Classroom Environment and Therapeutic Classrooms Bill
Senate File 2360

As amended by S-5137 (House Amendment)

An Act relating to classroom management and related practitioner preparation procedures for reporting classroom violence and assaults, to corporal punishment, establishing a grant program and fund for creation of therapeutic classrooms, providing claims reimbursement to school districts for costs relating to therapeutic classrooms, making appropriations, and including effective date provisions.
FUNDING SUMMARY

FY 2022: Senate File 2360 as amended by S-5137 appropriates a total of $2.6 million from the General Fund for FY 2022. The funding includes:

- $500,000 for the Department of Education to develop, establish, and distribute standards, guidelines, and expectations relating to behavior in the classroom, restraint of a student, professional development relating to educating individuals in the least restrictive environment, and research-based intervention strategies.
- $1.6 million to the Department of Education for the Therapeutic Classroom Incentive Fund.
- $500,000 to the Department of Education for reimbursement funding to school districts for the transportation of students to therapeutic classrooms.

For full text of SF 2360 as passed by the Senate see: www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/NOBA/1131925.pdf
Clarifies that the guidance provided by Department of Education regarding appropriate and inappropriate responses to behavior in the classroom and the appropriate use of physical restraint of a student is for all school districts.

Directs the Department to distribute the Therapeutic Classroom Incentive Grants equitably across small (less than 600 pupils), medium (600-2,499 pupils), and large (more than 2,499 pupils) school districts.

Clarifies that moneys, which may include private contributions, credited to the Therapeutic Classroom Incentive Fund are available for distribution after December 31 but before the start of the school calendar for start-up costs for a new therapeutic classroom in the fall semester.

Amends the date the Department of Education is required to submit a report on the efficacy of the claims reimbursement to the General Assembly from December 1, 2022, to December 1, 2023.

Amends the date of the appropriation to the Department of Education for transportation claims from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

Removes the reference to the State Board of Education.

Reverts Bill language pertaining to corporal punishment burden of proof back to current statute.

Removes specification that the definition of "corporal punishment" does not include relocating a student who is causing a severe distraction or disturbance.

Removes specification that for a party to prevail in a disciplinary action alleging a corporal punishment violation, the party bringing the action
must prove the violation by clear and convincing evidence. Replaces with a specification that the school employee's employer and the Board of Educational Examiners will not retaliate against a school employee who, in the reasonable course of the employee's employment responsibilities, comes into physical contact with a student.

Amends the date of the General Fund appropriation of $500,000 to the Department of Education for developing standards and guidance on behavior in the classroom, restraint of a student, least restrictive environment, and research-based intervention strategies from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

Amends the date of the General Fund appropriation of $1,582,650 to the Department of Education for the Therapeutic Classroom Fund from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

Amends the date of the General Fund appropriation of $500,000 for therapeutic classroom transportation claims reimbursement from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

Technical correction.