 organizations to ensure that the courses and programs required  
8 for authorizations under [this section](#) are offered throughout  
9 the state at convenient times and at a reasonable cost.

10 Sec. 80. Section 256B.8, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 2. An area education agency executive director ~~of special~~  
13 ~~education~~ may request approval from the department of education  
14 to continue the special education program of a person beyond  
15 the period specified in [section 256B.2, subsection 1](#), paragraph  
16 "a", if the person had an accident or prolonged illness that  
17 resulted in delays in the initiation of or interruptions in  
18 that person's special education program. Approval may be  
19 granted by the department to continue the special education  
20 program of that person for up to three years or until the  
21 person's twenty-fourth birthday.

22 Sec. 81. Section 256B.9, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 5. The division of special education shall audit the reports  
25 required in [section 273.5](#) to determine that all children in the  
26 area who have been identified as requiring special education  
27 have received the appropriate special education instructional  
28 and support services, and to verify the proper identification  
29 of pupils in the area who will require special education  
30 instructional services during the school year in which the  
31 report is filed. The division shall certify to the director  
32 of the department of management the correct total enrollment  
33 of each school district in the state, determined by applying  
34 the appropriate pupil weighting index to each child requiring  
35 special education, as certified by the ~~directors of special~~



1 ~~education in~~ executive director of each area education agency.

2

DIVISION VI

3

SCHOOLS — REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS — CONFORMING

4

CHANGES

5

Sec. 82. Section 257.9, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7

3. *Special education support services state cost per pupil*  
8 *for 1991-1992.* For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, for  
9 the special education support services state cost per pupil,  
10 the department of management shall divide the total of the  
11 approved budgets of the area education agencies for special  
12 education support services for that year approved by the state  
13 board of education under section 273.3, subsection ~~12~~ 9, by  
14 the total of the weighted enrollment for special education  
15 support services in the state for the budget year. The special  
16 education support services state cost per pupil for the budget  
17 year is the amount calculated by the department of management  
18 under [this subsection](#).

19 Sec. 83. Section 257.10, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
20 to read as follows:

21

3. *Special education support services district cost per*  
22 *pupil for 1991-1992.* For the budget year beginning July 1,  
23 1991, for the special education support services district  
24 cost per pupil, the department of management shall divide the  
25 approved budget of each area education agency for special  
26 education support services for that year approved by the state  
27 board of education, under section 273.3, subsection ~~12~~ 9, by  
28 the total of the weighted enrollment for special education  
29 support services in the area for that budget year. The  
30 special education support services district cost per pupil for  
31 each school district in an area for the budget year is the  
32 amount calculated by the department of management under this  
33 subsection.

34

Sec. 84. Section 257.42, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2024, are  
35 amended to read as follows:

1 1. Boards of school districts, individually or jointly  
2 with the boards of other school districts, shall annually  
3 submit program plans for gifted and talented children programs  
4 and budget costs to the department of education ~~and to the~~  
5 ~~applicable gifted and talented children advisory council~~, if  
6 an advisory council has been established, as provided in this  
7 chapter.

8 4. The department of education shall adopt rules under  
9 chapter 17A relating to the administration of this section  
10 and sections 257.43 through ~~257.49~~ 257.46. The rules shall  
11 prescribe the format of program plans submitted under section  
12 257.43 and shall require that programs fulfill specified  
13 objectives. The department shall encourage and assist school  
14 districts to provide programs for gifted and talented children.

15 Sec. 85. Section 274.13, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
16 follows:

17 **274.13 Attaching territory to adjoining corporation.**

18 In any case where, by reason of natural obstacles, any  
19 portion of the inhabitants of any school corporation in the  
20 opinion of the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of  
21 the department of education cannot with reasonable facility  
22 attend school in their own corporation, the ~~area education~~  
23 ~~agency administrator~~ director shall, by a written order, in  
24 duplicate, attach the part thus affected to an adjoining school  
25 corporation, the board of the same consenting thereto, one copy  
26 of which order shall be at once transmitted to the secretary of  
27 each corporation affected thereby, who shall record the same  
28 and make the proper designation on the plat of the corporation.  
29 Township or county lines shall not be a bar to the operation of  
30 this section.

31 Sec. 86. Section 274.14, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 **274.14 Restoration.**

34 When the natural obstacles by reason of which territory  
35 has been set off by the ~~area education agency administrator~~

1 director of the department of education from one school  
2 district and attached to another in the same or an adjoining  
3 county, as provided in [section 274.13](#), have been removed, such  
4 territory may, upon the concurrence of the respective boards,  
5 be restored to the school district from which set off and shall  
6 be so restored by said boards upon the written application of  
7 two-thirds of the electors residing upon the territory so set  
8 off together with the concurrence of the ~~area education agency~~  
9 ~~administrator~~ director and the board of the school district  
10 from which such territory was originally set off by the ~~said~~  
11 ~~administrator~~ director.

12 Sec. 87. Section 274.37, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 1. The boundary lines of contiguous school corporations  
15 may be changed by the concurrent action of the respective  
16 boards of directors at their regular meetings in July, or at  
17 special meetings called for that purpose. Such concurrent  
18 action shall be subject to the approval of the ~~area education~~  
19 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education but such  
20 concurrent action shall stand approved if the ~~board~~ director  
21 does not disapprove such concurrent action within thirty days  
22 following receipt of notice thereof. The corporation from  
23 which territory is detached shall, after the change, contain  
24 not less than four government sections of land.

25 Sec. 88. Section 274.40, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
26 follows:

27 **274.40 Vesting of powers to convey.**

28 Whenever a majority of the directors of any school district  
29 affected as in [section 274.39](#) have moved from such district and  
30 have ceased to be residents thereof thereby creating vacancies  
31 on the school board and reducing it to less than a quorum,  
32 the powers vested by said section in the board of directors  
33 shall vest in the ~~area education agency board~~ director of the  
34 department of education and the instrument of conveyance shall  
35 be executed on behalf of such school district by the ~~president~~

1 ~~of the area education agency board~~ director of the department  
2 of education until an election is called pursuant to chapter  
3 277.

4 Sec. 89. Section 275.1, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 3. If a district is attached, division of assets and  
7 liabilities shall be made as provided in sections 275.29  
8 ~~through and~~ 275.31. The ~~area education agency boards~~ director  
9 of the department of education shall develop detailed studies  
10 and surveys of the school districts ~~within the area education~~  
11 ~~agency~~ and all adjacent territory for the purpose of providing  
12 for reorganization of school districts in order to effect more  
13 economical operation and the attainment of higher standards  
14 of education in the schools. The plans shall be revised  
15 periodically to reflect reorganizations which may have taken  
16 place ~~in the area education agency~~ within the impacted area and  
17 adjacent territory.

18 Sec. 90. Section 275.2, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
19 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

20 The scope of the studies and surveys shall include all of  
21 the following matters in the various districts ~~in the area~~  
22 ~~education agency~~ and all adjacent districts ~~adjacent to the~~  
23 ~~area education agency~~:

24 Sec. 91. Section 275.2, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 2. The plans shall also include suggested alternate plans  
27 that incorporate the school districts ~~in the area education~~  
28 ~~agency~~ into reorganized districts that meet the enrollment  
29 standards specified in [section 275.3](#) and may include alternate  
30 plans proposed by school districts for sharing programs  
31 under [section 28E.9](#), [256.13](#), [280.15](#), [282.7](#), or [282.10](#) as an  
32 alternative to school reorganization.

33 Sec. 92. Section 275.3, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 **275.3 Minimum size.**

1 No new school district shall be planned ~~by an area education~~  
2 ~~agency board~~ nor shall any proposal for creation or enlargement  
3 of any school district be approved ~~by an area education agency~~  
4 ~~board~~ or submitted to electors unless there reside within  
5 the proposed limits of such district at least three hundred  
6 persons of school age who were enrolled in public schools  
7 in the preceding school year. Provided, however, that the  
8 director of the department of education shall have authority to  
9 ~~grant permission to an area education agency board~~ to approve  
10 the formation or enlargement of a school district containing  
11 a lower school enrollment than required in **this section** on  
12 the written request of ~~such area education agency board~~ the  
13 school districts that will be affected by such formation or  
14 enlargement if such request is accompanied by evidence tending  
15 to show that sparsity of population, natural barriers or  
16 other good reason makes it impracticable to meet the school  
17 enrollment requirement.

18 Sec. 93. Section 275.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 **275.4 Studies, surveys, and plans.**

21 ~~1. a.~~ In developing studies and surveys, the ~~area education~~  
22 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education shall  
23 consult with the officials of school districts in the area and  
24 other citizens, shall from time to time hold public hearings,  
25 and may employ such research and other assistance as ~~it~~  
26 the director may determine reasonably necessary in order to  
27 properly carry on ~~its~~ the survey and prepare definite plans of  
28 reorganization.

29 ~~b.~~ ~~In addition, the area education agency board shall~~  
30 ~~consult with the director of the department of education in~~  
31 ~~the development of surveys and plans. The director of the~~  
32 ~~department of education shall provide assistance to the area~~  
33 ~~education agency boards as requested and shall advise the area~~  
34 ~~education agency boards concerning plans of contiguous area~~  
35 ~~education agencies and the reorganization policies adopted by~~

1 ~~the state board of education.~~

2 2. ~~Completed plans shall be transmitted by the area~~  
3 ~~education agency board to the director of the department of~~  
4 ~~education.~~

5 Sec. 94. Section 275.5, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **275.5 Proposals for merger or consolidation.**

8 A proposal for merger, consolidation, or boundary change of  
9 local school districts shall first be submitted to the area  
10 ~~education agency board~~ director of the department of education  
11 following the procedure prescribed in [this chapter](#). Following  
12 receipt of a petition pursuant to [section 275.12](#), the area  
13 ~~education agency board~~ director of the department of education  
14 shall review ~~its~~ the plans and determine whether the petition  
15 complies with the plans which had been adopted by the ~~board~~  
16 director. If the petition does not comply with the plans  
17 ~~which had been adopted by the board~~, the ~~board~~ department of  
18 education shall conduct further surveys pursuant to section  
19 275.4 prior to the date set for the hearing upon the petition.  
20 If further surveys have been conducted by the ~~board~~ department  
21 of education, the ~~board~~ department shall present the results of  
22 the further surveys at the hearing upon the petition.

23 Sec. 95. Section 275.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **275.6 Progressive program.**

26 It is the intent of [this chapter](#) that the ~~area education~~  
27 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education shall  
28 carry on the program of reorganization progressively and shall,  
29 insofar as is possible, authorize submission of proposals to  
30 the electors as they are developed and approved.

31 Sec. 96. Section 275.7, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 **275.7 Budget.**

34 The ~~area education agency board~~ director of the department  
35 of education shall include in the budget submitted each year

1 such sums as ~~it~~ the director deems necessary to carry on ~~its~~  
2 the reorganization work under this chapter.

3 Sec. 97. Section 275.8, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,  
4 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

5 a. Preparation of a written joint plan by two or more  
6 school districts in which contiguous territory ~~in two or more~~  
7 ~~area education agencies~~ is considered as a part of a potential  
8 school district ~~in the area education agency on behalf of which~~  
9 ~~such plan is filed with the department of education by the area~~  
10 ~~education agency board~~.

11 b. Adoption of the written joint plan at a joint session of  
12 the several ~~area education agency boards~~ of directors of school  
13 districts in whose areas the territory is situated. A quorum  
14 of each of the boards is necessary to transact business. ~~Votes~~  
15 ~~shall be taken in the manner prescribed in~~ section 275.16.

16 Sec. 98. Section 275.8, subsection 2, paragraph d, Code  
17 2024, is amended to read as follows:

18 d. An affidavit signed ~~on behalf of each of said boards~~  
19 ~~of directors of area education agencies by a member of such~~  
20 ~~board~~ the director of the department of education stating the  
21 boundaries as shown on such plat ~~have been agreed upon by the~~  
22 ~~respective boards as are~~ a part of the overall plan of school  
23 district reorganization of each such school.

24 Sec. 99. Section 275.8, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 3. Planning of joint districts shall be conducted in  
27 the same manner as planning for single districts, except as  
28 provided in this section. Studies and surveys relating to  
29 the planning of joint districts shall be filed with the area  
30 ~~education agency in which one of the districts is located~~  
31 director of the department of education by the board of  
32 directors of the school district which has the greatest taxable  
33 property base in the areas where the territory is situated. In  
34 the case of controversy over the planning of joint districts,  
35 the matter shall be submitted to the director of the department

1 of education. Judicial review of the director's decision  
2 may be sought in accordance with the terms of the Iowa  
3 administrative procedure Act, [chapter 17A](#). Notwithstanding the  
4 terms of that Act, petitions for judicial review must be filed  
5 within thirty days after the decision of the director.

6 Sec. 100. Section 275.9, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 2. The provisions of [sections 275.1 through 275.5](#), relating  
9 to studies, surveys, hearings and adoption of plans shall  
10 constitute a mandatory prerequisite to the effectuation of  
11 any proposal for district boundary change. It shall be the  
12 mandatory duty of the ~~area education agency board~~ director of  
13 the department of education to dismiss the petition if the  
14 above provisions are not complied with fully.

15 Sec. 101. Section 275.11, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
16 follows:

17 **275.11 Proposals involving two or more districts.**

18 Subject to the approval of the ~~area education agency~~  
19 ~~board~~ director of the department of education, contiguous or  
20 marginally adjacent territory located in two or more school  
21 districts may be united into a single district in the manner  
22 provided in [sections 275.12 through 275.18, 275.20, and 275.22](#).

23 Sec. 102. Section 275.12, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2024,  
24 are amended to read as follows:

25 1. A petition describing the boundaries, or accurately  
26 describing the area included therein by legal descriptions,  
27 of the proposed district, which boundaries or area described  
28 shall conform to plans developed or the petition shall request  
29 change of the plan, shall be filed with the ~~area education~~  
30 ~~agency administrator of the area education agency in which the~~  
31 ~~greatest number of registered voters reside~~ director of the  
32 department of education. However, the ~~area education agency~~  
33 ~~administrator~~ director of the department of education shall  
34 not accept a petition if any of the school districts affected  
35 have approved the issuance of general obligation bonds at



1 an election pursuant to [section 296.6](#) during the preceding  
2 six-month period. The petition shall be signed by eligible  
3 electors residing in each existing school district or portion  
4 affected equal in number to at least twenty percent of the  
5 number of registered voters in the school district or portion  
6 affected, or four hundred eligible electors, whichever is the  
7 smaller number.

8 4. ~~The area education agency board~~ director of the  
9 department of education in reviewing the petition as provided  
10 in ~~sections~~ section 275.15 and ~~275.16~~ shall review the proposed  
11 method of election of school directors and may change or amend  
12 the plan in any manner, including to specify a different  
13 method of electing school directors as may be required by  
14 law, justice, equity, and the interest of the people. In  
15 the action, ~~the area education agency board~~ director of the  
16 department of education shall follow the same procedure as is  
17 required by ~~sections~~ section 275.15 and ~~275.16~~ for other action  
18 on the petition by ~~the area education agency board~~ director.

19 Sec. 103. Section 275.12, subsection 5, paragraphs a and b,  
20 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

21 a. ~~The area education agency board~~ director of the  
22 department of education in reviewing a petition as provided  
23 in ~~sections~~ section [275.15](#) and ~~275.16~~ that is not subject to  
24 the division of assets and liabilities provisions in sections  
25 275.29 ~~through~~ and 275.31 shall review the proposal for  
26 dividing liability for payment of outstanding bonds issued  
27 under [section 423E.5](#) or [423F.4](#), required to be included under  
28 section 275.28, and may change or amend the proposal in any  
29 manner, including to specify a different division for the  
30 reorganized districts or a different method of payment or  
31 retirement of the bonds as may be required by law, justice,  
32 equity, and the interest of the people. The review conducted  
33 by ~~the area education agency~~ director of the department of  
34 education, including any resulting change to the proposal,  
35 shall ensure that the reorganized district's estimated revenue

1 under [section 423F.2](#) is sufficient for the payment of principal  
2 and interest on the outstanding bonds required to be paid in  
3 the budget year following the reorganization.

4 *b.* For bonds issued under section ~~423E.5~~ or [423F.4](#), the  
5 approval of the reorganization at election creates a lien on  
6 the revenues from the secure an advanced vision for education  
7 fund received by the reorganized district designated in the  
8 proposal approved by the ~~area education agency~~ director of  
9 the department of education, subject to the same priority as  
10 provided by the affected school district that issued the bonds.

11 Sec. 104. Section 275.14, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
12 follows:

13 **275.14 Objection — time of filing — notice.**

14 1. Within ten days after the petition is filed, the ~~area~~  
15 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of  
16 education shall fix a final date for filing objections to the  
17 petition which shall be not more than sixty days after the  
18 petition is filed and shall fix the date for a hearing on the  
19 objections to the petition. Objections shall be filed ~~in~~  
20 ~~the office of the administrator who~~ with the department of  
21 education, which shall give notice at least ten days prior  
22 to the final day for filing objections, by one publication  
23 in a newspaper published within the territory described in  
24 the petition, or if none is published in the territory, in a  
25 newspaper published in the county where the petition is filed,  
26 and of general circulation in the territory described. The  
27 notice shall also list the date, time, and location for the  
28 hearing on the petition as provided in [section 275.15](#). The  
29 cost of publication shall be assessed to each district whose  
30 territory is involved in the ratio that the number of pupils  
31 in basic enrollment for the budget year, as defined in section  
32 257.6 in each district bears to the total number of pupils  
33 in basic enrollment for the budget year in the total area  
34 involved. Objections shall be in writing in the form of an  
35 affidavit and may be made by any person residing or owning land

1 within the territory described in the petition, or who would  
2 be injuriously affected by the change petitioned for and shall  
3 be on file not later than 12:00 noon of the final day fixed for  
4 filing objections.

5 2. Objection forms shall be prescribed by the department of  
6 education and may be obtained from the ~~area education agency~~  
7 ~~administrator~~ department. Objection forms that request that  
8 property be removed from a proposed district shall include the  
9 correct legal description of the property to be removed.

10 Sec. 105. Section 275.15, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
11 follows:

12 **275.15 Hearing — decision — publication — appeal.**

13 1. At the hearing, which shall be held within ten days of  
14 the final date set for filing objections, interested parties,  
15 both petitioners and objectors, may present evidence and  
16 arguments, and the ~~area education agency board~~ director of  
17 the department of education shall review the matter on its  
18 merits and within ten days after the conclusion of any hearing,  
19 shall rule on the objections and shall enter an order fixing  
20 the boundaries for the proposed school corporation as will  
21 in ~~its~~ the director's judgment be for the best interests of  
22 all parties concerned, having due regard for the welfare of  
23 adjoining districts, or dismiss the petition.

24 2. The ~~area education agency board~~ director of the  
25 department of education, when entering the order fixing the  
26 boundaries, shall consider all available evidence including,  
27 but not limited to, information presented by the petitioners,  
28 all objections requesting territory exclusion, reorganization  
29 studies and plans, geographical patterns evidenced by students  
30 using open enrollment to attend school in another district  
31 pursuant to [section 282.18](#), potential travel distances required  
32 of students, and geographic configuration of the proposed  
33 district. The exclusion of territory shall represent a balance  
34 between the rights of the objectors and the welfare of the  
35 reorganized district.

1 3. If the petition is not dismissed and the ~~board~~ director  
2 of the department of education determines that additional  
3 information is required in order to fix boundary lines of the  
4 proposed school corporation, the ~~board~~ director may continue  
5 the hearing for no more than thirty days. The date of the  
6 continued hearing shall be announced at the original meeting.  
7 Additional objections in the form required in [section 275.14](#)  
8 may be considered if filed with the ~~administrator~~ director of  
9 the department of education within five days, not including  
10 Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays, after the date of the original  
11 board hearing. If the hearing is continued, the ~~area education~~  
12 ~~agency administrator~~ director of the department of education  
13 may conduct one or more meetings with the boards of directors  
14 of the affected districts. Notice of any such meeting must  
15 be given at least forty-eight hours in advance by the ~~area~~  
16 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of  
17 education in the manner provided in [section 21.4](#). ~~The area~~  
18 ~~education agency board may request that the administrator make~~  
19 ~~alternative recommendations regarding the boundary lines of the~~  
20 ~~proposed school corporation.~~ The ~~area education agency board~~  
21 director of the department of education shall make a decision  
22 on the boundary lines within ten days following the conclusion  
23 of the continued hearing.

24 4. The ~~administrator~~ director of the department of  
25 education shall at once publish the decision in the same  
26 newspaper in which the original notice was published. Within  
27 twenty days after the publication, the decision rendered by  
28 the ~~area education agency board~~ director of the department of  
29 education may be appealed to the district court in the county  
30 involved by any school district affected. For purposes of  
31 appeal, only those school districts who filed reorganization  
32 petitions are school districts affected. An appeal from a  
33 decision of an ~~area education agency board or joint area~~  
34 ~~education agency boards~~ the director of the department of  
35 education under [section 275.4](#), ~~275.16~~, or [this section](#) is

1 subject to appeal procedures under [this chapter](#) and is not  
2 subject to appeal under [chapter 290](#).

3 Sec. 106. Section 275.17, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **275.17 Filing a petition.**

6 If ~~an area education agency board~~ the director of the  
7 department of education does not approve the change in  
8 boundaries of school districts in accordance with a petition, a  
9 petition describing the identical or similar boundaries shall  
10 not be filed for a period of six months following the date  
11 ~~of the hearing or the vote of the board, whichever is later~~  
12 director publishes the director's decision pursuant to section  
13 275.15, subsection 4.

14 Sec. 107. Section 275.18, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
15 follows:

16 **275.18 Special election called — time.**

17 1. When the boundaries of the territory to be included in  
18 a proposed school corporation and the number and method of  
19 the election of the school directors of the proposed school  
20 corporation have been determined as provided in [this chapter](#),  
21 ~~the area education agency administrator with whom the petition~~  
22 ~~is filed~~ director of the department of education shall give  
23 written notice of the election to the county commissioner of  
24 elections of the county in the proposed school corporation  
25 which has the greatest taxable base. The question shall be  
26 submitted to the voters at an election held on a date specified  
27 in [section 39.2, subsection 4](#), paragraph "c" in the calendar  
28 year prior to the calendar year in which the reorganization  
29 will take effect.

30 2. The county commissioner of elections shall give notice  
31 of the election by one publication in the same newspaper in  
32 which previous notices have been published regarding the  
33 proposed school reorganization, and in addition, if more than  
34 one county is involved, by one publication in a legal newspaper  
35 in each county other than that of the first publication. The

1 publication shall be not less than four nor more than twenty  
2 days prior to the election. If the decision published pursuant  
3 to [section 275.15](#) ~~or 275.16~~ includes a description of the  
4 proposed school corporation and a description of the director  
5 districts, if any, the notice for election and the ballot do  
6 not need to include these descriptions. Notice for an election  
7 shall not be published until the expiration of time for appeal,  
8 which shall be the same as that provided in [section 275.15](#) ~~or~~  
9 [275.16](#), ~~whichever is applicable~~; and if there is an appeal, not  
10 until the appeal has been disposed of.

11 3. ~~The area education agency administrator~~ director of the  
12 department of education shall furnish to the commissioner a  
13 map of the proposed reorganized area which must be approved by  
14 the commissioner as suitable for posting. The map shall be  
15 displayed prominently in at least one place within the voting  
16 precinct, and inside each voting booth.

17 Sec. 108. Section 275.22, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
18 follows:

19 **275.22 Canvass and return.**

20 The canvass shall be conducted pursuant to section  
21 50.24. The county commissioner of elections or controlling  
22 commissioner shall certify the results of the election to the  
23 ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of the department  
24 of education. If the majority of the votes cast by the  
25 registered voters is in favor of the proposition, as provided  
26 in [section 275.20](#), a new school corporation shall be organized.  
27 If the majority of votes cast is opposed to the proposition,  
28 a new petition describing the identical or similar boundaries  
29 shall not be filed for at least six months from the date of  
30 the election. If territory is excluded from the reorganized  
31 district, action pursuant to [section 274.37](#) shall be taken  
32 prior to the effective date of reorganization. The secretary  
33 of the new school corporation shall file a written description  
34 of the boundaries as provided in [section 274.4](#).

35 Sec. 109. Section 275.23A, subsection 2, Code 2024, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 2. Following each federal decennial census the school  
3 board shall determine whether the existing director district  
4 boundaries meet the standards in [subsection 1](#) according to  
5 the most recent federal decennial census. In addition to the  
6 authority granted to voters to change the number of directors  
7 or method of election as provided in [sections 275.35, 275.36,](#)  
8 [and 278.1](#), the board of directors of a school district may,  
9 following a federal decennial census, by resolution and  
10 in accordance with [this section](#), authorize a change in the  
11 method of election as set forth in section 275.12, subsection  
12 2, or a change to either five or seven directors after the  
13 board conducts a hearing on the resolution. If the board  
14 proposes to change the number of directors from seven to five  
15 directors, the resolution shall include a plan for reducing  
16 the number of directors. If the board proposes to increase  
17 the number of directors to seven directors, two directors  
18 shall be added according to the procedure described in section  
19 277.23, subsection 2. If necessary, the board of directors  
20 shall redraw the director district boundaries. The director  
21 district boundaries shall be described in the resolution  
22 adopted by the school board. The resolution shall be adopted  
23 no earlier than November 15 of the second year immediately  
24 following the year in which the federal decennial census is  
25 taken and no later than May 15 of the third year immediately  
26 following the year in which the federal decennial census  
27 is taken. A copy of the plan shall be filed with the area  
28 ~~education agency administrator of the area education agency in~~  
29 ~~which the school's electors reside~~ director of the department  
30 of education. If the board does not provide for an election  
31 as provided in [sections 275.35, 275.36, and 278.1](#) and adopts  
32 a resolution to change the number of directors or method of  
33 election in accordance with [this subsection](#), the district  
34 shall change the number of directors or method of election as  
35 provided unless, within twenty-eight days following the action

1 of the board, the secretary of the board receives a petition  
2 containing the required number of signatures, asking that an  
3 election be called to approve or disapprove the action of  
4 the board in adopting the resolution. The petition must be  
5 signed by eligible electors equal in number to not less than  
6 one hundred or thirty percent of the number of voters at the  
7 last preceding regular school election, whichever is greater.  
8 The board shall either rescind its action or direct the  
9 county commissioner of elections to submit the question to the  
10 registered voters of the school district at an election held  
11 on a date specified in [section 39.2, subsection 4](#), paragraph  
12 "c". If a majority of those voting on the question at the  
13 election favors disapproval of the action of the board, the  
14 district shall not change the number of directors or method of  
15 election. If a majority of those voting on the question does  
16 not favor disapproval of the action, the board shall certify  
17 the results of the election to the department of management and  
18 the district shall change the number of directors or method of  
19 election as provided in [this subsection](#). At the expiration of  
20 the twenty-eight-day period, if no petition is filed, the board  
21 shall certify its action to the department of management and  
22 the district shall change the number of directors or method of  
23 election as provided in [this subsection](#).

24 Sec. 110. Section 275.25, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
25 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 a. If the proposition to establish a new school district  
27 carries under the method provided in [this chapter](#), the area  
28 ~~education agency administrator with whom the petition was filed~~  
29 director of the department of education shall give written  
30 notice of a proposed date for a special election for directors  
31 of the newly formed school district to the commissioner  
32 of elections of the county in the district involved in the  
33 reorganization which has the greatest taxable base. The  
34 proposed date shall be as soon as possible pursuant to section  
35 39.2, subsections 1 and 2, and section 47.6, subsections 1



1 and 2, but not later than the third Tuesday in January of the  
2 calendar year in which the reorganization takes effect.

3 Sec. 111. Section 275.25, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
4 2024, is amended to read as follows:

5 b. The county board of supervisors shall canvass the votes  
6 and the county commissioner of elections shall report the  
7 results to the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of  
8 the department of education who shall notify the persons who  
9 are elected directors.

10 Sec. 112. Section 275.25, subsection 4, Code 2024, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 4. The board of the newly formed district shall organize  
13 within fifteen days after the special election upon the call  
14 of the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of the  
15 department of education. The new board shall have control of  
16 the employment of personnel for the newly formed district for  
17 the next following school year under [section 275.33](#). Following  
18 the first organizational meeting of the board of the newly  
19 formed district, the board may establish policy, organize  
20 curriculum, enter into contracts, complete planning, and take  
21 action as necessary for the efficient management of the newly  
22 formed community school district.

23 Sec. 113. Section 275.26, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **275.26 Payment of expenses.**

26 1. If a district is established or changes its boundaries it  
27 shall pay all expenses incurred by the ~~area education agency~~  
28 ~~administrator and the area education agency board~~ department  
29 of education in connection with the proceedings. The county  
30 commissioner of elections shall assess the costs of the  
31 election against the district as provided in [section 47.3](#). If  
32 the proposition is dismissed or defeated at the election, all  
33 expenses shall be apportioned among the several districts in  
34 proportion to the assessed valuation of property therein.

35 2. If the proposed district or boundary change embraces

1 territory in more than one ~~area education agency school~~  
2 district, such expenses shall be certified to and, if  
3 necessary, apportioned among the several districts by the ~~joint~~  
4 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education. ~~If in~~  
5 ~~only one agency, the certification shall be made by the agency~~  
6 ~~administrator.~~

7 3. The respective boards to which such expenses are  
8 certified shall audit and order the same paid from the general  
9 fund. In the event of failure of any board to so audit and  
10 pay the expenses certified to it, the ~~area education agency~~  
11 ~~administrator~~ director of the department of education shall  
12 certify the expenses to the county auditor in the same manner  
13 as is provided for tuition claims in [section 282.21](#) and the  
14 funds shall be transferred by the county treasurer from the  
15 ~~debtor district to the agency board~~ department of education for  
16 payment of said expenses.

17 Sec. 114. Section 275.28, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
18 follows:

19 **275.28 Plan of division of assets and liabilities.**

20 In addition to setting up the territory to comprise the  
21 reorganized districts, a reorganization petition shall provide  
22 for a division of assets and liabilities of the districts  
23 affected among the reorganized districts. However, if  
24 territory is excluded from the reorganized district by the  
25 petition or by the ~~area education agency board of directors~~  
26 director of the department of education, the division of all  
27 assets and liabilities shall be made under the provisions of  
28 sections 275.29 ~~through~~ and 275.31.

29 Sec. 115. Section 275.39, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
30 follows:

31 **275.39 Excluded territory included in new petition.**

32 Territory described in the petition of a proposed  
33 reorganization which has been set out of the proposed  
34 reorganization ~~by the area education agency board or the joint~~  
35 ~~boards~~ and in the event of an appeal, after the decision of the

1 director of the department of education or the courts, may be  
2 included in any new petition for reorganization.

3 Sec. 116. Section 275.41, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2024,  
4 are amended to read as follows:

5 1. As an alternative to the method specified in section  
6 275.25 for electing directors in a newly formed community  
7 school district, the procedure specified in [this section](#) may  
8 be used and if used, the petition filed under [section 275.12](#)  
9 shall state the number of directors on the initial board.  
10 If two districts are named in the petition, either five or  
11 seven directors shall serve on the initial board. If three  
12 or more districts are named in the petition, either seven or  
13 nine directors shall serve on the initial board. The petition  
14 shall specify the number of directors to be retained from each  
15 district, and those numbers shall be proportionate to the  
16 populations of the districts. If the exclusion of territory  
17 from a reorganization affects the proportionate balance  
18 of directors among the affected districts specified in the  
19 petition, or if the proposal specified in the petition does not  
20 comply with the requirement for proportionate representation,  
21 the area education board director of the department of  
22 education shall modify the proposal. However, all districts  
23 affected shall retain at least one member.

24 4. The board of the newly formed district shall organize  
25 within forty-five days after the approval of the merger upon  
26 the call of the area education agency administrator director  
27 of the department of education. The new board shall have  
28 control of the employment of all personnel for the newly  
29 formed district for the ensuing school year. Following the  
30 organization of the new board the board shall have authority to  
31 establish policy, organize curriculum, enter into contracts and  
32 complete such planning and take such action as is essential for  
33 the efficient management of the newly formed community school  
34 district.

35 Sec. 117. Section 275.51, subsection 4, Code 2024, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 4. The board of the school district shall certify to  
3 the ~~area education agency board~~ director of the department  
4 of education that a commission has been formed, the  
5 names and addresses of commission members, and that the  
6 commission members represent the various geographic areas and  
7 socioeconomic factors present in the district.

8 Sec. 118. Section 275.52, subsection 3, Code 2024, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 3. The commission may seek assistance from the ~~area~~  
11 ~~education agency and the~~ department of education.

12 Sec. 119. Section 275.54, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code  
13 2024, is amended to read as follows:

14 a. If the board of a district to which area of the  
15 dissolving school district will be attached objects to  
16 the division of assets and liabilities contained in the  
17 dissolution proposal, the matter shall be decided by a panel  
18 of disinterested arbitrators. The panel shall consist of one  
19 arbitrator selected jointly by affected districts objecting  
20 to the provisions of the dissolution proposal, one selected  
21 jointly by the affected districts in favor of the provisions of  
22 the dissolution proposal, and one selected by the dissolving  
23 district. If the number of arbitrators selected is even, a  
24 disinterested arbitrator shall be selected by the ~~administrator~~  
25 ~~of the area education agency to which the dissolving district~~  
26 ~~belongs~~ director of the department of education. The decision  
27 of the arbitrators shall be made in writing and filed with  
28 the secretary of each affected school district. A party to  
29 the proceedings may appeal the decision to the district court  
30 by serving notice on the secretary of each affected school  
31 district within twenty days after the decision is filed.  
32 The appeal shall be tried in equity and a decree entered  
33 determining the entire matter, including the levy, collection,  
34 and distribution of any necessary taxes.

35 Sec. 120. Section 276.10, subsection 5, Code 2024, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 5. The school districts may cooperate with community  
3 colleges, and institutions under the control of the state board  
4 of regents, ~~and area education agencies~~ in providing community  
5 education programs.

6 Sec. 121. Section 279.6, subsection 1, paragraph b,  
7 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

8 (4) Notwithstanding any requirement of this paragraph to  
9 the contrary, when the board is reduced below a quorum, the  
10 secretary of the board, or if there is no secretary, the ~~area~~  
11 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of  
12 education, shall call a special election in the district,  
13 subdistrict, or subdistricts, as the case may be, to fill the  
14 vacancies.

15 Sec. 122. Section 279.7, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
16 to read as follows:

17 1. If a vacancy or vacancies occur among the elective  
18 officers or members of a school board and the remaining members  
19 of the board have not filled the vacancy within thirty days  
20 after the vacancy occurs or if a valid petition is submitted  
21 to the secretary of the board pursuant to section 279.6,  
22 subsection 1, or when the board is reduced below a quorum,  
23 the secretary of the board, or if there is no secretary,  
24 the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of the  
25 department of education, shall call a special election in the  
26 district, subdistrict, or subdistricts, as the case may be,  
27 to fill the vacancy or vacancies. The county commissioner of  
28 elections shall publish the notices required by law for special  
29 elections, and the election shall be held not sooner than  
30 thirty days nor later than forty days after the thirtieth day  
31 following the day the vacancy occurs. If the secretary fails  
32 for more than three days to call an election, the ~~administrator~~  
33 director of the department of education shall call it.

34 Sec. 123. Section 279.23, subsection 4, Code 2024, is  
35 amended to read as follows:

1 4. For purposes of [this section](#) and [sections 279.23A](#),  
2 [279.24](#), and [279.25](#), the term "administrator" includes school  
3 superintendents, assistant superintendents, educational  
4 directors employed by school districts for grades kindergarten  
5 through twelve, ~~educational directors employed by area~~  
6 ~~education agencies under [chapter 273](#)~~, principals, assistant  
7 principals, other certified school supervisors employed  
8 by school districts for grades kindergarten through twelve  
9 as defined under [section 20.4](#), and other certified school  
10 supervisors employed by area education agencies under chapter  
11 273. For purposes of [this section](#) and [sections 279.23A](#),  
12 [279.24](#), and [279.25](#), with regard to community college employees,  
13 "administrator" includes the administrator of an instructional  
14 division or an area of instructional responsibility, and the  
15 administrator of an instructional unit, department, or section.

16 Sec. 124. Section 279.30, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 **279.30 Payments — exceptions.**

19 Each payment must be made payable to the person entitled to  
20 receive the money or deposited directly into an account at a  
21 financial institution, as defined in [section 527.2](#), specified  
22 by the person entitled to receive the money. The board of  
23 directors of a school district or an executive director of  
24 an area education agency may by resolution authorize the  
25 secretary, upon approval of the superintendent or designee,  
26 or ~~administrator~~ executive director, in the case of an area  
27 education agency, to issue payments when the board of directors  
28 is not in session in payment of reasonable and necessary  
29 expenses, but only upon verified bills filed with the secretary  
30 or ~~administrator~~ executive director, and for the payment of  
31 salaries pursuant to the terms of a written contract. Each  
32 payment must be made payable only to the person performing  
33 the service or presenting the verified bill, and must state  
34 the purpose for which the payment is issued. All bills and  
35 salaries for which payments are issued prior to audit and

1 allowance by the board must be passed upon by the board of  
2 directors at the next meeting and be entered in the regular  
3 minutes of the secretary.

4 Sec. 125. Section 279.50, subsection 8, Code 2024, is  
5 amended by striking the subsection.

6 Sec. 126. Section 279.51, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
7 2024, is amended to read as follows:

8 a. Two hundred seventy-five thousand eight hundred  
9 sixty-four dollars of the funds appropriated shall be allocated  
10 to the ~~area education agencies~~ child development coordinating  
11 council to assist school districts in developing program plans  
12 and budgets under [this section](#) and to assist school districts  
13 and child development programs under [section 256A.3](#) in meeting  
14 other responsibilities in early childhood education.

15 Sec. 127. Section 279.51A, subsection 3, Code 2024, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 3. If the student whose behavior caused the classroom  
18 clearance has an individualized education program or a  
19 behavioral intervention plan, the classroom teacher shall call  
20 for and be included in a review and potential revision of  
21 the student's individualized education program or behavioral  
22 intervention plan by the student's individualized education  
23 program team. ~~The area education agency, in collaboration~~  
24 ~~with the school district and area education agency, if the~~  
25 area education agency is providing special education services  
26 to the school district pursuant to section 273.7A, may,  
27 when the parent or guardian meets with the individualized  
28 education program team during the reevaluation of the student's  
29 individualized education program, inform the parent or guardian  
30 of individual or family counseling services available in the  
31 area.

32 Sec. 128. Section 280.19A, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024,  
33 are amended to read as follows:

34 1. Each school district shall adopt a plan to provide  
35 alternative options education programs to students who are

1 either at risk of dropping out or have dropped out. An  
2 alternative options education program may be provided in a  
3 district, through a sharing agreement with a school in a  
4 contiguous district, or through an areawide program available  
5 at the community college serving the merged area in which  
6 the school district is located. ~~Each area education agency  
7 shall provide assistance in establishing a plan to provide  
8 alternative education options to students attending a public  
9 school in a district served by the agency.~~

10 2. When a plan is developed, the district shall be  
11 responsible for the operation of the program and shall  
12 ~~reimburse the area education agency for the actual costs  
13 incurred by the area education agency under this section.~~

14 Sec. 129. Section 280.29, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
15 2024, is amended to read as follows:

16 a. Work with an area education agency child welfare  
17 liaison, if the area education agency has employed such a  
18 liaison in accordance with section 273.2, subsection ~~10~~ 8, to  
19 develop systems to ease the enrollment transition of a child  
20 adjudicated under chapter 232 or receiving foster care services  
21 to another school.

22 Sec. 130. Section 280A.4, subsection 6, Code 2024, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 6. A school district, an accredited nonpublic school,  
25 an area education agency, the board of directors of a school  
26 district ~~or an area education agency~~, authorities in charge of  
27 the accredited nonpublic school, and employees of the school  
28 district, accredited nonpublic school or area education agency,  
29 shall not be liable for any injury arising from the provision  
30 of voluntary behavioral health screenings or behavioral health  
31 services in accordance with this chapter, provided such person  
32 has acted reasonably and in good faith and in accordance with  
33 the provisions of this chapter.

34 Sec. 131. Section 282.7, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
35 to read as follows:



1 3. Notwithstanding [sections 28E.9](#) and [282.8](#), a school  
2 district may negotiate an agreement under [subsection 1](#) for  
3 attendance of its pupils in a school district located in a  
4 contiguous state subject to a reciprocal agreement by the two  
5 state boards in the manner provided in [this subsection](#). Prior  
6 to negotiating an agreement with the school district in the  
7 contiguous state, the board of directors shall file a written  
8 request with the state board of education for a determination  
9 whether the school district in the contiguous state meets  
10 requirements substantially similar to those required for  
11 accredited or approved school districts in this state ~~and~~  
12 ~~the school district receives or has available services~~  
13 ~~equivalent to those that would be provided in this state by~~  
14 ~~an area education agency~~. The school district shall also  
15 obtain approval by the department of education of the sharing  
16 proposal, before the agreement becomes effective. Six months  
17 before making the request for approval, the district shall  
18 request a feasibility study from the department of education.  
19 If the state board of this state and the corresponding  
20 state board in the contiguous state agree that the school  
21 districts of their respective states meet substantially similar  
22 requirements and have substantially similar services available  
23 to the school district, and if the Iowa department of education  
24 approves the proposed contract, the two state boards may sign  
25 a reciprocal agreement for attendance of their pupils in the  
26 school district of the other state, subject to the agreement  
27 signed between the boards of directors of the two districts.  
28 A school district that negotiates an agreement with a school  
29 district in a contiguous state under [this subsection](#) is not  
30 eligible for supplementary weighting under [section 257.11](#) as a  
31 result of that agreement.

32 Sec. 132. Section 284.2, subsection 9, Code 2024, is amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 9. "*School board*" means the board of directors of a school  
35 district, or a collaboration of boards of directors of school

1 ~~districts, or the board of directors of an area education~~  
2 ~~agency,~~ as the context requires.

3 Sec. 133. Section 284.3A, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,  
4 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

5 a. For the school year beginning July 1, 2009, if the  
6 licensed employees of a school district or area education  
7 agency receiving funds pursuant to [sections 257.10](#) and [257.37A](#)  
8 are organized under [chapter 20](#) for collective bargaining  
9 purposes, the school board or the area education agency and  
10 the certified bargaining representative for the licensed  
11 employees shall negotiate the distribution of the funds  
12 among the teachers employed by the school district or area  
13 education agency according to [chapter 20](#). The department of  
14 administrative services shall be the chief negotiator for the  
15 area education agency.

16 b. If the licensed employees of a school district or area  
17 education agency are not organized for collective bargaining  
18 purposes, the board of directors or the area education agency  
19 shall determine the method of distribution of such funds.

20 Sec. 134. Section 284.3A, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code  
21 2024, is amended to read as follows:

22 c. If the licensed employees of a school district or area  
23 education agency are not organized for collective bargaining  
24 purposes, the board of directors or the area education agency  
25 shall create the new combined salary. The board of directors  
26 or the area education agency shall determine adjustments in  
27 salaries resulting from a reduction in the teacher salary  
28 supplement per pupil amount.

29 Sec. 135. Section 284.6, subsections 6 and 10, Code 2024,  
30 are amended to read as follows:

31 6. School districts, a consortium of school districts,  
32 ~~area education agencies,~~ higher education institutions,  
33 and other public or private entities including professional  
34 associations may be approved by the state board to provide  
35 teacher professional development. The professional development

1 program or offering shall, at minimum, meet the requirements  
2 of subsection 1. The state board shall adopt rules for the  
3 approval of professional development providers and standards  
4 for the district development plan.

5 10. If funds are allocated for purposes of professional  
6 development pursuant to section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph  
7 "c", the department shall, ~~in collaboration with the area~~  
8 ~~education agencies,~~ establish teacher development academies for  
9 school-based teams of teachers and instructional leaders. Each  
10 academy shall include an institute and shall provide follow-up  
11 training and coaching.

12 Sec. 136. Section 284.6A, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
13 2024, is amended to read as follows:

14 a. A school district or accredited nonpublic school, or a  
15 collaborative of one or more school districts, and accredited  
16 nonpublic schools, ~~and area education agencies,~~ may apply to  
17 the department, in the manner prescribed by the department, to  
18 receive moneys from the fund to provide proven professional  
19 development activities for Iowa teachers in the area of  
20 computer science education.

21 Sec. 137. Section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph d,  
22 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

23 (3) Of the moneys allocated to the department for the  
24 purposes of this paragraph "d", for each fiscal year included  
25 in subparagraph (1), not more than six hundred twenty-six  
26 thousand one hundred ninety-one dollars shall be used by  
27 the department for the development of a delivery system, ~~in~~  
28 ~~collaboration with area education agencies,~~ to assist in  
29 implementing the career paths and leadership roles considered  
30 pursuant to sections 284.15, 284.16, and 284.17, including but  
31 not limited to planning grants to school districts and area  
32 education agencies, technical assistance for the department,  
33 technical assistance for districts and area education agencies,  
34 training and staff development, and the contracting of external  
35 expertise and services. In using moneys allocated for purposes

1 of this subparagraph (3), the department shall give priority to  
2 school districts with certified enrollments of fewer than six  
3 hundred students. A portion of the moneys allocated annually  
4 to the department for purposes of this subparagraph (3) may be  
5 used by the department for administrative purposes and for not  
6 more than five full-time equivalent positions.

7 Sec. 138. Section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph f, Code  
8 2024, is amended to read as follows:

9 *f.* For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
10 June 30, 2024, to the department an amount up to six hundred  
11 twenty-six thousand one hundred ninety-one dollars shall be  
12 used by the department for a delivery system, ~~in collaboration~~  
13 ~~with area education agencies,~~ to assist in implementing the  
14 career paths and leadership roles considered pursuant to  
15 sections 284.15, 284.16, and 284.17, including but not limited  
16 to planning grants to school districts and area education  
17 agencies, technical assistance for the department, technical  
18 assistance for districts and area education agencies, training  
19 and staff development, and the contracting of external  
20 expertise and services. In using moneys allocated for purposes  
21 of this paragraph, the department shall give priority to school  
22 districts with certified enrollments of fewer than six hundred  
23 students. A portion of the moneys allocated annually to the  
24 department for purposes of this paragraph may be used by the  
25 department for administrative purposes and for not more than  
26 five full-time equivalent positions.

27 Sec. 139. Section 284.15, subsection 12, paragraph a,  
28 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (d), Code 2024, is  
29 amended to read as follows:

30 (d) One person appointed jointly by the ~~administrators~~  
31 executive directors of the area education agencies created  
32 under [chapter 273](#).

33 Sec. 140. Section 284.16, subsection 1, paragraph c,  
34 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

35 (4) Instructional coaching shall include detailed

1 preliminary discussions as to areas in which the teachers  
2 being coached desire to improve; formulation of an action  
3 plan to bring about such improvement; in-class supervision  
4 by the instructional coach; postclass discussion of  
5 strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for improvement; and  
6 dialogue between the instructional coach and students and  
7 school officials regarding the teachers being coached. An  
8 ~~instructional coach shall coordinate instructional coaching~~  
9 ~~activities relating to training and professional development~~  
10 ~~with an area education agency where appropriate.~~

11 Sec. 141. Section 284A.2, subsections 1 and 7, Code 2024,  
12 are amended to read as follows:

13 1. "*Administrator*" means an individual holding a  
14 professional administrator license issued under chapter  
15 256, subchapter VII, part 3, who is employed in a school  
16 district administrative position by a school district ~~or area~~  
17 ~~education agency~~ pursuant to a contract issued by a board of  
18 directors under [section 279.23](#) and is engaged in instructional  
19 leadership. An administrator may be employed in both an  
20 administrative and a nonadministrative position by a board of  
21 directors and shall be considered a part-time administrator  
22 for the portion of time that the individual is employed in an  
23 administrative position.

24 7. "*Mentor*" means an individual employed by a school  
25 district ~~or area education agency~~ as a school district  
26 administrator or a retired administrator who holds a valid  
27 license issued under [chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3](#). The  
28 individual must have a record of four years of successful  
29 administrative experience and must demonstrate professional  
30 commitment to both the improvement of teaching and learning and  
31 the development of beginning administrators.

32 Sec. 142. Section 284A.5, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2024,  
33 are amended to read as follows:

34 4. A beginning administrator shall be informed by the school  
35 district ~~or the area education agency~~, prior to the beginning

1 administrator's participation in a mentoring and induction  
2 program, of the criteria upon which the administrator will be  
3 evaluated and of the evaluation process utilized by the school  
4 district ~~or area education agency~~.

5 5. By the end of a beginning administrator's first year of  
6 employment, the beginning administrator may be comprehensively  
7 evaluated to determine if the administrator meets expectations  
8 to move to a professional administrator license, where  
9 appropriate. The school district ~~or area education agency~~ that  
10 employs a beginning administrator shall recommend the beginning  
11 administrator for a professional administrator license, where  
12 appropriate, if the beginning administrator is determined  
13 through a comprehensive evaluation to demonstrate competence in  
14 the Iowa standards for school administrators adopted pursuant  
15 to [section 256.7, subsection 27](#). A school district ~~or area~~  
16 ~~education agency~~ may allow a beginning administrator a second  
17 year to demonstrate competence in the Iowa standards for school  
18 administrators if, after conducting a comprehensive evaluation,  
19 the school district ~~or area education agency~~ determines  
20 that the administrator is likely to successfully demonstrate  
21 competence in the Iowa standards for school administrators by  
22 the end of the second year. Upon notification by the school  
23 district ~~or area education agency~~, the board of educational  
24 examiners shall grant a beginning administrator who has been  
25 allowed a second year to demonstrate competence a one-year  
26 extension of the beginning administrator's initial license. An  
27 administrator granted a second year to demonstrate competence  
28 shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation at the end of the  
29 second year.

30 Sec. 143. Section 284A.6, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024,  
31 are amended to read as follows:

32 1. Each school district shall be responsible for the  
33 provision of professional growth programming for individuals  
34 employed in a school district administrative position by the  
35 school district ~~or area education agency~~ as deemed appropriate

1 by the board of directors of the school district ~~or area~~  
2 ~~education agency~~. School districts may collaborate with other  
3 educational stakeholders including other school districts,  
4 ~~area education agencies~~, professional organizations, higher  
5 education institutions, and private providers regarding the  
6 provision of professional development for school district  
7 administrators. Professional development programming for  
8 school district administrators may include support that meets  
9 the professional development needs of individual administrators  
10 aligned to the Iowa standards for school administrators adopted  
11 pursuant to [section 256.7, subsection 27](#), and meets individual  
12 administrator professional development plans.

13 2. In cooperation with the administrator's evaluator,  
14 the administrator who has a professional administrator  
15 license issued by the board of educational examiners pursuant  
16 to [chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3](#), and is employed  
17 by a school district ~~or area education agency~~ in a school  
18 district administrative position shall develop an individual  
19 administrator professional development plan. The purpose  
20 of the plan is to promote individual and group professional  
21 development. The individual plan shall be based, at a minimum,  
22 on the needs of the administrator, the Iowa standards for  
23 school administrators adopted pursuant to [section 256.7,](#)  
24 [subsection 27](#), and the student achievement goals of the  
25 attendance center and the school district.

26 Sec. 144. Section 285.1, subsections 6, 7, 9, and 13, Code  
27 2024, are amended to read as follows:

28 6. When the school designated for attendance of pupils  
29 is engaged in the transportation of pupils, the sending or  
30 designating school shall use these facilities and pay the pro  
31 rata cost of transportation except that a district sending  
32 pupils to another school may make other arrangements when it  
33 can be shown that such arrangements will be more efficient and  
34 economical than to use facilities of the receiving school,  
35 ~~providing such arrangements are approved by the board of the~~

1 ~~area education agency.~~

2 7. If a local board closes either elementary or high school  
3 facilities ~~and is approved by the board of the area education~~  
4 ~~agency to operate its own transportation equipment,~~ the full  
5 cost of transportation shall be paid by the board for all  
6 pupils living beyond the statutory walking distance from the  
7 school designated for attendance.

8 9. Distance to school or to a bus route shall in all  
9 cases be measured on the public highway only and over the  
10 most passable and safest route ~~as determined by the area~~  
11 ~~education agency board,~~ starting in the roadway opposite the  
12 private entrance to the residence of the pupil and ending in  
13 the roadway opposite the entrance to the school grounds or  
14 designated point on bus route.

15 13. When a local board fails to pay transportation costs  
16 due to another school for transportation service rendered, the  
17 board of the creditor corporation shall file a sworn statement  
18 with the ~~area education agency board~~ department of education  
19 specifying the amount due. The ~~agency board~~ department of  
20 education shall check such claim and if the claim is valid  
21 shall certify to the county auditor. The auditor shall  
22 transmit to the county treasurer an order directing the county  
23 treasurer to transfer the amount of such claim from the funds  
24 of the debtor corporation to the creditor corporation and the  
25 treasurer shall pay the same accordingly.

26 Sec. 145. Section 285.1, subsection 16, paragraphs b and c,  
27 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

28 b. As an alternative to paragraph "a" of [this subsection](#),  
29 ~~subject to [section 285.9, subsection 3](#),~~ where practicable,  
30 and at the option of the public school district in which  
31 a nonpublic school pupil resides, the school district  
32 may transport a nonpublic school pupil to a nonpublic  
33 school located outside the boundary lines of the public  
34 school district if the nonpublic school is located in a  
35 school district contiguous to the school district which is



1 transporting the nonpublic school pupils, or may contract with  
2 the contiguous public school district in which a nonpublic  
3 school is located for the contiguous school district to  
4 transport the nonpublic school pupils to the nonpublic school  
5 of attendance within the boundary lines of the contiguous  
6 school district.

7 *c.* If the nonpublic school designated for attendance of  
8 a pupil is located outside the boundary line of the school  
9 district of the pupil's residence and the district of residence  
10 meets the requirements of subsections 14, 15, and this  
11 subsection by using subsection 17, paragraph "c", and the  
12 district in which the nonpublic school is located is contiguous  
13 to the district of the pupil's residence and is willing to  
14 provide transportation under subsection 17, paragraph "a" or  
15 "b", the district in which the nonpublic school is located may  
16 provide transportation services, ~~subject to section 285.9,~~  
17 ~~subsection 3,~~ and may make the claim for reimbursement under  
18 section 285.2. The district in which the nonpublic school is  
19 located shall notify the district of the pupil's residence that  
20 it is making the claim for reimbursement, and the district of  
21 the pupil's residence shall be relieved of the requirement  
22 for providing transportation and shall not make a claim for  
23 reimbursement for those nonpublic school pupils for which a  
24 claim is filed by the district in which the nonpublic school  
25 is located.

26 Sec. 146. Section 285.2, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 4. *a.* Claims shall be allowed where practical, and at the  
29 option of the public school district of the pupil's residence,  
30 ~~subject to approval by the area education agency of the pupil's~~  
31 ~~residence, under section 285.9, subsection 3,~~ the public school  
32 district of the pupil's residence may transport a pupil to a  
33 school located in a contiguous public school district outside  
34 the boundary lines of the public school district of the pupil's  
35 residence.

1     *b.* The public school district of the pupil's residence  
2 may contract with the contiguous public school district or  
3 with a private contractor under [section 285.5](#) to transport the  
4 pupils to the school of attendance within the boundary lines  
5 of the contiguous public school district. The public school  
6 district in which the pupil resides may contract with the  
7 contiguous public school district or with a private contractor  
8 under [section 285.5](#) to transport the pupil from the pupil's  
9 residence or from designated school bus collection locations to  
10 the school located within the boundary lines of the contiguous  
11 public school district, ~~subject to the approval of the area~~  
12 ~~education agency of the pupil's residence.~~ The public school  
13 district of the pupil's residence may utilize the reimbursement  
14 provisions of [section 285.1, subsection 3.](#)

15     Sec. 147. Section 285.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
16 follows:

17     **285.4 Pupils sent to another district.**

18     ~~1.~~ When a board closes its elementary school facilities for  
19 lack of pupils or by action of the board, it shall, if there  
20 is a school bus service available in the area, designate for  
21 attendance the school operating the buses, provided the board  
22 of such school is willing to receive them and the facilities  
23 and curricular offerings are adequate. The board of the  
24 district where the pupils reside may ~~with the approval of the~~  
25 ~~area education agency board,~~ subject to legal limitations and  
26 established uniform standards, designate another rural school  
27 and provide their own transportation if the transportation  
28 costs will be less than to use the established bus service.

29     ~~2.~~ ~~All designations must be submitted to the area education~~  
30 ~~agency board on or before July 15, for review and approval.~~  
31 ~~The agency board shall after due investigation alter or change~~  
32 ~~designations to make them conform to legal requirements and~~  
33 ~~established uniform standards for making designations and for~~  
34 ~~locating and establishing bus routes. After designations are~~  
35 ~~made, they will remain the same from year to year except that~~

1 ~~on or before July 15, of each year, the rural board or parents~~  
2 ~~may petition the agency board for a change of designation to~~  
3 ~~another school. Appeals from the decision of the agency board~~  
4 ~~on designations may be made by either the parents or board to~~  
5 ~~the director of the department of education as provided in~~  
6 ~~section 285.12 and section 285.13.~~

7 Sec. 148. Section 285.8, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
8 by striking the subsection.

9 Sec. 149. Section 285.8, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 3. Establish uniform standards for locating and operating  
12 bus routes and for the protection of the health and safety of  
13 pupils transported, and provide technical assistance on the  
14 implementation of those standards.

15 Sec. 150. Section 285.12, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
16 follows:

17 **285.12 Disputes — hearings and appeals.**

18 In the event of a disagreement between a school patron and  
19 the board of the school district, or between the boards of two  
20 or more school districts, the ~~patron~~ if dissatisfied with the  
21 ~~decision of the district board,~~ party may appeal to the area  
22 ~~education agency board, notifying the secretary of the district~~  
23 ~~in writing within ten days of the decision of the board and by~~  
24 ~~filing an affidavit of appeal with the agency board within the~~  
25 ~~ten-day period~~ director of the department of education within  
26 ten days of the decision of the board of the school district  
27 by filing an affidavit of appeal with the board of the school  
28 district. The affidavit of appeal shall include the reasons  
29 for the appeal and points at issue. The secretary of the local  
30 board on receiving notice of appeal shall certify all papers  
31 to the ~~agency board which~~ director, who shall hear the appeal  
32 within ten days of the receipt of the papers and decide it  
33 within three days of the conclusion of the hearing and shall  
34 immediately notify all parties of ~~its~~ the director's decision  
35 and return all papers. ~~Either party may appeal the decision of~~

~~1 the agency board to the director of the department of education~~  
~~2 by notifying the opposite party and the agency administrator~~  
~~3 in writing within five days after receipt of notice of the~~  
~~4 decision of the agency board and by filing with the director~~  
~~5 of the department of education an affidavit of appeal, reasons~~  
~~6 for appeal, and the facts involved in the disagreement within~~  
~~7 five days after receipt of notice of the decision of the agency~~  
~~8 board. The agency administrator shall, within ten days of~~  
~~9 receipt of the notice, file with the director all records and~~  
~~10 papers pertaining to the case, including action of the agency~~  
~~11 board. The director shall hear the appeal within fifteen~~  
~~12 days of the filing of the records in the director's office,~~  
~~13 notifying all parties and the agency administrator of the date~~  
~~14 and time of hearing. The director shall notify all parties of~~  
~~15 the decision and return all papers with a copy of the decision~~  
~~16 to the agency administrator. The decision of the director~~  
~~17 shall be subject to judicial review in accordance with chapter~~  
~~18 17A. Pending final order made by the director, upon any appeal~~  
~~19 prosecuted to such director, the order of the agency board of~~  
~~20 the school district from which the appeal is taken shall be~~  
~~21 operative and be in full force and effect.~~

22 Sec. 151. Section 285.15, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
23 follows:

24 **285.15 Forfeiture of reimbursement rights.**

25 The failure of any local district to comply with the  
26 provisions of **this chapter** or any other laws relating to the  
27 transportation of pupils, or any rules made by the department  
28 of education under **this chapter** ~~or the final decisions of the~~  
29 ~~area education agency board,~~ or the final decisions of the  
30 department of education shall during the period such failure  
31 to comply existed forfeit the rights to collect transportation  
32 costs from school or parents while operating in such illegal  
33 manner. Any superintendent, board, or board member who  
34 knowingly operates or permits to be operated any school  
35 bus transporting public school pupils in violation of any

1 school transportation law shall be deemed guilty of a simple  
2 misdemeanor.

3 Sec. 152. Section 297.8, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **297.8 Emergency repairs.**

6 When emergency repairs costing more than the competitive  
7 bid threshold in [section 26.3](#), or as established in section  
8 314.1B, are necessary in order to ensure the continued use  
9 of any school or school facility, the provisions of the law  
10 with reference to advertising for bids shall not apply, and in  
11 that event the board may contract for such emergency repairs  
12 without advertising for bids. However, before such emergency  
13 repairs can be made to any schoolhouse or school facility,  
14 it shall be necessary to procure a certificate from the ~~area~~  
15 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of  
16 education that such emergency repairs are necessary to ensure  
17 the continued use of the school or school facility.

18 Sec. 153. Section 297.22, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
19 2024, is amended to read as follows:

20 a. The board of directors of a school district may sell,  
21 lease, exchange, give, or grant, and accept any interest  
22 in real property to, with, or from a county, municipal  
23 corporation, school district, township, or ~~area education~~  
24 ~~agency~~ the department of administrative services if the real  
25 property is within the jurisdiction of both the grantor and  
26 grantee.

27 Sec. 154. Section 299.3, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
28 follows:

29 **299.3 Reports from accredited nonpublic schools.**

30 Within ten days from receipt of notice from the secretary of  
31 the school district within which an accredited nonpublic school  
32 is conducted, the principal of the accredited nonpublic school  
33 shall, once during each school year, and at any time when  
34 requested in individual cases, furnish to the secretary of the  
35 public school district, within which the accredited nonpublic

1 school is located, a certificate and report in duplicate on  
2 forms provided by the public school district of the names and  
3 ages of each pupil of the accredited nonpublic school who  
4 is of compulsory attendance age and the grade level of each  
5 pupil, during the preceding year and from the time of the last  
6 preceding report to the time at which a report is required. In  
7 addition, the report shall identify all students of compulsory  
8 attendance age who were truant as defined by law or school  
9 policy and the number of days of truancy for the period covered  
10 by the report, and children who dropped out, withdrew from  
11 enrollment, or transferred to another Iowa school and the date  
12 their attendance ceased at the accredited nonpublic school.  
13 The secretary shall retain ~~one of the reports and file the~~  
14 ~~other with the secretary of the area education agency.~~

15 Sec. 155. Section 299.4, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
16 to read as follows:

17 1. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child  
18 who is of compulsory attendance age, who places the child  
19 under competent private instruction under [section 299A.2](#), not  
20 in an accredited school or a home school assistance program  
21 operated by a school district or accredited nonpublic school,  
22 shall furnish a report ~~in duplicate~~ on forms provided by the  
23 public school district, to the district by September 1 of the  
24 school year in which the child will be under competent private  
25 instruction. The secretary shall retain and file ~~one copy and~~  
26 ~~forward the other copy to the district's area education agency~~  
27 report. The report shall state the name and age of the child,  
28 the period of time during which the child has been or will be  
29 under competent private instruction for the year, an outline  
30 of the course of study, texts used, and the name and address  
31 of the instructor. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian  
32 of a child, who is placing the child under competent private  
33 instruction for the first time, shall also provide the district  
34 with evidence that the child has had the immunizations required  
35 under [section 139A.8](#), and, if the child is elementary school

1 age, a blood lead test in accordance with [section 135.105D](#).

2 The term "*outline of course of study*" shall include subjects  
3 covered, lesson plans, and time spent on the areas of study.

4 Sec. 156. Section 299A.4, subsections 3 and 6, Code 2024,  
5 are amended to read as follows:

6 3. The director of the department of education, or the  
7 director's designee, which may include a school district ~~or an~~  
8 ~~area education agency~~, shall conduct the evaluations required  
9 under [subsections 1 and 2](#) for children under competent private  
10 instruction. Evaluation shall occur at a time and a place to  
11 be determined by the person responsible for conducting the  
12 evaluation. Persons conducting the evaluations shall make  
13 every reasonable effort to conduct the evaluations at times and  
14 places which are convenient for the parent, guardian, or legal  
15 custodian.

16 6. A school district ~~or area education agency~~ shall, if  
17 requested, administer the annual achievement evaluation at no  
18 cost to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child  
19 being evaluated, and, in addition, the parent, guardian, or  
20 legal custodian is not required to reimburse the evaluating  
21 entity for costs incurred as a result of evaluation under  
22 section 299A.9. The administration of the annual achievement  
23 evaluation shall not constitute a dual enrollment purpose under  
24 section 299A.8.

25 Sec. 157. Section 301.28, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024,  
26 are amended to read as follows:

27 2. An area education agency executive director, officer,  
28 or teacher shall not act as an agent for school textbooks or  
29 school supplies, including sports apparel or equipment, in any  
30 transaction with a director, officer, or other staff member  
31 of the area education agency or any school district located  
32 within the area education agency during such time of office or  
33 employment.

34 3. A school district or area education agency executive  
35 director, officer, or teacher who acts as agent or dealer in

1 school textbooks or school supplies during the person's term  
2 of office or employment in violation of [this section](#) shall be  
3 deemed guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

4 Sec. 158. REPEAL. Sections 257.47, 257.48, 257.49, 275.16,  
5 275.27, 275.30, 285.9, and 285.13, Code 2024, are repealed.

6 DIVISION VII

7 CONFORMING CHANGES — MISCELLANEOUS

8 Sec. 159. Section 8A.202, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code  
9 2024, is amended to read as follows:

10 e. Develop and approve, in consultation with the area  
11 ~~education agency media centers and the commission~~, a  
12 biennial unified plan of service and service delivery for the  
13 department.

14 Sec. 160. Section 8A.203, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
15 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

16 (4) One member shall be employed as a librarian by a school  
17 district ~~or area education agency~~.

18 Sec. 161. Section 8D.13, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 3. The financing for the procurement costs for the entirety  
21 of Part I except for the communications connections between  
22 central switching and institutions under the control of  
23 the board of regents, and nonprofit institutions of higher  
24 education eligible for tuition grants, and for the video,  
25 data, and voice capacity for state agencies and for Part II  
26 and Part III, shall be provided by the state. The financing  
27 for the procurement and maintenance costs for Part III shall  
28 be provided by the state. A local school board, governing  
29 authority of a nonpublic school, or an area education agency  
30 ~~board~~ may elect to provide one hundred percent of the financing  
31 for the procurement and maintenance costs for Part III to  
32 become part of the network. The basis for the amount of state  
33 financing is one hundred percent of a single interactive  
34 audio and interactive video connection for Part III, and  
35 such data and voice capacity as is necessary. If a school



1 board, governing authority of a nonpublic school, or area  
2 education agency ~~board~~ elects to provide one hundred percent  
3 of the financing for the leasing costs for Part III, the  
4 school district or area education agency may become part of  
5 the network as soon as the network can reasonably connect the  
6 district or agency. A local school board, governing authority  
7 of a nonpublic school, or an area education agency ~~board~~ may  
8 also elect not to become part of the network. Construction of  
9 Part III, related to a school board, or governing authority  
10 of a nonpublic school, ~~or area education agency board~~ which  
11 provides one hundred percent of the financing for the leasing  
12 costs for Part III, may proceed as determined by the commission  
13 and consistent with the purpose of [this chapter](#).

14 Sec. 162. Section 73.18, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
15 follows:

16 **73.18 Notice of solicitation for bids — identification of**  
17 **targeted small businesses.**

18 The director of each agency or department, the ~~administrator~~  
19 executive director of each area education agency, the president  
20 of each community college, and the superintendent of each  
21 school district releasing a solicitation for bids or request  
22 for proposal under the targeted small business procurement goal  
23 program shall consult a directory of certified targeted small  
24 businesses produced by the economic development authority that  
25 lists all certified targeted small businesses by category of  
26 goods or services provided prior to or upon release of the  
27 solicitation and shall send a copy of the request for proposal  
28 or solicitation to any appropriate targeted small business  
29 listed in the directory. The economic development authority  
30 may charge the department, agency, area education agency,  
31 community college, or school district a reasonable fee to  
32 cover the cost of producing, distributing, and updating the  
33 directory.

34 Sec. 163. Section 74.1, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended  
35 by striking the subsection.

1     Sec. 164. Section 84A.16, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code  
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3     a. The department of workforce development shall  
4 establish and facilitate a steering committee comprised  
5 of representatives from the department of education, the  
6 economic development authority, the community colleges, the  
7 institutions under the control of the state board of regents,  
8 accredited private institutions, ~~area education agencies,~~  
9 school districts, the workplace learning connection, and an  
10 apprenticeship sponsor as defined in [section 84E.2](#). The  
11 steering committee shall be responsible for the development  
12 and implementation of the statewide work-based learning  
13 intermediary network.

14     Sec. 165. Section 143.1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
15 follows:

16     **143.1 Authority to employ.**

17     Any local board of health, area education agency ~~board,~~  
18 or the school board of any school district may employ public  
19 health nurses at periods each year and in numbers as deemed  
20 advisable. The council of any city, or the school board of  
21 any school district, or any of them acting in cooperation, may  
22 contract with any nonprofit nurses' association for public  
23 health nursing service. The compensation and expenses shall  
24 be paid out of the general fund of the political subdivision  
25 employing nurses.

26     Sec. 166. Section 216B.3, Code 2024, is amended by adding  
27 the following new subsection:

28     NEW SUBSECTION. 9A. Operate and manage a library loan  
29 program for the benefit of students enrolled in school  
30 districts and nonpublic schools in the state.

31     Sec. 167. Section 225C.51, subsection 1, paragraph e,  
32 subparagraph (5), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

33     (5) One member shall be an ~~administrator~~ executive director  
34 of an area education agency.

35     Sec. 168. Section 256A.2, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code

1 2024, is amended to read as follows:

2 c. An early childhood specialist of an area education agency  
3 selected by the area education agency ~~administrators~~ executive  
4 directors.

5 Sec. 169. Section 256B.2, subsection 5, Code 2024, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 5. Moneys received by the school district of the child's  
8 residence for the child's education, derived from moneys  
9 received through ~~chapter 257, this chapter,~~ and ~~section 273.9~~  
10 shall be paid by the school district of the child's residence  
11 to the appropriate education agency, private agency, or other  
12 school district providing special education for the child  
13 pursuant to contractual arrangements as provided in section  
14 273.3, subsections ~~5 3~~ and ~~6 4~~.

15 Sec. 170. Section 256B.3, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code  
16 2024, is amended to read as follows:

17 The division of special education within the department of  
18 education has the following duties and powers:

19 Sec. 171. Section 256B.3, subsections 1, 2, 7, and 8, Code  
20 2024, are amended to read as follows:

21 1. ~~To aid in the organization of special schools, classes~~  
22 ~~and instructional facilities for children requiring special~~  
23 ~~education, and to supervise the system of special education for~~  
24 children requiring special education.

25 2. To administer rules adopted by the state board that  
26 are consistent with ~~this chapter~~ for the approval of plans  
27 for special education programs and services submitted by the  
28 director of special education of the area education agency.

29 7. To initiate the establishment of classes for children  
30 requiring special education or home study services in  
31 hospitals, nursing, convalescent, juvenile and private homes,  
32 in cooperation with the management thereof and local school  
33 districts or area education agency ~~boards~~ agencies.

34 8. To cooperate with school districts or area education  
35 agency ~~boards~~ agencies in arranging for any child requiring

1 special education to attend school in a district other than  
2 the one in which the child resides when there is no available  
3 special school, class, or instruction in the districts in which  
4 the child resides.

5 Sec. 172. Section 256B.3, subsection 4, Code 2024, is  
6 amended by striking the subsection.

7 Sec. 173. Section 256B.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 **256B.4 Powers of board of directors — area education**  
10 **agencies.**

11 1. The board of directors of a school district or area  
12 education agency, with the approval of the director of the  
13 department of education, may provide special education  
14 programs and services as defined in [this chapter](#). If services  
15 are provided by the area education agency, the ~~board of~~  
16 ~~directors~~ executive director of the area education agency  
17 with the cooperation of the local school districts within its  
18 jurisdiction and the division of special education within the  
19 department of education may:

20 a. Establish and operate special education programs and  
21 classes for the education of children requiring special  
22 education.

23 b. ~~Acquire, maintain, and construct~~ Use facilities and  
24 property provided by the department of administrative services  
25 for the area education agencies in which to provide education,  
26 corrective services, and supportive services for children  
27 requiring special education.

28 c. Make arrangements with participating school districts for  
29 the provision of special education, corrective, and supportive  
30 services to the children requiring special education residing  
31 in the school districts.

32 d. Employ special education teachers and personnel required  
33 to furnish corrective or supportive services to children  
34 requiring special education services.

35 e. Provide transportation for children requiring special

1 education services that are in need of transportation in  
2 connection with any programs, classes, or services.

3 *f.* Receive, administer, and expend funds appropriated for  
4 its use.

5 *g.* Receive, administer, and expend the proceeds of any issue  
6 of school bonds or other bonds intended wholly or partly for  
7 its benefit.

8 *h.* Apply for, accept, and utilize grants, gifts, or other  
9 assistance.

10 *i.* Participate in, and make its employees eligible to  
11 participate in, any retirement system, group insurance system,  
12 or other program of employee benefits, on the same terms as  
13 govern school districts and their employees.

14 *j.* Do such other things as are necessary and incidental to  
15 the execution of any of its powers.

16 2. The board of directors of the local district or ~~the~~ an  
17 area education agency shall employ qualified teachers certified  
18 by the authority provided by law as teachers for children  
19 requiring such special education. The maximum number of pupils  
20 per teacher shall be determined by the board of directors of  
21 the local district or the area education agency ~~board~~, with the  
22 approval of the director of the department of education, in  
23 accordance with the rules and regulations of the state board  
24 of education.

25 3. The board of directors of the local district or the area  
26 education agency, with the approval of the director of the  
27 department of education, may establish and operate one or more  
28 special education centers to provide diagnostic, therapeutic,  
29 corrective, and other services, on a more comprehensive,  
30 expert, economical, and efficient basis than can be reasonably  
31 provided by a single school district. The services, if offered  
32 by the area education agency ~~board~~, may be provided in the  
33 regular schools using personnel and equipment of the area  
34 education agency or, if it is impractical or inefficient to  
35 provide them on the premises of a regular school, the area

1 education agency may provide services in its own facilities.  
2 To the maximum extent feasible, centers shall be established  
3 at and in conjunction with, or in close proximity to, one or  
4 more elementary and secondary schools. Local districts or the  
5 area education agencies may accept diagnostic and evaluation  
6 studies conducted by other individuals, hospitals, or centers,  
7 if determined to be competent. Children requiring special  
8 education services may be identified in any way that the  
9 department of education determines to be reliable. Centers  
10 established pursuant to [this section](#) may contain classrooms  
11 and other educational facilities and equipment to supplement  
12 instruction and other services to children with disabilities  
13 in the regular schools, and to provide separate instruction to  
14 children whose degree or type of educational disability makes  
15 it impractical or inappropriate for them to participate in  
16 classes with normal children.

17 Sec. 174. Section 256F.2, subsection 5, Code 2024, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 5. "*Innovation zone consortium*" means a consortium of two  
20 or more school districts ~~and an area education agency in which~~  
21 ~~one or more of the school districts are located~~, that receives  
22 approval to establish an innovation zone school pursuant to  
23 this chapter. In addition, the innovation zone consortium  
24 may receive technical assistance from an accredited higher  
25 education institution.

26 Sec. 175. Section 256I.8, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
27 2024, is amended to read as follows:

28 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in  
29 section 28E.2, a community action agency as defined in section  
30 216A.91, ~~an area education agency established under section~~  
31 ~~273-2~~, or a nonprofit corporation, to be the fiscal agent for  
32 grant moneys and for other moneys administered by the area  
33 board.

34 Sec. 176. Section 260C.11, subsection 1, Code 2024, is  
35 amended to read as follows:

1 1. The governing board of a merged area is a board of  
2 directors composed of one member elected from each director  
3 district in the area by the electors of the respective  
4 district. Members of the board shall be residents of the  
5 district from which elected. Successors shall be chosen at  
6 the regular school elections for members whose terms expire.  
7 The term of a member of the board of directors is four years  
8 and commences at the organizational meeting. Vacancies on  
9 the board shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the  
10 board by appointment by the remaining members of the board. A  
11 member so chosen shall be a resident of the district in which  
12 the vacancy occurred and shall serve until a member is elected  
13 at the next school election or intervening special election  
14 held for the merged area, in accordance with [section 69.12](#).  
15 A vacancy is defined in [section 277.29](#). A member shall not  
16 serve on the board of directors who is a member of a board of  
17 directors of a local school district ~~or a member of an area~~  
18 ~~education agency board~~.

19 Sec. 177. Section 262.32, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 **262.32 Contract — time limit.**

22 A contract for instruction under [section 262.30](#) shall be in  
23 writing and shall extend over a period of not to exceed two  
24 years. ~~A copy of the contract shall be filed in the office of~~  
25 ~~the administrator of the area education agency.~~

26 Sec. 178. Section 476.48, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
27 2024, is amended to read as follows:

28 *c. "Small wind innovation zone"* means a political  
29 subdivision of this state, including but not limited to a city,  
30 county, township, school district, community college, ~~area~~  
31 ~~education agency~~, institution under the control of the state  
32 board of regents, or any other local commission, association,  
33 or tribal council which adopts, or is encompassed within a  
34 local government which adopts, the model ordinance as provided  
35 in [subsection 3](#).

1 Sec. 179. Section 598.21B, subsection 2, paragraph e,  
2 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (d), Code 2024, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (d) The parent has been identified by the executive director  
5 of ~~special education~~ of the area education agency as a child  
6 requiring special education as defined in [section 256B.2](#).

7 DIVISION VIII

8 TEACHER SALARY SUPPLEMENT DISTRICT COST PER PUPIL

9 Sec. 180. Section 257.10, subsection 9, paragraph a, Code  
10 2024, is amended to read as follows:

11 a. (1) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the  
12 department of management shall add together the teacher  
13 compensation allocation made to each district for the fiscal  
14 year beginning July 1, 2008, pursuant to section 284.13,  
15 subsection 1, paragraph "h", Code 2009, and the phase II  
16 allocation made to each district for the fiscal year beginning  
17 July 1, 2008, pursuant to [section 294A.9, Code 2009](#), and divide  
18 that sum by the district's budget enrollment in the fiscal  
19 year beginning July 1, 2009, to determine the teacher salary  
20 supplement district cost per pupil. For the budget year  
21 beginning July 1, 2010, and succeeding budget years beginning  
22 before July 1, 2024, the teacher salary supplement district  
23 cost per pupil for each school district for a budget year  
24 is the teacher salary supplement program district cost per  
25 pupil for the base year plus the teacher salary supplement  
26 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

27 (2) (a) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2024, the  
28 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for each  
29 school district shall be determined under this subparagraph.

30 (b) The department of management shall categorize all  
31 school districts into not more than ten tiers according to each  
32 school district's actual enrollment. Each tier established  
33 by the department of management containing a school district  
34 with an actual enrollment above three thousand five hundred  
35 pupils shall contain, to the extent feasible, the same number



1 of school districts as other tiers containing school districts  
2 with an actual enrollment of more than three thousand five  
3 hundred pupils. Each tier established by the department  
4 of management containing a school district with an actual  
5 enrollment equal to or less than three thousand five hundred  
6 pupils shall contain, to the extent feasible, the same number  
7 of school districts as other tiers containing school districts  
8 with an actual enrollment equal to or less than three thousand  
9 five hundred pupils.

10 (c) (i) To support school districts with meeting the  
11 minimum teacher starting salary requirement of fifty thousand  
12 dollars and the minimum teacher salary requirement for  
13 full-time teachers with at least twelve years of experience of  
14 sixty-two thousand dollars under chapter 284 and other costs  
15 associated with such salary requirements, as identified in  
16 subparagraph subdivision (ii), the department of management  
17 shall calculate and assign to all school districts in a tier  
18 established under subparagraph division (b), a teacher salary  
19 supplement district cost per pupil in an amount based in part  
20 on the average cost to school districts within the tier to meet  
21 the requirements.

22 (ii) If, however, a school district's total teacher  
23 salary supplement district cost under paragraph "c", as  
24 calculated using the teacher salary supplement district cost  
25 per pupil assigned to the school district's applicable tier,  
26 is insufficient to comply with the applicable minimum teacher  
27 salary requirements of the school district, including costs  
28 associated with the employer's share of contributions to the  
29 Iowa public employees' retirement system and the employer's  
30 share of the tax imposed by the federal Insurance Contributions  
31 Act, the department of management shall set the school  
32 district's teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil  
33 at an amount necessary to meet the district's minimum salary  
34 requirements and associated costs.

35 (3) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2025, and

1 succeeding budget years, the teacher salary supplement district  
2 cost per pupil for each school district for a budget year  
3 is the teacher salary supplement program district cost per  
4 pupil for the base year plus the teacher salary supplement  
5 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

6 DIVISION IX

7 STATE MANDATE

8 Sec. 181. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection  
9 3, shall not apply to this Act.

10 EXPLANATION

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

13 This bill relates to education, including modifying  
14 provisions related to the number of area education agencies  
15 in this state, the duties and powers of area education  
16 agencies, area education agency boards of directors, the  
17 department of administrative services, and the director of the  
18 department of education, the division of special education  
19 within the department of education, the services provided by  
20 area education agencies, area education agency funding, the  
21 calculation of the teacher salary supplement district cost per  
22 pupil, and minimum teacher salaries.

23 DIVISION I — AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — GENERAL PROVISIONS.

24 Current law provides that a maximum of 15 area education  
25 agencies may be established within the state. As a result  
26 of consolidation, there are currently nine area education  
27 agencies within the state. The bill provides that there shall  
28 be not more than nine area education agencies, as determined  
29 by the director of the department of education (DE). Current  
30 law provides that each area education agency shall have an  
31 administrator, and establishes the duties and powers of the  
32 administrator. The bill modifies this provision to provide  
33 that each area education agency shall have an executive  
34 director. The executive director is to be appointed by, and  
35 serve at the pleasure of, the director of DE. Current law

1 provides that each area education agency shall have, and be  
2 governed by, a board of directors, and establishes the duties  
3 and powers of such board. The bill provides that the area  
4 education agency board of directors shall, instead, serve in an  
5 advisory capacity. The bill establishes the duties and powers  
6 of the area education agencies, the executive directors, and  
7 the area education agency boards of directors.

8 The bill prohibits area education agencies from holding  
9 real property, and tasks the department of administrative  
10 services with providing real property and facilities to the  
11 area education agencies.

12 The bill provides that area education agencies may only  
13 provide special education services to school districts located  
14 in the area education agency if the school district requests  
15 to receive such services and pursuant to a contract between  
16 the school district and the area education agency. The bill  
17 establishes that the term of such contract shall not be less  
18 than two years. The bill also establishes notice requirements  
19 related to the requests to receive special education services.

20 Current law requires area education agencies to provide  
21 media services for local school districts. The bill strikes  
22 this requirement. Current law prohibits area education  
23 agencies from establishing programs and services which  
24 duplicate programs and services which are or may be provided by  
25 the community colleges. The bill strikes this provision.

26 The bill strikes a provision that requires area education  
27 agencies to collaborate with DE to provide statewide  
28 infrastructure for educational data. The bill also strikes  
29 a provision that requires area education agencies to jointly  
30 develop a three-year statewide strategic plan that supports  
31 goals adopted by the state board of education.

32 The bill makes several other changes to provisions related  
33 to area education agencies, including changes related to  
34 funding, standards for accrediting area education agency  
35 programs, and emergency repairs.

1 The bill repeals Code section 273.6 (media centers), Code  
2 section 273.7 (additional services), and Code section 273.16  
3 (online learning program).

4 The bill includes transition provisions that restrict the  
5 transfer of area education agency ownership interests in real  
6 property or facilities and that provide for the transfer of  
7 area education agency interests in real property and certain  
8 lease agreements to the department of administrative services.  
9 The transition provisions provide that, on July 1, 2024, the  
10 employment of all area education agency administrators is  
11 terminated, unless terminated earlier by the director of the  
12 department of education who the bill authorizes to terminate  
13 the employment of such area education agency administrators.  
14 The transition provisions additionally provide that the  
15 bill's changes to Code chapter 273 constitute just cause for  
16 the discharge of the area education agency administrators  
17 under Code section 279.25 (discharge of administrator), and  
18 that the provisions of Code section 279.24 (contract with  
19 administrators) shall not apply to the discharge of the  
20 administrators.

21 The transition provisions require the division of special  
22 education within the department of education to give preference  
23 to qualified personnel who seek employment with the division  
24 of special education because their employment with an area  
25 education agency terminated as a result of the bill. The  
26 transition provisions provide that any former employee of an  
27 area education agency whose employment with an area education  
28 agency terminated as a result of the bill and who is employed  
29 by the division of special education no later than August 1,  
30 2024, shall not experience a break in service credit for their  
31 Iowa public employees' retirement system benefits and shall not  
32 incur any loss in sick leave or vacation time.

33 Division I of the bill takes effect upon enactment.

34 DIVISION II — AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — REORGANIZATION  
35 OR DISSOLUTION. Current law allows the boards of directors

1 of two or more area education agencies to reorganize the area  
2 education agencies, with the approval of the state board of  
3 education. The bill modifies several provisions related to  
4 the reorganization of area education agencies, including by  
5 requiring the director of DE to approve a reorganization,  
6 authorizing the director of DE to reorganize the area education  
7 agencies, and striking school finance provisions related to a  
8 reorganized area education agency.

9 Current law allows the board of directors of an area  
10 education agency to dissolve the area education agency and  
11 establishes the process the area education agency must follow  
12 in dissolving. The bill provides that only the director of DE  
13 has the authority to dissolve an area education agency.

14 The bill repeals Code section 273.24 (commission to dissolve  
15 area education agency), Code section 273.25 (dissolution  
16 commission meetings), Code section 273.26 (dissolution  
17 proposal), and Code section 273.27 (dissolution hearing, vote,  
18 and state board of education approval).

19 DIVISION III — AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — FUNDING. The bill  
20 eliminates the area education agency professional development  
21 categorical funding supplement, the area education agency  
22 media services categorical funding supplement, and the area  
23 education agency educational services categorical funding  
24 supplement beginning with the 2024-2025 school budget year.  
25 The bill makes corresponding changes to other school funding  
26 provisions related to the elimination of the categorical  
27 funding supplements. The bill specifies that an area education  
28 agency may use fund balances for media services or education  
29 services in a manner which the area education agency determines  
30 is appropriate to best maintain the level of required area  
31 education agency special education services. The bill also  
32 specifies that fund balances received for area education agency  
33 professional development for a budget year beginning before  
34 July 1, 2024, shall comply with the requirements of Code  
35 chapter 284 and shall be distributed to teachers pursuant to

1 Code section 284.3A, similar to the use area education agency  
2 teacher salary supplement funds.

3 Code section 257.35 generally requires the department  
4 of management to deduct the amounts calculated for special  
5 education support services, media services, area education  
6 agency teacher salary supplement district cost, area education  
7 agency professional development supplement district cost,  
8 and educational services for each school district from the  
9 state aid due to the district pursuant to Code chapter 257  
10 and instead, pay the amounts to the respective area education  
11 agencies on a monthly basis. The bill removes the eliminated  
12 categorical funding supplements from those provisions and also  
13 provides that such remaining amounts are to be deducted and  
14 paid to the applicable area education agency only if the school  
15 district has entered into an agreement with the area education  
16 agency under the bill to provide services for the applicable  
17 budget year.

18 The school district management levy under Code section 298.4  
19 is authorized to be used for specified purposes, including  
20 unemployment benefit costs, insurance costs, costs of certain  
21 judgments, early retirement benefit costs, and mediation  
22 and arbitration costs. The bill provides that a school  
23 district's management levy may be reduced by the department of  
24 management if the department determines that the reduction in  
25 the school district's combined district cost as a result of  
26 the elimination of the area education agency media services  
27 categorical funding supplement and the area education agency  
28 educational services categorical funding supplement does not  
29 result in a corresponding reduction in the total amount of  
30 property taxes levied by the school district for the budget  
31 year. The bill allows the department of management to evaluate  
32 the amounts of property taxes levied by the school district and  
33 purposes for which such revenues are budgeted to determine the  
34 adequacy of the reduction in the school district's total amount  
35 of property taxes.

1 Current law allows school districts to share operational  
2 functions with several types of political subdivisions,  
3 including area education agencies, in order to provide  
4 additional funding to increase student opportunities and  
5 redirect more resources to student programming for such school  
6 districts. The bill provides that area education agencies are  
7 no longer considered political subdivisions for purposes of  
8 shared operational functions.

9 Current law provides that supplementary weighting under  
10 Code section 257.11(5) (shared operational functions) shall  
11 be available to an area education agency through the budget  
12 year beginning July 1, 2034. The minimum amount of additional  
13 funding for which an area education agency shall be eligible in  
14 a budget year pursuant to this provision is \$30,000, and the  
15 maximum amount is \$200,000. The bill modifies this provision  
16 to provide that such supplementary weighting shall not be  
17 available to an area education agency after the budget year  
18 beginning July 1, 2023.

19 This division of the bill applies July 1, 2024, for school  
20 budget years beginning on or after that date.

21 DIVISION IV — TEACHER COMPENSATION. Current law provides  
22 that the minimum annual salary for a full-time teacher in the  
23 state is \$33,500. The bill provides that the minimum annual  
24 salary for a full-time teacher in the state with less than 12  
25 years of teaching experience is \$50,000, and the minimum annual  
26 salary for a full-time teacher in the state with at least 12  
27 years of teaching experience is \$62,500.

28 DIVISION V — CONFORMING CHANGES — DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.  
29 The bill strikes provisions that require the state board of  
30 education to adopt rules and standards to incorporate area  
31 education agencies into professional development programs,  
32 family support pre-service and in-service training programs,  
33 para-educator programs, and online programs.

34 Current law provides that if a school district fails to  
35 correct certain deficiencies and the school district is

1 deaccredited by the state board of education, the state board  
2 may place the school district under local area education agency  
3 receivership. The bill provides that such receivership shall  
4 instead be under DE or DE's designee, which may include a local  
5 school district.

6 The bill makes several other conforming changes related  
7 to DE, including modifying the membership of the Iowa public  
8 broadcasting board and modifying provisions related to regional  
9 career and technical education planning partnerships.

10 DIVISION VI — SCHOOLS — REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
11 — CONFORMING CHANGES. Current law provides that up to 30  
12 percent of the budget of an area for media services may be  
13 expended for media resource material including the purchase or  
14 replacement of material. The bill strikes this provision.

15 Current law provides that, in cases where any portion of  
16 the inhabitants of any school corporation, in the opinion of  
17 the area education agency administrator, cannot reasonably  
18 attend school in their own corporation, the area education  
19 agency administrator shall attach the affected part of the  
20 school corporation to an adjoining school corporation, with the  
21 consent of the board of the adjoining school corporation. The  
22 bill modifies this provision to instead provide that it is the  
23 director of the department of education who has the authority  
24 to attach the affected part of the school corporation to an  
25 adjoining school corporation, with the consent of the board of  
26 the adjoining school corporation. The bill makes a similar  
27 change to the provision governing restoration of the attached  
28 part of the school corporation.

29 The bill makes several changes to Code chapter 275  
30 (reorganization of school districts) to transfer authority  
31 from an area education agency or an area education agency  
32 administrator to DE and to remove the consideration of the  
33 boundaries of area education agencies from the reorganization  
34 process, including provisions related to changing the boundary  
35 lines of contiguous school corporations, the vesting of powers



1 to convey land, alternative methods for electing directors  
2 of newly formed school corporations, dissolution of school  
3 districts, the calling of special elections when a school board  
4 is reduced below a quorum, contracting for emergency repairs  
5 for school districts, and disputes related to state aid for  
6 transportation.

7 Current law requires area education agencies to periodically  
8 offer a staff development program for teachers who provide  
9 instruction in human growth and development. The bill strikes  
10 this provision.

11 Current law allocates \$275,864 of the moneys appropriated to  
12 the department of education under Code section 279.51 (programs  
13 for at-risk children) to area education agencies to assist  
14 school districts and child development programs in meeting  
15 responsibilities in early childhood education. The bill  
16 provides that these moneys shall, instead, be allocated to the  
17 child development coordinating council for the same purposes.

18 Current law authorizes a school district to negotiate an  
19 agreement with a school district located in a contiguous state  
20 allowing students enrolled in grades 7 through 12 in this  
21 state to attend school in the contiguous state if the board of  
22 directors of the school district in this state files a written  
23 request with the state board of education for a determination  
24 whether the school district in the contiguous state receives  
25 or has available services equivalent to those that would be  
26 provided in this state by an area education agency. The bill  
27 strikes the requirement related to services provided by area  
28 education agencies.

29 The bill modifies provisions in Code chapter 284 (teacher  
30 performance, compensation, and career development), including  
31 by striking a provision allowing the state board of education  
32 to approve area education agencies to provide teacher  
33 professional development and by striking provisions related to  
34 area education agency involvement in implementing career paths  
35 and leadership roles.

1 The bill makes several changes to Code chapter 284A  
2 (administrator quality program) and Code chapter 285 (state  
3 aid for transportation) to remove area education agencies from  
4 provisions in these Code chapters.

5 The bill strikes a provision that requires each area  
6 education agency to provide assistance in establishing a plan  
7 to provide alternative education options to students attending  
8 a public school in a district served by the area education  
9 agency.

10 The bill repeals Code section 257.47 (cooperation by  
11 area education agencies), Code section 257.48 (advisory  
12 council), Code section 257.49 (duties of advisory council),  
13 Code section 275.16 (hearing when territory in different area  
14 education agencies), Code section 275.27 (community school  
15 districts — part of area education agency), Code section  
16 275.30 (arbitration), Code section 285.9 (powers and duties of  
17 area boards), and Code section 285.13 (disagreements between  
18 boards).

19 DIVISION VII — CONFORMING CHANGES — MISCELLANEOUS. The  
20 bill removes representatives of area education agencies from  
21 the state commission of libraries and a steering committee  
22 established by the department of workforce development.

23 The bill strikes a provision that provides that the  
24 procedures of Code chapter 74 (public obligations not paid for  
25 want of funds) also apply to the issuance of warrants or the  
26 issuance of anticipatory warrants of an area education agency.

27 The bill requires the commission for the blind to operate  
28 and manage a library loan program for the benefit of students  
29 enrolled in school districts and nonpublic schools.

30 The bill modifies the duties and powers of the division of  
31 special education within the department of education, including  
32 by striking provisions related to aiding in the organization  
33 of special schools and classes for children requiring special  
34 education, approving plans for special education programs and  
35 services submitted by area education agencies, and purchasing

1 special equipment for use in special education.

2 Code chapter 256F authorizes the creation of charter schools  
3 and innovation zone schools. For purposes of Code chapter  
4 256F, an innovation zone consortium means a consortium of two  
5 or more school districts and an area education agency in which  
6 one or more of the school districts are located, that receives  
7 approval to establish an innovation zone school. The bill  
8 modifies this provision to strike the reference to an area  
9 education agency in which one or more of the school districts  
10 are located.

11 The bill removes area education agencies from the definition  
12 of "small wind innovation zone" in Code section 476.48 (small  
13 wind innovation zone program).

14 DIVISION VIII — TEACHER SALARY SUPPLEMENT DISTRICT COST PER  
15 PUPIL. The bill modifies how the teacher salary supplement  
16 district cost per pupil is determined for each school district  
17 for the budget year beginning July 1, 2024. The bill requires  
18 the department of management to categorize all school  
19 districts into not more than 10 tiers according to each school  
20 district's actual enrollment. The bill provides that each  
21 tier established by the department of management containing a  
22 school district with an actual enrollment above 3,500 pupils  
23 shall contain, to the extent feasible, the same number of  
24 school districts as other tiers containing school districts  
25 with an actual enrollment of more than 3,500 pupils. The bill  
26 also provides that each tier established by the department  
27 of management containing a school district with an actual  
28 enrollment equal to or less than 3,500 pupils shall contain,  
29 to the extent feasible, the same number of school districts  
30 as other tiers containing school districts with an actual  
31 enrollment equal to or less than 3,500 pupils.

32 The bill requires the department of management to calculate  
33 and assign to all school districts in a tier a teacher salary  
34 supplement district cost per pupil in an amount based in part  
35 on the average cost to school districts within the tier to

1 meet the requirements. If, however, a school district's total  
2 teacher salary supplement district cost, as calculated using  
3 the teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil assigned  
4 to the school district's applicable tier, is insufficient to  
5 comply with the applicable minimum teacher salary requirements  
6 of the school district, including costs associated with the  
7 employer's share of contributions to the Iowa public employees'  
8 retirement system and the employer's share of the tax imposed  
9 by the federal Insurance Contributions Act, the bill requires  
10 the department of management to set the school district's  
11 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil at an amount  
12 necessary to meet the district's minimum salary requirements  
13 and associated costs.

14 The bill provides that for the budget year beginning July  
15 1, 2025, and succeeding budget years, the teacher salary  
16 supplement district cost per pupil for each school district for  
17 a budget year is the teacher salary supplement program district  
18 cost per pupil for the base year plus the teacher salary  
19 supplement supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

20 DIVISION IX — STATE MANDATE. The bill may include a state  
21 mandate as defined in Code section 25B.3. The bill makes  
22 inapplicable Code section 25B.2(3), which would relieve a  
23 political subdivision from complying with a state mandate if  
24 funding for the cost of the state mandate is not provided or  
25 specified. Therefore, political subdivisions are required to  
26 comply with any state mandate included in the bill.