

JAN 25 2005
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 136
BY WENDT

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an educational technology grant program and
2 making an appropriation.

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

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HF136

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256G.1 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

2 The general assembly finds and declares the following:

3 1. The use of computer technology in the classroom is a
4 powerful tool to motivate and accelerate learning.

5 2. The assimilation of computer skills is critical as
6 young people prepare for future employment.

7 3. There is a need for the state to commit to a long-term
8 investment in educational technology for Iowa classrooms.

9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256G.2 EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT
10 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

11 1. An educational technology grant program is established,
12 to be administered by the department of education. The board
13 of directors of a school district may participate in the
14 educational technology grant program by applying in writing to
15 the department of education, on forms provided by the
16 department, by September 30. Each application submitted shall
17 include a commitment by the school district to provide local
18 matching funds equivalent to the amount of grant funding
19 sought. A grant made pursuant to this section to a school
20 district with an enrollment of one hundred fifty or more
21 students shall not exceed an amount equal to five dollars per
22 resident pupil enrolled in the school district on the third
23 Friday of September of the school year in which the
24 application is submitted. A grant made pursuant to this
25 section to a school district with an enrollment of less than
26 one hundred fifty students shall not be less than seven
27 hundred fifty dollars.

28 2. The state board of education shall adopt rules
29 prescribing the criteria for the educational technology grant
30 program application, local match requirement, and award
31 process.

32 3. The department of education shall notify the department
33 of management of the amount to be paid to each school district
34 that is approved to receive a grant award pursuant to this
35 section. The allocation to each school district under this

1 section shall be made in one payment on or about November 1 of
2 the fiscal year in which the appropriation is made, taking
3 into consideration the relative budget and cash position of
4 the state resources.

5 4. Each school district that receives grant funding
6 pursuant to this chapter shall include a progress report on
7 the activities and expenditures funded by the educational
8 technology grant program moneys received as a component of the
9 annual report submitted to the department of education in
10 accordance with section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraphs "a"
11 and "c".

12 5. Payments made to school districts under this section
13 are miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter 257. Moneys
14 received under this section shall not be commingled with state
15 aid payments made under section 257.16 and shall be accounted
16 for by the local school district separately from state aid
17 payments.

18 6. Moneys received under this chapter shall not be used
19 for payment of any collective bargaining agreement or
20 arbitrator's decision negotiated or awarded under chapter 20.

21 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256G.3 EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT
22 EXPENDITURES.

23 A school district shall expend funds received pursuant to
24 section 256G.2 for the acquisition, lease, lease-purchase,
25 installation, and maintenance of educational technology
26 equipment, including hardware and software, materials and
27 supplies related to educational technology, and staff
28 development and training related to educational technology,
29 and shall establish priorities for the use of the funds.
30 However, funds received by a school district pursuant to
31 section 256G.2 shall not be expended to add a full-time
32 equivalent position or otherwise increase staff.

33 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 256G.4 APPROPRIATION.

34 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
35 state to the department of management for each fiscal year an

1 amount sufficient to pay the grant awards to school districts
2 approved by the department of education under section 256G.2.
3 2. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys committed to
4 grantees under this chapter that remain unencumbered or
5 unobligated on June 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds
6 were appropriated shall not revert but shall be available for
7 expenditure for the following fiscal year for the purposes of
8 the educational technology grant program established under
9 this chapter.

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EXPLANATION

11 This bill establishes an educational technology grant
12 program for approved school districts and codifies an annual
13 appropriation of state moneys sufficient to provide up to \$5
14 per pupil in grant awards to approved school districts that
15 provide matching local funds.

16 The bill includes legislative findings which explain the
17 need for the establishment of an educational technology grant
18 program within the department of education.

19 School districts that apply for a grant under the program
20 must include in their application a commitment to provide
21 local matching funds equivalent to the amount of grant funding
22 sought. For districts with enrollments of 150 or more, a
23 grant made under the program shall not exceed an amount equal
24 to \$5 per resident pupil enrolled in the school district. The
25 grant for a district with fewer than 150 pupils shall not be
26 less than \$750.

27 The state board of education is directed to adopt rules and
28 criteria concerning the educational technology grant program
29 application, local match requirement, and award process.

30 Each school district that receives grant funding shall
31 include a progress report as a component of its comprehensive
32 school improvement plan.

33 The bill lists the expenditures allowed under the program.

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