



Date: July 1, 2009

To: Superintendents
School Board Members
Principals
Teachers

From: Judy Jeffrey, Director

Subject: 2009 Legislative Changes

From the start of the 2009 legislative session, legislators were pressured to balance the state budget during a historic economic downturn. Education remained a priority of the state, but finding the funding was a difficult task. In the end, state aid to school districts was nearly fully funded by the federal infusion of more than \$250 million dollars from the American Recovery (ARRA) and Reinvestment Act moneys.

Unlike past sessions, the number of policy changes to education was significantly less in 2009. Below is a brief synopsis of the legislation related to education that requires local adjustments to your district's policy and procedures. Please contact your Department of Education consultant with any questions or concerns.

2009 Policy Changes

[SF 217](#): Categorical Allowable Growth

Senate File 217 establishes a two percent allowable growth in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 for categorical funding for teacher salary supplements, professional development and early intervention / class size funding. *Section 257.8.*

[SF 218](#): School Aid Allowable Growth

Senate File 218 establishes a two percent allowable growth for the school aid formula in FY 2011. *Section 257.8.*

[SF 470](#): Education Appropriations

Senate File 470 requires that revenues received by a school district for the weighted enrollment of a home school assistance program must be expended for that program.

In addition, the legislation restricts the definition of a beginning teacher to exclude a teacher whose employment with a school district or area education agency is probationary unless the teacher is serving under an initial or teacher intern license issued by the board of educational examiners (BOEE). A career teacher is expanded to include any teacher who holds a statement of professional recognition issued by the BOEE and board-licensed athletic trainers. *Sections 257.6, 272.2 and 284.2.*

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HF 820: Stimulus Funds

House File 820 appropriates the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act moneys to school districts and community colleges. Requires, beginning in FY 12, that the cash reserve levy for a school budget year cannot exceed 20 percent of the general fund expenditures.

ARRA stabilization funding includes:

State Foundation Aid to School Districts (separate check distributed concurrently with state aid)

- \$40 million in FY 09
- \$202.5 million in FY 10

Professional Development for Implementation of Iowa Core Curriculum (separate allocation)

- \$2 million in FY 10

Instructional Support State Aid to School Districts (separate check distributed concurrently with state aid)

- \$13.1 million in FY10

Community College State Aid (distributed concurrently with general aid)

- \$25.6 million in FY10

HF 687: Performance Report Mandate Removed

House File 687 removes the requirement that parents sign the diagnostic assessment results provided under the Early Intervention Program. In addition, school districts will no longer be required to document in the student's record that the parent did not sign or return the assessment results. A district must continue, at a minimum, to biannually inform parents of diagnostic assessments and any intended action to improve reading skills of a child in need of intervention.

In addition, the posting of the school district's financial report is changed to January 1 of each school year. *Sections 256D.1 and 279.63.*

HF 214: Interstate Compact on Education for Military Children

House File 214 creates a council to provide advice and recommendations on Iowa's compliance with the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children. This compact is designed to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families due to frequent moves and deployment of their parents. *Section 256G.2.*

HF 243: Gender Balance

House File 243 requires all appointive boards, commissions, committees and councils of a political subdivision to be gender balanced beginning January 1, 2012. There is a good faith exception if after three months to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy the political subdivision is unable to make a compliant appointment. *Section 69.16A.*

HF 705: Building Code, Safe Rooms and Storm Shelters

House File 705 requires the state building code commissioner to adopt rules specifying standards and requirements for design and construction of safe rooms and storm shelters. The statute does not require a safe room or storm shelter, but if one is included in any building construction project which reaches the design development phase on or after January 1, 2011, compliance with the standards is required. *Section 103A.8C.*

HF 314: Lead Hazard in Child-occupied Housing

House File 314 requires that renovation of a child-occupied facility must use a trained and certified lead-safe renovator. Child-occupied facility is any portion of a building constructed prior to 1978 and includes a building visited on a regular basis (at least two days a week for three hours) by a child less than six years of age. This includes a child care center, preschool or kindergarten classroom and may include restrooms, cafeterias and exterior walls and adjoining spaces. Rules established by the Iowa Department of Public Health shall include notification to parents or guardians of children attending a child-occupied facility. Violation is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5000 for each offense. *Sections 135.105A and 135.105C.*

Appropriations

Programs	FY 09 Revised	FY 10 Appropriations
Administration	\$ 8,625,560	\$ 7,906,880
Vocational Ed Salaries & Support	625,091	582,755
Voc Ed Secondary	2,892,850	2,696,921
School Food Service	2,472,038	2,266,069
State Support for Special Ed Birth to Three	1,695,579	1,554,304
Voluntary Access to Quality Preschool	14,769,449	11,538,863
Nonpublic Textbook	682,500	625,634
Administrator Mentoring	246,250	225,733
Model Core Curriculum	2,159,466	1,979,540
Student Achievement/Teacher Quality	245,193,706	7,614,750
Backfill to Teacher Quality	559,000	0
Community College-General Aid	180,316,478	158,678,501
Community College Salaries	1,477,500	916,680
Senior Year Plus	1,871,500	0
Child Development	12,417,103	11,493,891
Instructional Support	14,211,847	ARRA
Nonpublic Transportation	8,475,643	7,845,479
Class Size-Early Intervention	29,250,000	0
Program for Ed. Excellence	54,637,017	0
School Foundation Aid	2,151,063,016	2,384,953,295
ARRA: School Foundation Aid	40,000,000	202,546,705
ARRA: Teacher Professional Development	0	2,000,000
ARRA: Instructional Support	0	13,103,950
ARRA: Community Colleges	0	25,600,000