

**CHAPTER 144**

## EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

H.F. 739

**AN ACT** relating to education technology, including the creation of an Iowa learning technology commission and pilot programs, and the establishment of a research triangle and clearinghouse, and providing for contingent effectiveness.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. Section 262.9, Code 2005, is amended by adding the following new subsection: **NEW SUBSECTION.** 31. Establish a research triangle, defined by the three institutions of higher learning under the board's control, and clearinghouse for purposes of sharing the projects and results of kindergarten through grade twelve education technology initiatives occurring in Iowa's school districts, area education agencies, community colleges, and other higher education institutions, with the education community within and outside of the state. Dissemination of and access to information regarding planning, financing, curriculum, professional development, preservice training, project implementation strategies, and results shall be centralized to allow school districts from across the state to gain ideas from each other regarding the integration of technology in the classroom.<sup>1</sup>

Sec. 2. Section 280A.1, Code 2005, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph:

**NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH.** Public and private partners shall participate in the development of the planning, implementation, and outcomes for the initiative.

Sec. 3. **NEW SECTION.** 280A.2 IOWA LEARNING TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION — MEMBERS.

1. **COMMISSION CREATED.** An Iowa learning technology commission is created to administer the Iowa learning technology initiative, including creation of pilot programs pursuant to section 280A.4, to be implemented through local and public-private partnerships, that may include but shall not be limited to, use of one-to-one student learning technology.

2. **MEMBERS.** The commission shall initially be appointed no later than July 1, 2005, and shall consist of members appointed as follows:

a. Seven voting members who shall be members of the general public and shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) Two members shall be appointed by the president of the senate.
- (2) One member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
- (3) Two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (4) One member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
- (5) One member who is the chairperson of the state board of education or the chairperson's designee.

b. Ex officio, nonvoting members as follows:

- (1) The members of the state board of education technology advisory committee.
- (2) One member who is a member of the senate shall be appointed by the president of the senate.
- (3) One member who is a member of the senate shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
- (4) One member who is a member of the house of representatives shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (5) One member who is a member of the house of representatives shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

3. **EXPERIENCE AND SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE.** In appointing members to the commis-

<sup>1</sup> See chapter 179, §82 herein

sion, proper consideration shall be given to persons with experience or special knowledge in one or more of the following areas: education, including curriculum and content; business; economic development; technology; and finance.

4. **BALANCE.** Commission members shall be appointed in compliance with sections 69.16 and 69.16A. Appointments of public members shall be made to provide broad representation of the various geographical areas of the state insofar as possible.

5. **CHAIRPERSONS.** The commission shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson annually from among the voting members of the commission. A member shall not serve as a chairperson or vice chairperson for more than three consecutive years.

6. **MEETINGS.** The commission shall meet at least three times each year.

7. **QUORUM.** A majority of the voting members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of any official business.

8. **TERMS OF MEMBERS.** The members shall be appointed to three-year staggered terms and the terms shall commence and end as provided by section 69.19. If a vacancy occurs, a successor shall be appointed to serve the unexpired term. A successor shall be appointed in the same manner and subject to the same qualifications as the original appointment to serve the unexpired term.

9. **EXPENSES.** Members of the commission are entitled to receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of official duties from funds appropriated to the department of education for that purpose, except that legislators' expenses shall be paid from funds appropriated by section 2.12.

Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 280A.3 COMMISSION DUTIES.

The commission shall:

1. Develop and administer the Iowa learning technology pilot programs in accordance with section 280A.4. The commission shall determine application and selection processes, and the minimum requirements for selection of pilot program participants.

2. Develop an accurate assessment of the current status of technology in Iowa's public school classrooms supported by reliable data. Data collected and assessed shall include the number of computers and their appropriate corresponding use; the costs for hardware, software, staff development, instructional staff, and technology support staff; sources of funds used for school district technology budgets; and an inventory of technology-based kindergarten through grade twelve curricula.

3. Identify and gather data, in collaboration with the department of education, to determine the current public, private, federal, state, community college, and local revenue sources used for kindergarten through grade twelve educational technology at the school district, area education agency, and state levels.

4. Submit the data assessed determined pursuant to subsections 2 and 3 in a report to the house and senate standing education committees and the joint subcommittee on education appropriations of the general assembly by January 15, 2006.

Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 280A.4 PILOT PROGRAMS.

1. The Iowa learning technology commission created in section 280A.2 shall develop and administer the Iowa learning technology pilot programs to encourage innovation, increase student achievement, and ensure that technology is used on the basis of best practices. The pilot programs should be designed to obtain valid and reliable evidence of the impact on student engagement and achievement from the use of technology, which may include but not be limited to a "one-to-one" initiative; further demonstrate successful district-to-vendor relationships and possibilities; provide for development of individual education plans for students; identify local district educational and fiscal planning and implementation strategies; and gain a better understanding of the current status of technology in Iowa schools. The goal for each pilot program is to provide results and additional information necessary for the general assembly to consider implementation of a statewide technology initiative. The commission shall make the final determination regarding pilot program grant awards, and shall notify the de-

partment of education of the amount of the grant amount to be awarded to a school district. From moneys appropriated to the department of education for purposes of the pilot programs, each pilot program shall consist of state-funded competitive grants to Iowa school districts that are matched locally with public or private, federal, state, or local financing as determined by the applicant school district. Administrative support and staffing shall be provided by the department of education.

2. Each pilot program shall be consistent with the following guiding principles:

a. FOCUS ON INCREASING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING. The focus on student achievement should include identification of the age and developmentally appropriate use of educational technology that will engage the learner and result in improved student achievement opportunities.

b. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Quality, ongoing professional development shall be provided, including best practices in the effective use of technology in the classroom.

c. CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT. Students' technology skills shall be integrated into the curriculum and assessed through the demonstration of learning within content areas.

d. EQUITABLE ACCESS. Grant awards under the pilot program shall be distributed to school districts that meet the selection requirements established by the commission in a manner that ensures that students throughout the state have equitable access to education opportunities offered via the use of technology and telecommunications.

e. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING. Due consideration shall be given to future sustainability of learning technology resources by adapting to future educational needs and technology changes and by avoiding obsolescence of learning technology resources.

f. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Grant moneys should be distributed in such a manner as to foster economic development across all regions of the state and to prepare students for an economy that embraces technology and innovation.

g. ACCOUNTABILITY. The pilot program shall include methods of measuring progress in the areas of increased student engagement; decreased disciplinary problems; increased use of computers for writing, analysis, and research; movement toward student-centered classrooms; increased parental involvement; and increased standardized test scores.

Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 280A.5 FUTURE REPEAL.

This chapter is repealed effective July 1, 2011.

Sec. 7. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVENESS. The sections of this Act creating new<sup>2</sup> Code chapter 280A take effect only if the general assembly appropriates funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005, in an amount sufficient to implement the provisions of Code chapter 280A, if enacted.<sup>3</sup>

Approved June 3, 2005

<sup>2</sup> See chapter 179, §141 herein

<sup>3</sup> See chapter 179, §82 herein