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HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill: HF 564 (previously HSB 178) Committee: Education Floor Manager: Rep. Rogers Date: March 14, 2017 Staff: Jason Chapman (1-3015)	House Committee: PASSED 21-1 (3/2/2017) House Floor: Senate Floor: Governor:
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School District Fund Uses

- Provides new allowable uses for specific funding received by school districts. The funding affected by this bill is:
 - Professional Development
 - At-risk/Dropout Prevention
 - Preschool
 - Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)
 - Gifted and Talented
 - Student Activity Fund

Section-by-Section Analysis

Division 1 – Professional Development

Sections 1 through 3 – 284.6 – Teacher Performance/Compensation/Career Development – Professional Development

New uses for professional development funds:

- Used to purchase textbooks and curriculum materials if they include professional development as part of the cost
- Administering the statewide assessment if it includes professional development as part of the cost.

Also includes language to consolidate professional development uses instead of setting a portion aside for use on implementing the Iowa Core.

This change is effective upon enactment and applies starting with the 2017/18 school year.

Division 2 – At-Risk and Dropout Prevention

Sections 4 through 8 – 257.11 and 257.41 – Financing School Programs – Funding for Returning Dropouts and Dropout Prevention

New uses for at-risk and dropout prevention funds:

- Programs for at-risk or dropout prevention can be building or district wide rather than limited to only 5% of the funds for such purpose.
- Allows the funds to be used for guidance counselors in the same manner it can be used for other current statutorily permitted positions.
- Can be used for programs to address chronic absenteeism and truancy
- Allows staff time to be prorated for billing purposes

This change is effective upon enactment and applies starting with the 2017/18 school year.

Division 3 – School District Flexibility

Sections 9 through 11 – 257.10 – Financing School Programs – District Cost Per Pupil

Deference to School districts. New language requiring the Department of Education, in their creation of rules, specifically in terms of categorical funding, they should do so while giving deference to school boards and their decision making, promoting flexibility, and minimizing intrusion.

Also clarifies that any guidance or rules drafted by the Department cannot be inconsistent with state law. Any obligations placed on districts by guidance or rules must be required by law and reasonably implied by that same law.

Division 4 – Preschool Program

Sections 12 through 14 – 256C.4 – Statewide Preschool Program – Funding Provisions

New uses for preschool funding:

- Any purpose determined by the board that meets standards for high quality preschool instruction and other purposes that directly or indirectly benefit students
- Instructional supplies
- Translation Services
- Playground equipment and repair costs
- Food and beverages used by children in the program
- Facility rental fees
- Contracting for services with community partners

This change is effective upon enactment and applies starting with the 2017/18 school year.

Division 5 – PPEL

Sections 15 through 17 – 298.3 – School Taxes and Bonds – PPEL Revenues

Strikes the minimum limit of \$2500 on allowable repairs allowing for the repair of transportation equipment purchased with PPEL dollars.

This change is effective upon enactment and applies starting with the 2017/18 school year.

Division 6 – Gifted and Talented Programs

Sections 18 through 20 – 257.43 and 46 – Financing School Programs – Gifted and Talented Program and Funds

New uses for talented and gifted (TAG) funding:

- Gifted and talented programming for students not identified as such, if goals, objectives, and needs of identified TAG students are met.

This change is effective upon enactment.

Division 7 – Student Activity Fund

Sections 21 and 22 – 298A.8 – School District Fund Structure – Student Activity Fund

Allows the district to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Student Activity Fund in order to purchase protective gear for student athletes that is required for participation.

Effective upon enactment

Amendment Analysis

H-1189 by Rogers – Removes Division 6 regarding Gifted and Talented Programs from the bill. In Division 7 regarding Student Activity Funds, makes this section retroactive to the beginning of the current fiscal year.

H-1191 by Nielsen – Related to energy efficiency and generation for school districts. Removes a t-year limitation on the lease of school property for energy generation purposes. Exempt property used in energy generation for the school district from property taxes. Allows anticipation of energy savings to pay for solar panels.