

Senate Study Bill 3073

1 Amend Senate Study Bill 3073 as follows:

2 1. By striking everything after the enacting clause and
3 inserting:

4 <DIVISION I

5 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — GENERAL PROVISIONS

6 Section 1. Section 273.1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 **273.1 Intent.**

9 It is the intent of the general assembly to provide an
10 effective, efficient, and economical means of identifying and
11 serving children from under five years of age through grade
12 twelve who require special education and any other children
13 requiring special education as defined in section 256B.2; to
14 ~~provide for media services and other~~ programs and services
15 for pupils in grades kindergarten through twelve and children
16 requiring special education as defined in section 256B.2; to
17 provide a method of financing the programs and services; and
18 ~~to avoid a duplication of programs and services provided by~~
19 ~~any other school corporation in the state; and to provide~~
20 services to school districts under a contract with those school
21 districts; to improve student achievement; and to close student
22 achievement gaps.

23 Sec. 2. Section 273.2, Code 2024, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 **273.2 Area education agencies established — powers —**
26 **services and programs.**

27 1. There are established throughout the state fifteen not
28 more than nine area education agencies, as determined by the
29 director of the department of education, each of which is
30 ~~governed by an area education agency board of directors under~~
31 the general supervision of the director, except as otherwise
32 provided in this chapter. Each area education agency shall
33 have an area education agency board of directors that shall
34 serve in an advisory capacity. The boundaries of an area
35 education agency shall not divide a school district. The

1 director of the department of education shall change boundaries
2 of area education agencies to take into account mergers of
3 local school districts and changes in boundaries of local
4 school districts, when necessary to maintain the policy of this
5 chapter that a local school district shall not be a part of
6 more than one area education agency.

7 2. An area education agency established under this chapter
8 is a body politic as a school corporation for the purpose of
9 exercising powers granted under this chapter, and may sue and
10 be sued. An area education agency ~~may~~ shall not hold real
11 property and execute purchase agreements within two years of a
12 disaster as defined in section 29C.2, subsection 4, and shall
13 not enter into lease-purchase agreements pursuant to section
14 273.3, subsection 7, and if the lease-purchase agreement
15 exceeds ten years or the purchase price of the property to be
16 acquired pursuant to a purchase or lease-purchase agreement
17 exceeds the amount stated in section 26.3, subsection 1, the
18 area education agency shall conduct a public hearing on the
19 proposed purchase or lease-purchase agreement and receive
20 approval from the area education agency board of directors and
21 the state board of education or its designee before entering
22 into the agreement. The department of administrative services
23 is responsible for providing real property and facilities to
24 the area education agencies, as determined in consultation with
25 the director of the department of education, pursuant to lease
26 agreements between the department of administrative services
27 and the area education agencies. The area education agencies
28 are responsible for the general maintenance and the grounds of
29 the real property and facilities provided by the department of
30 administrative services. Moneys generated pursuant to this
31 section shall be deposited in the deferred facility maintenance
32 fund established in section 273.17.

33 3. a. The area education agency ~~board shall~~ agencies
34 may furnish educational services and programs as provided in
35 section 273.1, this section, sections 273.3 through 273.8,

1 and chapter 256B to the pupils enrolled in public schools, or
2 nonpublic schools ~~located within its boundaries~~ which are on
3 the list of accredited schools pursuant to section 256.11,
4 that request to receive such services, including by providing
5 for a method of payment for such services and entering into
6 agreements with the area education agency. ~~The programs and~~
7 ~~services provided shall be at least commensurate with programs~~
8 ~~and services existing on July 1, 1974.~~ The programs and
9 services provided to pupils enrolled in nonpublic schools shall
10 be comparable to programs and services provided to pupils
11 enrolled in public schools within constitutional guidelines.

12 b. The area education agencies may furnish professional
13 development services to public schools, or to nonpublic schools
14 which are on the list of accredited schools pursuant to section
15 256.11, that request to receive such services, including
16 by providing for a method of payment for such services and
17 entering into agreements with the area education agency. An
18 agreement to receive professional development services pursuant
19 to this paragraph is subject to the approval of the director
20 of the department of education.

21 4. a. The area education agency ~~board~~ agencies shall
22 provide for special education services and ~~media services~~ for
23 the local school districts in the area and shall encourage and
24 assist school districts in the area to establish programs for
25 gifted and talented children that are located within the area
26 education agency's boundaries and that request to receive such
27 services by February 1 of the preceding school year, including
28 by providing for a method of payment for such services and
29 entering into agreements with the area education agency. The
30 board shall assist in facilitating interlibrary loans of
31 materials between school districts and other libraries. An
32 area education agency may provide special education services
33 for local school districts located within its boundaries that
34 request to receive such services after February 1 of the
35 preceding school year.

1 b. The area education agencies may provide special education
2 services to pupils enrolled in public schools and nonpublic
3 schools that are located outside of the area education agency's
4 boundaries that request to receive such services, including
5 by providing for a method of payment for such services and
6 entering into agreements with the area education agency.

7 c. The area education agencies may provide media services to
8 public schools and nonpublic schools that request to receive
9 such services, including by providing for a method of payment
10 for such services and entering into agreements with the area
11 education agency. For purposes of this paragraph, "media
12 services" means the provision of print and nonprint library
13 materials, curriculum laboratory, technology support services,
14 and the production of media-oriented instructional materials
15 that support the accreditation standards of public schools and
16 nonpublic schools. "Media services" does not include accessible
17 educational materials needed for special education, unless
18 such materials constitute materials for persons who are blind
19 and visually impaired, which materials may be provided by the
20 department for the blind.

21 5. The area education ~~agency board~~ agencies may provide for
22 the following programs and services to local school districts,
23 and at the request of local school districts to providers of
24 child development services who have received grants under
25 chapter 256A from the child development coordinating council,
26 within the limits of funds available:

27 a. In-service training programs for employees of school
28 districts and area education agencies, provided at the time
29 programs and services are established they do not duplicate
30 programs and services available in that area from the
31 universities under the state board of regents and from other
32 universities and four-year institutions of higher education in
33 Iowa. The in-service training programs shall include but are
34 not limited to regular training concerning mental or emotional
35 disorders which may ~~afflict~~ affect children and the impact

1 children with such disorders have upon their families.

2 *b.* Educational data processing pursuant to section 256.9,
3 subsection 11.

4 *c.* Research, demonstration projects and models, and
5 educational planning for children under five years of age
6 through grade twelve and children requiring special education
7 as defined in section 256B.2 as approved by the state board of
8 education.

9 *d.* Auxiliary services for nonpublic school pupils as
10 provided in section 256.12. However, if auxiliary services are
11 provided their funding shall be based on the type of service
12 provided.

13 *e.* Other educational programs and services for children
14 under five years through grade twelve and children requiring
15 special education as defined in section 256B.2 and for
16 employees of school districts and area education agencies as
17 approved by the state board of education.

18 6. The board of directors of an area education agency shall
19 not establish programs and services which duplicate programs
20 and services which are or may be provided by the community
21 colleges under the provisions of chapter 260C. An area
22 education agency shall contract, whenever practicable, with
23 other school corporations for the use of personnel, buildings,
24 facilities, supplies, equipment, programs, and services.

25 7. ~~The board of an~~ Subject to the approval of the director
26 of the department of education, an area education agency or
27 a consortium of two or more area education agencies shall
28 contract with one or more licensed dietitians for the support
29 of nutritional provisions in individual education plans
30 developed in accordance with chapter 256B and to provide
31 information to support school nutrition coordinators.

32 ~~8. The area education agency board shall collaborate~~
33 ~~with the department of education to provide a statewide~~
34 ~~infrastructure for educational data to create cost~~
35 ~~efficiencies, provide storage and disaster mitigation, and~~

1 ~~improve interconnectivity between schools and school districts.~~
2 ~~In addition, the area education agency boards shall work~~
3 ~~with the department to provide systemwide coordination in~~
4 ~~the implementation of the statewide longitudinal data system~~
5 ~~consistent with the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment~~
6 ~~Act of 2009. The area education agencies shall provide support~~
7 ~~to school districts' information technology infrastructure~~
8 ~~that is consistent with the statewide infrastructure for the~~
9 ~~educational data collaborative.~~

10 9. ~~The area education agency boards shall jointly develop a~~
11 ~~three-year statewide strategic plan that supports goals adopted~~
12 ~~by the state board of education pursuant to section 256.7,~~
13 ~~subsection 4, and the accreditation standards established~~
14 ~~pursuant to section 256.11; establish performance goals; and~~
15 ~~clearly identify the statewide efforts to improve student~~
16 ~~learning and create efficiencies in management operations for~~
17 ~~area education agencies and school districts. The statewide~~
18 ~~strategic plan shall be approved by the state board of~~
19 ~~education. The area education agency boards shall jointly~~
20 ~~provide the state board with annual updates on the performance~~
21 ~~measures.~~

22 10. 8. The Subject to the approval of the director
23 of the department of education, an area education agency
24 ~~board is encouraged to~~ may employ a child welfare liaison to
25 provide services and guidance to local school districts to
26 facilitate the efficient and effective transfer and enrollment
27 of a child adjudicated under chapter 232 or receiving foster
28 care services to another school district, including but not
29 limited to guidance relating to the transfer of credit earned
30 for coursework taken by the student, enrollment transition
31 planning, facilitating information sharing between education
32 and child welfare agencies, and developing systems designed to
33 ameliorate the transition issues faced by a child adjudicated
34 under chapter 232 or receiving foster care services who is
35 transferring to and enrolling in a school district.

1 ~~11.~~ 9. Subject to an appropriation by the general assembly
2 for such purpose, ~~the area education agency board~~ agencies
3 shall, by July 1, 2024, dedicate at least one full-time
4 equivalent position to maintain a dyslexia specialist. ~~The~~
5 An area education agency board may hire such a specialist
6 or may provide appropriate training to qualify an existing
7 employee as a specialist on dyslexia. The specialist shall
8 may, in consultation with the Iowa reading research center,
9 provide technical guidance and assistance, including but
10 not limited to professional development, strategies, and
11 materials, including materials aligned with the science of
12 reading, to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools
13 relating to identification of and instruction for students with
14 characteristics of dyslexia. The specialist shall be highly
15 trained in dyslexia and have a minimum of three years of field
16 experience in screening, identifying, and treating dyslexia and
17 related disorders. ~~In the absence of an appropriation, each~~
18 ~~area education agency board is encouraged to employ a highly~~
19 ~~qualified dyslexia specialist.~~

20 10. a. An area education agency may establish a plan, in
21 accordance with section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code,
22 as defined in section 422.3, for employees, which plan shall
23 consist of one or more investment contracts, on a group or
24 individual basis, acquired from a company, or a salesperson for
25 that company, that is authorized to do business in this state.

26 b. The selection of investment contracts to be included
27 within the plan established by the area education agency shall
28 be made either pursuant to a competitive bidding process
29 conducted by the area education agency, in coordination with
30 employee organizations representing employees eligible to
31 participate in the plan, or pursuant to an agreement with
32 the department of administrative services to make available
33 investment contracts included in a deferred compensation or
34 similar plan established by the department of administrative
35 services pursuant to section 8A.438, which plan meets the

1 requirements of this subsection. The determination of whether
2 to select investment contracts for the plan pursuant to a
3 competitive bidding process or by agreement with the department
4 of administrative services shall be made by agreement between
5 the area education agency and the employee organizations
6 representing employees eligible to participate in the plan.

7 c. The area education agency may make elective deferrals in
8 accordance with the plan as authorized by an eligible employee
9 for the purpose of making contributions to the investment
10 contract on behalf of the employee. The deferrals shall be
11 made in the manner which will qualify contributions to the
12 investment contract for the benefits under section 403(b)
13 of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in section 422.3.
14 In addition, the area education agency may make nonelective
15 employer contributions to the plan.

16 d. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise
17 requires, "investment contract" shall mean a custodial account
18 utilizing mutual funds or an annuity contract which meets the
19 requirements of section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as
20 defined in section 422.3.

21 11. An area education agency may establish and pay all
22 or any part of the cost of group health insurance plans,
23 nonprofit group medical service plans and group life insurance
24 plans adopted by the area education agency for the benefit of
25 employees of the area education agency, from funds available
26 to the board.

27 12. An area education agency may issue school credit
28 cards allowing area education agency employees to pay for the
29 actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
30 work-related duties.

31 13. An area education agency may purchase equipment as
32 provided in section 279.48.

33 14. By March 1 of each year, the area education agencies
34 shall submit to the department of education the area education
35 agency's staffing plans and job classifications, including

1 contracted salary, bonus wages and benefits, annuity payments,
2 or any other benefit, for the employees of the area education
3 agency. The director of the department of education shall
4 review the staffing plans and job classifications submitted by
5 the area education agencies and either approve or reject the
6 continuation of each position by March 15 of each year. The
7 area education agencies shall align all job classifications
8 with the job classifications established by the department of
9 administrative services. The area education agencies shall
10 comply with all applicable requirements of 29 U.S.C. ch. 23 and
11 chapter 84C if a reduction in force occurs.

12 15. The area education agencies shall require that, by
13 July 1, 2024, any person employed by the area education agency
14 who holds a license, certificate, statement of recognition,
15 or authorization other than a coaching authorization, issued
16 by the board of educational examiners to complete the Iowa
17 reading research center dyslexia overview module. Such persons
18 employed after July 1, 2024, shall complete the module within
19 one year of the employee's initial date of hire.

20 16. The area education agency shall collaborate with the
21 department of education to provide a statewide infrastructure
22 for educational data to create cost efficiencies, provide
23 storage and disaster mitigation, and improve interconnectivity
24 between schools and school districts. In addition, the area
25 education agency shall work with the department to provide
26 systemwide coordination in the implementation of the statewide
27 longitudinal data system consistent with the federal American
28 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

29 17. The cost for educational services, special education
30 services, and media services established by an area education
31 agency shall be reasonable and consistent with current market
32 rates for such services.

33 Sec. 3. Section 273.3, Code 2024, is amended to read as
34 follows:

35 273.3 Duties and powers of area education agency board —

1 additional powers of area education agencies.

2 ~~The board in carrying out the provisions of section 273.2~~
3 ~~shall:~~

4 1. ~~Determine the policies of~~ The board shall advise
5 and consult with the area education agency on policies and
6 procedures for providing programs and services.

7 2. ~~Be authorized to receive and expend money for providing~~
8 ~~programs and services as provided in sections 273.1, 273.2,~~
9 ~~this section, sections 273.4 through 273.8, and chapters 256B~~
10 ~~and 257. All costs incurred in providing the programs and~~
11 ~~services, including administrative costs, shall be paid from~~
12 ~~funds received pursuant to sections 273.1, 273.2, this section,~~
13 ~~sections 273.4 through 273.8, and chapters 256B and 257.~~

14 3. 2. Provide The board shall provide data and prepare
15 reports as directed by the director of the department of
16 education or the executive director of the area education
17 agency.

18 4. ~~Provide for advisory committees as deemed necessary.~~

19 5. 3. Be Area education agencies are authorized, subject
20 to rules of the state board of education, to provide directly
21 or by contractual arrangement with public or private agencies
22 for special education programs and services, media services,
23 and educational programs and services requested by the local
24 boards of education as provided in this chapter, ~~including~~
25 ~~but not limited to contracts for the area education agency to~~
26 ~~provide programs or services to the local school districts~~
27 ~~and contracts for local school districts, other educational~~
28 ~~agencies, and public and private agencies to provide programs~~
29 ~~and services to the local school districts in the area~~
30 ~~education agency in lieu of the area education agency providing~~
31 ~~the services. Contracts may be made with public or private~~
32 ~~agencies located outside the state if the programs and services~~
33 ~~comply with the rules of the state board. Rules adopted by~~
34 ~~the state board of education shall be consistent with rules,~~
35 ~~adopted by the board of educational examiners, relating to~~

1 ~~licensing of practitioners.~~

2 ~~6. 4. Area education agencies may are authorized to~~
3 ~~cooperate and contract between themselves and with other~~
4 ~~public agencies to provide special education programs and~~
5 ~~services, media services, and educational programs and services~~
6 ~~to schools and children residing within their respective~~
7 ~~areas. Area education agencies may provide print and nonprint~~
8 ~~materials to public and private colleges and universities that~~
9 ~~have teacher education programs approved by the state board of~~
10 ~~education.~~

11 ~~7. Be authorized to lease, purchase, or lease-purchase,~~
12 ~~subject to the approval of the state board of education or~~
13 ~~its designee and to receive by gift and operate and maintain~~
14 ~~facilities and buildings necessary to provide authorized~~
15 ~~programs and services. However, a lease for less than ten~~
16 ~~years and with an annual cost of less than the amount stated in~~
17 ~~section 26.3, subsection 1, does not require the approval of~~
18 ~~the state board. The state board shall not approve a lease,~~
19 ~~purchase, or lease-purchase until the state board is satisfied~~
20 ~~by investigation that public school corporations within the~~
21 ~~area do not have suitable facilities available. A purchase of~~
22 ~~property that is not a lease-purchase may be made only within~~
23 ~~two years of a disaster as defined in section 29C.2, subsection~~
24 ~~4, and subject to the requirements of this subsection.~~

25 ~~8. 5. Be Area education agencies are authorized, subject to~~
26 ~~the approval of the director of the department of education,~~
27 ~~to enter into agreements for the joint use of personnel,~~
28 ~~buildings, facilities, supplies, and equipment with school~~
29 ~~corporations as deemed necessary to provide authorized programs~~
30 ~~and services.~~

31 ~~9. 6. Be Area education agencies are authorized to~~
32 ~~make application for, accept, and expend state and federal~~
33 ~~funds that are available for programs of educational benefit~~
34 ~~approved by the director of the department of education,~~
35 ~~and cooperate with the department in the manner provided in~~

1 federal-state plans or department rules in the effectuation
2 and administration of programs approved by the director, or
3 approved by other educational agencies, which agencies have
4 been approved as state educational authorities.

5 ~~10.~~ 7. Be Area education agencies are authorized to perform
6 all other acts necessary to carry out the provisions and intent
7 of this chapter.

8 ~~11.~~ 8. Employ An area education agency shall employ
9 personnel to carry out the functions of the area education
10 agency which shall include the employment of an administrator
11 executive director who shall possess a an administrator
12 license and either a teaching license with a special
13 education endorsement or a special education support personnel
14 authorization, issued under ~~chapter 256, subchapter VII, part~~
15 ~~3 by the board of educational examiners.~~ The administrator
16 ~~shall be employed pursuant to section 279.20 and sections~~
17 ~~279.23, 279.24, and 279.25.~~ The salary for an area education
18 agency ~~administrator~~ executive director shall be established by
19 the ~~board~~ director of the department of education based upon
20 the previous experience and education of the ~~administrator~~
21 executive director. Section 279.13 applies to ~~the area~~
22 ~~education agency board and to all teachers employed by the area~~
23 ~~education agency. Sections 279.23, 279.24, and 279.25 apply to~~
24 ~~the area education board and to all administrators employed by~~
25 ~~the area education agency. Section 279.69 applies to the area~~
26 ~~education agency board and employees of the board, including~~
27 ~~part-time, substitute, or contract employees, who provide~~
28 ~~services to a school or school district.~~

29 ~~12.~~ 9. Prepare An area education agency shall prepare
30 an annual budget estimating income and expenditures for
31 programs and services as provided in sections 273.1, 273.2,
32 this section, sections 273.4 through 273.8, and chapter 256B
33 within the limits of funds provided under section 256B.9 and
34 chapter 257. The ~~board~~ executive director shall ~~post notice~~
35 ~~of a public hearing on~~ submit the proposed budget ~~on the area~~

1 ~~education agency's internet site and by publication in the~~
2 ~~newspaper of general circulation in the territory of the area~~
3 ~~education agency in which the principal place of business of~~
4 ~~a school district that is a part of the area education agency~~
5 ~~is located to the director of the department of education for~~
6 ~~approval not later than March 1 of each year. The notice shall~~
7 ~~specify the date, which shall be not later than March 1 of~~
8 ~~each year, the time, and the location of the public hearing.~~
9 The proposed budget as approved by the ~~board~~ director of the
10 department of education shall then be submitted to the state
11 board of education, on forms provided by the department,
12 no later than March 15 preceding the next fiscal year for
13 approval. The state board shall review the proposed budget of
14 each area education agency and shall before May 1, either grant
15 approval or return the budget without approval with comments
16 of the state board included. An unapproved budget shall be
17 resubmitted to the state board for final approval not later
18 than May 15. The state board shall give final approval only to
19 budgets submitted by area education agencies accredited by the
20 state board or that have been given conditional accreditation
21 by the state board.

22 ~~13.~~ 10. Be An area education agency is authorized to pay,
23 out of funds available to the board reasonable annual dues to
24 an Iowa association of school boards. Membership shall be
25 limited to those duly elected members of the area education
26 agency board.

27 ~~14. a.~~ ~~The board may establish a plan, in accordance with~~
28 ~~section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in~~
29 ~~section 422.3, for employees, which plan shall consist of one~~
30 ~~or more investment contracts, on a group or individual basis,~~
31 ~~acquired from a company, or a salesperson for that company,~~
32 ~~that is authorized to do business in this state.~~

33 ~~b.~~ ~~The selection of investment contracts to be included~~
34 ~~within the plan established by the board shall be made either~~
35 ~~pursuant to a competitive bidding process conducted by the~~

1 board, in coordination with employee organizations representing
2 employees eligible to participate in the plan, or pursuant to
3 an agreement with the department of administrative services
4 to make available investment contracts included in a deferred
5 compensation or similar plan established by the department
6 pursuant to section 8A.438, which plan meets the requirements
7 of this subsection. The determination of whether to select
8 investment contracts for the plan pursuant to a competitive
9 bidding process or by agreement with the department of
10 administrative services shall be made by agreement between the
11 board and the employee organizations representing employees
12 eligible to participate in the plan.

13 ~~c.~~ The board may make elective deferrals in accordance with
14 the plan as authorized by an eligible employee for the purpose
15 of making contributions to the investment contract on behalf of
16 the employee. The deferrals shall be made in the manner which
17 will qualify contributions to the investment contract for the
18 benefits under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code,
19 as defined in section 422.3. In addition, the board may make
20 nonelective employer contributions to the plan.

21 ~~d.~~ As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise
22 requires, "*investment contract*" shall mean a custodial account
23 utilizing mutual funds or an annuity contract which meets the
24 requirements of section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as
25 defined in section 422.3.

26 ~~15.~~ Be authorized to establish and pay all or any part
27 of the cost of group health insurance plans, nonprofit group
28 medical service plans and group life insurance plans adopted by
29 the board for the benefit of employees of the area education
30 agency, from funds available to the board.

31 ~~16.~~ 11. Meet An area education agency shall meet at least
32 annually with the members of the boards of directors of the
33 ~~merged areas~~ community colleges in which the area education
34 agency is located to discuss coordination of programs and
35 services and other matters of mutual interest to the boards.

1 ~~17. Be authorized to issue warrants and anticipatory~~
2 ~~warrants pursuant to chapter 74. The applicable rate of~~
3 ~~interest shall be determined pursuant to sections 74A.2, 74A.3,~~
4 ~~and 74A.7. This subsection shall not be construed to authorize~~
5 ~~a board to levy a tax.~~

6 ~~18. Be authorized to issue school credit cards allowing area~~
7 ~~education agency employees to pay for the actual and necessary~~
8 ~~expenses incurred in the performance of work-related duties.~~

9 ~~19.~~ 12. Pursuant An area education agency shall, pursuant
10 to rules adopted by the state board of education and subject to
11 the approval of the director of the department of education,
12 be authorized to charge user fees for certain materials and
13 services that are not part of educational services or media
14 services and that are not required by law or by rules of the
15 state board of education and are specifically requested by a
16 school district or accredited nonpublic school.

17 ~~20. Be authorized to purchase equipment as provided in~~
18 ~~section 279.48.~~

19 ~~21. Be authorized to sell, lease, or dispose of, in whole~~
20 ~~or in part, property belonging to the area education agency.~~
21 ~~Before the area education agency may sell property belonging~~
22 ~~to the agency, the board of directors shall comply with the~~
23 ~~requirements set forth in section 297.22. Before the board~~
24 ~~of directors of an area education agency may lease property~~
25 ~~belonging to the agency, the board shall obtain the approval of~~
26 ~~the director of the department of education.~~

27 ~~22.~~ 13. Meet An area education agency shall meet annually
28 with the members of the boards of directors of the school
29 districts located within its boundaries if requested by the
30 school district boards.

31 ~~23. By October 1 of each year, submit to the department of~~
32 ~~education the following information:~~

33 ~~a. The contracted salary including bonus wages and benefits,~~
34 ~~annuity payments, or any other benefit for the administrators~~
35 ~~of the area education agency.~~

1 ~~b. The contracted salary and benefits and any other expenses~~
2 ~~related to support for governmental affairs efforts, including~~
3 ~~expenditures for lobbyists and lobbying activities for the area~~
4 ~~education agency.~~

5 ~~24. Be authorized to sell software and support services,~~
6 ~~professional development programs and materials, online~~
7 ~~professional development, and online training to entities~~
8 ~~other than school districts within the state and to school~~
9 ~~districts and other public agencies located outside of the~~
10 ~~state. The board may also sell to school districts within this~~
11 ~~state software and support services, professional development~~
12 ~~programs and materials, online professional development,~~
13 ~~and online training which the area education agency is not~~
14 ~~otherwise required to provide to a school district under this~~
15 ~~chapter or chapter 256B or 257.~~

16 ~~25. Require, by July 1, 2024, any person employed by~~
17 ~~the area education agency who holds a license, certificate,~~
18 ~~statement of recognition, or authorization other than a~~
19 ~~coaching authorization, issued by the board of educational~~
20 ~~examiners under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3, to~~
21 ~~complete the Iowa reading research center dyslexia overview~~
22 ~~module. Such persons employed after July 1, 2024, shall~~
23 ~~complete the module within one year of the employee's initial~~
24 ~~date of hire.~~

25 Sec. 4. Section 273.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 **273.4 Duties of administrator executive director.**

28 Under direction of the board of directors of the area
29 education agency, the administrator of the area education
30 agency shall director of the department of education, each
31 area education agency shall employ one executive director.
32 The executive director shall be appointed by and serve at the
33 pleasure of the director of the department of education. The
34 executive director shall be responsible for the administration,
35 financial operations, and management of the area education

1 agency, and in addition to other duties, shall do all of the
2 following:

3 1. Cooperate with boards of directors of local school
4 districts of the area education agency in considering and
5 developing plans for the improvement of the educational
6 programs and services in the area education agency.

7 2. When requested, provide such other assistance as
8 possible to school districts of the area education agency for
9 the general improvement of their educational programs and
10 operations.

11 3. Submit program plans each year to the department of
12 education, for approval by the director of the department,
13 ~~to reflect the needs of the area education agency for media~~
14 ~~services as provided in section 273.6.~~

15 4. When requested, provide information and prepare reports
16 for the director of the department of education.

17 5. With the approval of the director of the department of
18 education, employ such personnel as are necessary to support
19 the administrative, general education, and special education
20 programs and services of the area education agency.

21 6. With the approval of the administrator of the division of
22 special education within the department of education, contract
23 with public schools, nonpublic schools, and area education
24 agencies, located either within this state or in a contiguous
25 state, for special education programs and services, media
26 services, and educational programs and services.

27 Sec. 5. Section 273.5, Code 2024, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 273.5 ~~Special~~ Additional duties of the executive director —
30 special education.

31 ~~There shall be established a division of special education~~
32 ~~of the area education agency which~~ The executive director
33 of each area education agency shall provide for special
34 education programs and services to the local school districts,
35 consistent with state regulations and guidelines related to

1 special education programs and services. ~~The division of~~
2 ~~special education shall be headed by a director of special~~
3 ~~education who meets certification standards of the department~~
4 ~~of education. The director of special education shall have~~
5 ~~the responsibility for implementation of state regulations and~~
6 ~~guidelines relating to special education programs and services.~~
7 The executive director of special education shall have the
8 following additional powers and duties:

- 9 1. Properly identify children requiring special education.
- 10 2. Insure that each child requiring special education in
11 the area receives an appropriate special education program or
12 service.
- 13 3. Assign appropriate weights for each child requiring
14 special education programs or services as provided in section
15 256B.9.
- 16 4. Supervise special education support personnel.
- 17 5. Provide In consultation with each school district within
18 the area served ~~and, provide to~~ the department of education
19 ~~with~~ a special education weighted enrollment count, including
20 the additional enrollment because of special education for
21 December 1 of each year.
- 22 6. Submit to the department of education special education
23 instructional and support program plans and applications,
24 subject to criteria listed in chapter 256B and this chapter,
25 for approval by February 15 of each year for the school year
26 commencing the following July 1.
- 27 7. Coordinate the special education program within the area
28 served.

29 Sec. 6. Section 273.8, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2024,
30 is amended to read as follows:

- 31 a. Notice of the election shall be published by the
32 executive director of the area education agency administrator
33 not later than September 15 of the odd-numbered year in at
34 least one newspaper of general circulation in the director
35 district. The cost of publication shall be paid by the area

1 education agency.

2 Sec. 7. Section 273.8, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 3. *Director district convention.* If no candidate files
5 with the area education agency secretary by the deadline
6 specified in subsection 2, or a vacancy occurs, or if otherwise
7 required as provided in section 273.23, subsection 3, a
8 director district convention, attended by members of the
9 boards of directors of the local school districts located
10 within the director district, shall be called to elect a
11 board member for that director district. The convention
12 location shall be determined by the executive director of the
13 area education agency ~~administrator~~. Notice of the time,
14 date, and place of a director district convention shall be
15 published by the executive director of the area education
16 agency ~~administrator~~ in at least one newspaper of general
17 circulation in the director district at least thirty days
18 prior to the day of the convention. The cost of publication
19 shall be paid by the area education agency. A candidate
20 for election to the area education agency board shall file a
21 statement of candidacy with the area education agency secretary
22 at least ten days prior to the date of the director district
23 convention on forms prescribed by the department of education,
24 or nominations may be made at the convention by a delegate from
25 a board of directors of a school district located within the
26 director district. A statement of candidacy shall include the
27 candidate's name, address, and school district. Delegates to
28 director district conventions shall not be bound by a school
29 board or any school board member to pledge their votes to any
30 candidate prior to the date of the convention.

31 Sec. 8. Section 273.8, subsections 6, 7, and 8, Code 2024,
32 are amended by striking the subsections.

33 Sec. 9. Section 273.9, Code 2024, is amended to read as
34 follows:

35 **273.9 Funding.**

1 1. School districts shall pay for the programs and services
2 provided through the area education agency when the school
3 district contracts to receive the programs or services or
4 otherwise agrees to receive the programs or services and shall
5 include expenditures for the programs and services in their
6 budgets, in accordance with this section.

7 2. ~~School~~ When school districts contract to receive special
8 education instructional programs from an area education
9 agency, school districts shall pay the costs of special
10 education instructional programs with the moneys available to
11 the districts for each child requiring special education, by
12 application of the special education weighting plan in section
13 256B.9. Special education instructional programs shall be
14 provided at the local level if practicable, or otherwise by
15 contractual arrangements with the area education agency ~~board~~
16 as provided in section 273.3, subsection ~~5~~ 3, but in each case
17 the total money available through section 256B.9 and chapter
18 257 because of weighted enrollment for each child requiring
19 special education instruction shall be made available to
20 the district or agency which provides the special education
21 instructional program to the child, subject to adjustments
22 for transportation or other costs which may be paid by the
23 school district in which the child is enrolled. Each district
24 shall cooperate with its area education agency to provide
25 an appropriate special education instructional program for
26 each child who requires special education instruction, as
27 identified and counted within the certification by the area
28 director of special education or as identified by the area
29 executive director of ~~special education~~ the area education
30 agency subsequent to the certification, and shall not provide
31 a special education instructional program to a child who has
32 not been so identified and counted within the certification or
33 identified subsequent to the certification.

34 3. The costs of special education support services provided
35 through the area education agency shall be funded as provided

1 in chapter 257. Special education support services shall not
2 be funded until the program plans submitted by the ~~special~~
3 ~~education executive~~ directors of each area education agency
4 as required by section 273.5 are modified as necessary and
5 approved by the director of the department of education
6 according to the criteria and limitations of chapters 256B and
7 257.

8 ~~4. The costs of media services provided through the area~~
9 ~~education agency shall not be funded until the program plans~~
10 ~~submitted by the administrators of each area education agency~~
11 ~~as required by section 273.4 are modified as necessary and~~
12 ~~approved by the director of the department of education~~
13 ~~according to the criteria of section 273.6.~~

14 ~~5.~~ 4. The state board of education shall adopt rules under
15 chapter 17A relating to the approval of program plans under
16 this section.

17 Sec. 10. Section 273.10, subsection 6, paragraph a,
18 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 If the deficiencies in an area education program have not
21 been corrected, the ~~agency board~~ director of the department of
22 education shall take one of the following actions within sixty
23 days from removal of accreditation:

24 Sec. 11. Section 273.10, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code
25 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 *b.* The rules developed by the state board of education for
27 the accreditation process shall include provisions for removal
28 of accreditation, including provisions for proper notice to the
29 ~~administrator~~ executive director of the area education agency,
30 each member of the board of directors of the area education
31 agency, the department of education, and the superintendents
32 and administrators of the schools of the districts served by
33 the area education agency.

34 Sec. 12. Section 273.11, Code 2024, is amended to read as
35 follows:

1 **273.11 Standards for accrediting area education programs.**

2 1. The state board of education, in consultation with the
3 department of education, shall develop standards and rules
4 for the accreditation of area education agencies. Standards
5 shall be general in nature, but at a minimum shall identify
6 requirements addressing the services provided by each division,
7 as well as identifying indicators of quality that will permit
8 area education agencies, school districts, the department of
9 education, and the general public to judge accurately the
10 effectiveness of area education agency services.

11 2. Standards developed shall include, but are not limited
12 to, the following:

13 a. Support for school-community planning, including a means
14 of assessing needs, developing collaborative relationships
15 among community agencies, establishing shared direction, and
16 implementing program plans and reporting progress toward goals
17 for students with disabilities.

18 ~~b. Professional development programs that respond to current~~
19 ~~needs.~~

20 ~~e. b.~~ Support for curriculum development, instruction,
21 and assessment ~~for~~ services that address the areas of reading,
22 language arts, math, and science, ~~using research-based~~
23 methodologies for students with disabilities.

24 ~~d. Special education compliance and support.~~

25 ~~e. Management services, including financial reporting and~~
26 ~~purchasing as requested and funded by local districts.~~

27 ~~f. Support for instructional media services that supplement~~
28 ~~and support local district media centers and services.~~

29 c. Support for schools and school districts in analyzing
30 student achievement data related to the learning environment,
31 comparing data to the external knowledge base, and using that
32 information to guide schools and school districts in setting
33 goals and implementing actions to improve student learning for
34 students with disabilities.

35 d. Support for addressing the diverse learning needs of

1 all children and youths with disabilities who are eligible for
2 special education, including through services that include
3 direct services to students with disabilities.

4 e. Support for schools and school districts to ensure
5 compliance rules adopted by the state board of education
6 related to special education.

7 ~~g. f.~~ Support for necessary to implement effective
8 instruction for all students with disabilities through school
9 ~~technology planning and staff development for implementing~~
10 ~~instructional technologies services.~~

11 ~~h. g.~~ A program and services evaluation and reporting
12 system related to special education.

13 ~~i. Support for school district libraries in accordance with~~
14 ~~section 273.2, subsection 4.~~

15 ~~j. h.~~ Support for early childhood service coordination
16 for families and children, age birth through three years, to
17 meet health, safety, and learning needs, including service
18 coordination.

19 i. Support for students using educational programs and
20 services in a manner that is consistent with the educational
21 standards established pursuant to section 256.11.

22 j. Support for staff development and adult learners
23 utilizing professional development in a manner that meets the
24 professional needs of staff and adult learners consistent with
25 standards adopted by the state board of education.

26 k. Compliance with all relevant state and federal laws
27 in the provision of services and supports to students with
28 disabilities.

29 Sec. 13. Section 273.13, Code 2024, is amended to read as
30 follows:

31 **273.13 Administrative expenditures.**

32 The administrative expenditures as a percent of an area
33 education agency's general fund for a base year shall not
34 exceed five percent. ~~Annually, the board of directors~~
35 executive director of each area education agency shall

1 certify to the department of education the amounts of the area
2 education agency's expenditures and its general fund. For the
3 purposes of this section, "base year" means the same as defined
4 in section 257.2, and "administrative expenditures" means
5 expenditures for executive administration.

6 Sec. 14. Section 273.14, Code 2024, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 **273.14 Emergency repairs.**

9 When emergency repairs costing more than the competitive
10 bid threshold in section 26.3, or the adjusted competitive
11 bid threshold established in section 314.1B, subsection 2,
12 are necessary in order to ensure the use of an area education
13 agency facility, the provisions of law with reference to
14 advertising for bids shall not apply within two years of a
15 disaster as defined in section 29C.2, subsection 2, and the
16 ~~area education agency board~~ department of administrative
17 services may contract for such emergency repairs without
18 advertising for bids. ~~However, before such emergency repairs~~
19 ~~can be made to an area education agency facility, the state~~
20 ~~board of education or its designee must certify that such~~
21 ~~emergency repairs are necessary to ensure the use of the area~~
22 ~~education agency facility.~~

23 Sec. 15. Section 273.15, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 1. The board of directors of each area education agency
26 ~~shall~~ may appoint an advisory group to make recommendations
27 on policy, programs, and services to the ~~board~~ area education
28 agency. The advisory group ~~shall~~ may provide input, feedback,
29 and recommendations ~~to the board~~ regarding projected future
30 needs, and ~~shall~~ may provide a review and response to any
31 state-directed study or task force report on area education
32 agency efficiencies or reorganization.

33 Sec. 16. Section 273.15, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 5. The advisory group ~~shall~~ may meet at least twice annually

1 and ~~shall~~ submit its recommendations in a report to the ~~board~~
2 ~~of directors~~ executive director of the area education agency at
3 ~~least once annually~~. The report shall be timely submitted to
4 allow for consideration of the recommendations prior to program
5 planning and budgeting for the following fiscal year.

6 Sec. 17. NEW SECTION. 273.17 Department of administrative
7 services — deferred facility maintenance fund.

8 1. A deferred facility maintenance fund is created in the
9 state treasury as a separate fund under the control of the
10 department of administrative services. The fund shall consist
11 of appropriations made to the fund, any other moneys available
12 to and obtained or accepted by the department from the federal
13 government or private sources for placement in the fund, and
14 transfers of interest, earnings, and moneys from other funds
15 as provided by law.

16 2. Moneys in the deferred facility maintenance fund are
17 appropriated to the department of administrative services for
18 purposes of the maintenance and management of facilities used
19 by the area education agencies.

20 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the deferred
21 facility maintenance fund that remain unencumbered or
22 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
23 but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes
24 designated for subsequent fiscal years. Notwithstanding
25 section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in
26 the fund shall be credited to the fund.

27 Sec. 18. REPEAL. Sections 273.6, 273.7, and 273.7A, Code
28 2024, are repealed.

29 Sec. 19. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

30 1. An area education agency shall not transfer any ownership
31 interest existing as of January 1, 2024, that the area
32 education agency has in real property or facilities until such
33 interests are transferred to the department of administrative
34 services pursuant to subsection 2.

35 2. a. On or before July 1, 2024, all ownership interests

1 that area education agencies have in real property and
2 facilities attached to real property shall be transferred to
3 the department of administrative services. Prior to July
4 1, 2024, the area education agencies and the area education
5 agency boards of directors shall collaborate with the director
6 of the department of administrative services to arrange for
7 the orderly conveyance of all ownership interests in real
8 property from the area education agencies to the department
9 of administrative services. The department of administrative
10 services shall be responsible for all costs associated with
11 the conveyance of real property pursuant to this paragraph and
12 shall assume all encumbrances attached to such real property.

13 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
14 contrary, the department of administrative services shall have
15 the authority to dispose of all interests in real property
16 conveyed to the department pursuant to paragraph "a". Moneys
17 generated by the sale of such interests in real property
18 shall be deposited in the deferred facility maintenance fund
19 established pursuant to section 273.17, if enacted in this
20 division of this Act.

21 3. On or before July 1, 2024, all interests that area
22 education agencies have in real property lease agreements shall
23 be transferred to the department of administrative services.

24 4. a. Within thirty days of the effective date of this
25 division of this Act, each area education agency shall submit
26 to the department of education an inventory detailing all
27 equipment and property designed to assist the blind and
28 visually impaired owned by the area education agency. If the
29 area education agency would like to retain any particular items
30 of equipment or property designed to assist the blind and
31 visually impaired to support its special education program and
32 services, the area education agency shall include a request to
33 retain such equipment or property in the inventory.

34 b. The department of education, in coordination with the
35 department for the blind, shall review all inventories and

1 requests submitted pursuant to paragraph "a" within thirty
2 days of receiving the request and shall provide notice to each
3 area education agency, as applicable, indicating whether the
4 department approves or denies the area education agency's
5 request to retain equipment and property designed to assist the
6 blind and visually impaired.

7 c. On or before July 1, 2024, all of the following equipment
8 and property designed to assist the blind and visually impaired
9 shall be transferred from the area education agency to the
10 department of administrative services:

11 (1) Equipment and property designed to assist the blind
12 and visually impaired that the area education agency did not
13 request to retain.

14 (2) Equipment and property designed to assist the blind and
15 visually impaired that the area education agency requested to
16 retain, but that the department denied.

17 d. (1) The department of administrative services shall
18 transfer to the department for the blind all equipment and
19 property transferred to the department pursuant to paragraph
20 "c" that can be utilized by the commission for the blind to
21 provide library services to persons who are blind and persons
22 with disabilities.

23 (2) The department of administrative services may dispose
24 of any equipment and property transferred to the department
25 pursuant to paragraph "c" that the commission for the blind
26 determines cannot be utilized by the commission to provide
27 library services to persons who are blind and persons with
28 disabilities, with first preference being given to the
29 department of education and second preference being given
30 to lower-performing public schools in this state. Moneys
31 generated from the sale of equipment or property shall be
32 deposited in the deferred facility maintenance fund established
33 pursuant to section 273.17, if enacted by this division of this
34 Act.

35 5. On July 1, 2024, the employment of all area education

1 agency administrators employed pursuant to section 273.3,
2 subsection 11, as amended in this division of this Act, is
3 terminated, unless terminated earlier by the director of
4 the department of education who, notwithstanding any other
5 provision of law to the contrary, is authorized to terminate
6 the employment of such area education agency administrators.
7 The changes to chapter 273 constitute just cause for discharge
8 of the area education administrators under section 279.25,
9 and the provisions of section 279.24 shall not apply to the
10 discharge of the area education administrators. The director
11 of the department of education shall appoint an executive
12 director for each area education agency pursuant to section
13 273.4, as amended in this division of this Act. The director,
14 or the director's designee, may exercise the authority of an
15 executive director until such appointment is made.

16 6. Notwithstanding the March 1 and March 15 deadlines in
17 section 273.2, subsection 14, as enacted by this division of
18 this Act, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
19 ending June 30, 2025, the area education agencies shall submit
20 the information required under section 273.2, subsection 14,
21 as enacted by this division of this Act, to the department
22 of education on or before July 1, 2024, and the department
23 of education shall review and either approve or reject the
24 continuation of each position by August 1, 2024.

25 7. In employing oversight personnel, the division of
26 special education within the department of education shall give
27 preference to qualified personnel who seek employment with the
28 division of special education because their employment with an
29 area education agency terminated as a result of this division
30 of this Act. Any former employee of an area education agency
31 whose employment with an area education agency terminated as
32 a result of this division of this Act and who is employed by
33 the division of special education no later than December 1,
34 2024, shall not experience a break in service credit for their
35 Iowa public employees' retirement system benefits and shall not

1 incur any loss in sick leave or vacation time.

2 8. a. Notwithstanding the February 1 deadlines in section
3 273.2, subsection 4, as amended by this division of this Act,
4 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30,
5 2025, a school district or local public or nonpublic school
6 within the boundaries of an area education agency shall request
7 in writing on or before June 1 to the area education agency the
8 special education programs and services the school district,
9 local public school, or local nonpublic school wants to
10 receive, which shall be provided by the area education agency.
11 The area education agency shall provide for a method of payment
12 and enter into an agreement with the school district, local
13 public school, or local nonpublic school.

14 b. Notwithstanding the February 1 deadlines in section
15 273.2, subsection 4, as amended by this division of this Act,
16 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30,
17 2025, an area education agency may provide special education
18 programs and services if a request to receive such services is
19 received after June 1.

20 9. The board of educational examiners shall excuse the
21 failure of a licensed practitioner of an area education agency
22 to fulfill the licensed practitioner's contractual obligations
23 under section 279.13 as a result of this division of this Act
24 for a period not to exceed one year after the effective date of
25 this division of this Act.

26 Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being
27 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

28 DIVISION II

29 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — REORGANIZATION OR DISSOLUTION

30 Sec. 21. Section 273.20, Code 2024, is amended to read as
31 follows:

32 **273.20 Definitions.**

33 When used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise
34 requires:

35 1. *“Affected area education agency” or “affected agency”*

1 means ~~an~~ any of the following:

2 a. An area education agency whose ~~board of directors~~
3 ~~is~~ executive directors are contemplating or engaged in
4 reorganization efforts in accordance with this subchapter.

5 b. An area education agency that the director of the
6 department determines should be reorganized or dissolved in
7 accordance with this subchapter.

8 ~~2. "Affected board" means the board of directors of an~~
9 ~~area education agency that is contemplating or engaged in~~
10 ~~reorganization efforts in accordance with this subchapter.~~

11 ~~3. 2. "Department" means the department of education.~~

12 ~~4. 3. "State board" means the state board of education.~~

13 Sec. 22. Section 273.21, Code 2024, is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 **273.21 ~~Voluntary reorganization~~ Reorganization and**
16 **dissolution.**

17 1. a. Two or more area education agencies may voluntarily
18 reorganize under this subchapter ~~if the area education~~
19 ~~agencies are contiguous, a majority of the members of each~~
20 ~~of the affected boards approve the reorganization, and the~~
21 ~~pursuant to a reorganization plan submitted to the state board~~
22 ~~pursuant to subsection 3 is approved by the state board that~~
23 ~~is prepared jointly by the executive directors of the affected~~
24 ~~area education agencies and submitted to the director of the~~
25 ~~department pursuant to subsection 2.~~

26 b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", the director of the
27 department may reorganize two or more area education agencies
28 under this subchapter. If the director of the department
29 determines two or more area education agencies should be
30 reorganized, the director shall direct the executive directors
31 of the affected area education agencies to jointly prepare
32 and submit a reorganization plan to the director pursuant to
33 subsection 2.

34 c. (1) An area education agency may voluntarily dissolve,
35 subject to the approval of the director of the department,

1 pursuant to a dissolution plan that is prepared and submitted
2 to the director of the department.

3 (2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), the director of the
4 department may dissolve an area education agency under this
5 subchapter.

6 ~~2. If twenty percent or more of the school districts within~~
7 ~~an affected area education agency file a petition by December~~
8 ~~1 with the affected area education agency board to consider~~
9 ~~reorganization, the affected board shall consider the request~~
10 ~~and vote on the petition. If a majority of the affected board~~
11 ~~members vote to study the reorganization of the affected area~~
12 ~~education agency, the affected board shall immediately begin~~
13 ~~the study to consider reorganization effective by July 1 of the~~
14 ~~next year.~~

15 ~~3.~~ 2. The executive directors of the affected boards
16 contemplating a voluntary reorganization area education
17 agencies shall do the following:

18 *a.* Develop detailed studies of the facilities, property,
19 services, staffing necessities, equipment, programs, and other
20 capabilities available in each of the affected area education
21 agencies for the purpose of providing for the reorganization of
22 the area education agencies in order to effect more economical
23 operation and the attainment of higher standards of educational
24 services for the schools.

25 *b.* Survey the school districts within the affected area
26 education agencies to determine the districts' current and
27 future programs and services, professional development, and
28 technology needs.

29 *c.* Consult with the officials of school districts within the
30 affected area and other citizens and periodically hold public
31 hearings during the development of a plan for reorganization,
32 as well as a public hearing on the final plan to be submitted to
33 the director of the department.

34 *d.* Consult with the director of the department ~~of education~~
35 in the development of surveys and plans. The director of the

1 department ~~of education~~ shall provide assistance and advice
2 to the affected area education ~~agency boards~~ agencies as
3 requested.

4 e. Develop a reorganization plan that demonstrates improved
5 efficiency and effectiveness of programs to meet accreditation
6 standards, includes a preliminary budget for reorganized areas,
7 documents public comment from the public hearings held pursuant
8 to paragraph "c", and provides for a board of directors, and
9 the number of members that the board shall consist of, in
10 accordance with section 273.8.

11 f. Set forth the assets and liabilities of the affected
12 area education agencies, which shall become the responsibility
13 of the ~~board of directors of the~~ newly formed area education
14 agency on the effective date of the reorganization.

15 g. Transmit the completed plan to the ~~state board~~ director
16 of the department by July ~~August~~ 15. ~~Plans received by~~
17 ~~the state board after July 15 shall be considered for area~~
18 ~~education agency reorganization taking effect no sooner than~~
19 ~~July 1 after the next succeeding fiscal year.~~

20 4. 3. The ~~state board~~ director of the department shall
21 review the reorganization plan and shall, prior to September
22 30, either approve the plan as submitted, approve the plan
23 contingent upon compliance with the ~~state board's~~ director's
24 recommendations, or disapprove the plan. A contingently
25 approved plan shall be resubmitted with modifications to the
26 director of the department not later than October 30. An
27 approved plan shall take effect on July 1 of the fiscal year
28 following the date of approval by the ~~state board~~ director of
29 the department.

30 Sec. 23. Section 273.22, Code 2024, is amended to read as
31 follows:

32 **273.22 Contracts of new area education agency.**

33 1. The terms of employment of the ~~administrator~~ executive
34 director and staff of affected area education agencies ~~for the~~
35 ~~school year~~ beginning with the effective date of the formation

1 of the new area education agency ~~shall not~~ may be affected
2 by the formation of the new area education agency, except in
3 accordance with the provisions of sections 279.15 through
4 279.18, ~~and 279.24~~, and the authority and responsibility to
5 offer new contracts or to continue, modify, or terminate
6 existing contracts pursuant to sections 279.12, 279.13, and
7 279.15 through 279.21, ~~279.23, and 279.24~~ for the school
8 year beginning with the effective date of the reorganization
9 shall be transferred from the ~~boards of the~~ existing area
10 education agencies to the ~~board of the~~ new area education
11 agency following approval of the reorganization plan by the
12 ~~state board~~ director of the department as provided in section
13 273.21, subsection 4 3.

14 2. a. The collective bargaining agreement of the area
15 education agency with the largest basic enrollment, as
16 defined in section 257.6, for the year prior to the year the
17 reorganization is effective, shall serve as the base agreement
18 in the new area education agency and the employees of the other
19 area education agencies involved in the formation of the new
20 area education agency shall automatically be accreted to the
21 bargaining unit of that collective bargaining agreement for
22 purposes of negotiating the contracts for the following years
23 without further action by the public employment relations
24 board. If only one collective bargaining agreement is in
25 effect among the area education agencies that are party to
26 the reorganization, that agreement shall serve as the base
27 agreement, and the employees of the other agencies involved
28 in the formation of the new area education agency shall
29 automatically be accreted to the bargaining unit of that
30 collective bargaining agreement for purposes of negotiating
31 the contracts for the following years without further action
32 by the public employment relations board. The department of
33 administrative services shall be the chief negotiator for the
34 area education agencies involved in the formation of the new
35 area education agency.

1 *b.* The ~~board of the~~ newly formed area education agency,
2 using the base agreement as its existing contract, shall
3 bargain with the combined employees of the affected agencies
4 ~~for the school year that begins~~ on the effective date of the
5 reorganization. The bargaining shall be completed by the
6 dates specified in section 20.17 ~~prior to the school year~~
7 ~~in which the reorganization becomes effective~~ or within one
8 hundred eighty days after the organization of the new ~~board~~
9 area education agency, whichever is later. If a bargaining
10 agreement was already concluded by the ~~board~~ area education
11 agency and employees of the affected area education agency
12 with the contract serving as the base agreement ~~for the school~~
13 ~~year~~ beginning with the effective date of the reorganization,
14 that agreement shall be void. However, if the base agreement
15 contains multiyear provisions affecting school years subsequent
16 to the effective year of the reorganization, the base agreement
17 shall remain in effect as specified in the agreement.

18 *c.* The provisions of the base agreement shall apply to the
19 offering of new contracts or continuation, modification, or
20 termination of existing contracts as provided in subsection 1.

21 3. The terms of a contract between the board of directors
22 of a school district and ~~the board of directors of~~ an affected
23 area education agency shall be carried out by the school board
24 and the ~~board of directors of the~~ newly formed area education
25 agency except as provided in this section.

26 4. The board of directors of a school district that is under
27 a contract with an affected area education agency may petition
28 the ~~boards of directors of the~~ affected area education agencies
29 for release from the contract. If the petition ~~receives a~~
30 ~~majority of the votes cast by the members of the boards of the~~
31 ~~affected area education agencies,~~ the petition is approved and
32 by the director of the department, then the contract shall be
33 terminated on the effective date of the area education agency
34 reorganization.

35 5. Not later than fifteen days after the ~~state board~~

1 director of the department notifies an area education agency
2 of its approval of the area education agency's reorganization
3 ~~plan or dissolution proposal~~, the area education agency shall
4 notify, by certified mail, the school districts located within
5 the area education agency boundaries, the school districts and
6 area education agencies that are contiguous to its boundaries,
7 and any other school district under contract with the area
8 education agency, of the ~~state board's~~ director's approval
9 of the ~~plan or proposal~~, and shall provide the department of
10 education with a copy of any notice sent in accordance with
11 this subsection. A petition ~~to join an area education agency~~
12 ~~or for release from a contract with an area education agency,~~
13 in accordance with ~~subsections 4, 6, and 7~~ subsection 4, shall
14 be filed not later than forty-five days after the ~~state board~~
15 director of the department approves a reorganization plan ~~or~~
16 ~~dissolution proposal~~ in accordance with this chapter.

17 ~~6. Within forty-five days of the state board's approval,~~
18 ~~the board of directors of a school district that is contiguous~~
19 ~~to a newly reorganized area education agency may petition the~~
20 ~~board of directors of their current area education agency~~
21 ~~and the newly reorganized area education agency to join the~~
22 ~~newly reorganized area education agency. If the initial,~~
23 ~~or new board is established in time under section 273.23,~~
24 ~~subsection 3, and the board of the contiguous area education~~
25 ~~agency approve the petition, the reorganization, including any~~
26 ~~school district whose petition to join the newly reorganized~~
27 ~~area education agency has been approved, shall take effect in~~
28 ~~accordance with the dates established under section 273.21,~~
29 ~~subsection 4. Both the initial, or new, and the contiguous~~
30 ~~area education agency boards must act within forty-five days of~~
31 ~~the deadline, as set forth in this subsection, for the filing~~
32 ~~of the school district's petition. Within ten days of an area~~
33 ~~education agency board's action, a school district may appeal~~
34 ~~to the state board the decision of an area education agency~~
35 ~~board to deny the school district's petition.~~

1 7. ~~Within forty-five days of the state board's approval,~~
2 ~~the board of directors of a school district that is within~~
3 ~~a newly reorganized area education agency and whose school~~
4 ~~district is contiguous to another area education agency not~~
5 ~~included in the newly reorganized area education agency may~~
6 ~~petition the board of directors of the newly reorganized area~~
7 ~~education agency and the contiguous area education agency to~~
8 ~~join that area education agency. If the initial, or new board~~
9 ~~is established in time under section 273.23, subsection 3, and~~
10 ~~the board of the contiguous area education agency approve the~~
11 ~~petition, the reorganization, excluding any school district~~
12 ~~whose petition to join an area education agency contiguous to~~
13 ~~the newly reorganized area education agency has been approved,~~
14 ~~shall take effect in accordance with the dates established~~
15 ~~under section 273.21, subsection 4. Both the initial, or~~
16 ~~new, and the contiguous area education agency boards must act~~
17 ~~within forty-five days of the deadline, as set forth in this~~
18 ~~subsection, for the filing of the school district's petition.~~
19 ~~Within ten days of an area education agency board's action, a~~
20 ~~school district may appeal to the state board the decision of~~
21 ~~an area education agency board to deny the school district's~~
22 ~~petition.~~

23 Sec. 24. Section 273.23, Code 2024, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 **273.23 Initial board.**

26 1. ~~A petition filed under section 273.21 shall state the~~
27 ~~number of directors on the initial board which shall be either~~
28 ~~seven or nine directors. The petition reorganization plan~~
29 ~~submitted pursuant to section 273.21 shall specify the number~~
30 ~~of directors to be retained from each area, and those numbers~~
31 ~~shall be proportionate to the populations of the affected area~~
32 ~~education agencies. If the proportionate balance of directors~~
33 ~~among the affected area education agencies specified in the~~
34 ~~reorganization plan is affected by school districts petitioning~~
35 ~~to be excluded from the reorganization, or if the proposal~~

1 specified in the plan does not comply with the requirement for
2 proportionate representation, the ~~state board~~ director of the
3 department shall modify the proposal. However, all affected
4 area education agencies ~~affected~~ shall retain at least one
5 member.

6 2. Prior to the organization meeting of the board of
7 directors of the newly formed area education agency, the boards
8 of the former area education agencies shall designate directors
9 to be retained as members to serve on the initial board of
10 the newly formed area education agency. A vacancy occurs if
11 an insufficient number of former board members reside within
12 the newly formed area education agency's boundaries or if an
13 insufficient number of former board members are willing to
14 serve on the board of the newly formed area education agency.
15 Vacancies, as defined in section 277.29, in the membership of
16 the newly formed area education agency board shall be filled
17 for the unexpired portion of the term at a director district
18 convention called and conducted in the manner provided in
19 section 273.8 for director district conventions.

20 3. Not later than January 15 of the calendar year in which
21 the reorganization takes effect, the initial board shall call a
22 director district convention under the provisions of section
23 273.8, subsection 3, for the purpose of electing a board for
24 the reorganized area education agency. ~~The new board shall~~
25 ~~have control of the employment of all personnel for the newly~~
26 ~~formed area education agency for the ensuing school year.~~
27 ~~Following the organization of the new board, the board shall~~
28 ~~have authority to establish policy, enter into contracts, and~~
29 ~~complete such planning and take such action as is essential for~~
30 ~~the efficient management of the newly formed area education~~
31 ~~agency.~~

32 4. The initial board of the newly formed district area
33 education agency shall appoint an acting administrator
34 chairperson and an acting board secretary. ~~The appointment of~~
35 ~~the acting administrator shall not be subject to the continuing~~

1 ~~contract provisions of sections 279.20, 279.23, and 279.24.~~
2 The acting chair shall serve until the executive director of
3 the area education agency appoints a chairperson, who shall
4 serve at the pleasure of the executive director.

5 ~~5. The initial board, or new board if established in time~~
6 ~~under subsection 3, of the newly formed agency shall prepare an~~
7 ~~annual budget estimating income and expenditures for programs~~
8 ~~and services as provided in sections 273.1 through 273.9~~
9 ~~and chapter 256B within the limits of funds provided under~~
10 ~~section 256B.9 and chapter 257. The board shall give notice~~
11 ~~of a public hearing on the proposed budget by publication in~~
12 ~~an official county newspaper in each county in the territory~~
13 ~~of the area education agency in which the principal place~~
14 ~~of business of a school district that is a part of the area~~
15 ~~education agency is located. The notice shall specify the~~
16 ~~date, which shall not be later than March 1, the time, and~~
17 ~~the location of the public hearing. The proposed budget as~~
18 ~~approved by the board shall be submitted to the state board, on~~
19 ~~forms provided by the department, no later than March 15 for~~
20 ~~approval. The state board shall review the proposed budget of~~
21 ~~the newly formed area education agency and shall, before May~~
22 ~~1, either grant approval or return the budget without approval~~
23 ~~with comments of the state board included. An unapproved~~
24 ~~budget shall be resubmitted to the state board for final~~
25 ~~approval not later than May 15. The state board shall give~~
26 ~~final approval only to budgets submitted by area education~~
27 ~~agencies accredited by the state board or that have been given~~
28 ~~conditional accreditation by the state board.~~

29 ~~6. For the school year beginning on the effective date of~~
30 ~~an area education agency reorganization as provided in this~~
31 ~~subchapter, the media services cost per pupil as determined~~
32 ~~under section 257.37 for all districts in a newly formed area~~
33 ~~education agency for the budget year shall be the highest~~
34 ~~amount of media services cost per pupil for any of the affected~~
35 ~~area education agencies.~~

1 ~~7. For the school year beginning on the effective date~~
2 ~~of an area education agency reorganization as provided in~~
3 ~~this subchapter, the educational services cost per pupil as~~
4 ~~determined under section 257.37 for all districts in a newly~~
5 ~~formed area education agency for the budget year shall be the~~
6 ~~highest amount of educational services cost per pupil for any~~
7 ~~of the affected area education agencies.~~

8 ~~8. For the school year beginning on the effective date~~
9 ~~of an area education agency reorganization as provided in~~
10 ~~this subchapter, the special education support services~~
11 ~~cost per pupil shall be based upon the combined base year~~
12 ~~budgets for special education support services of the area~~
13 ~~education agencies that reorganized to form the newly formed~~
14 ~~area education agency, divided by the total of the weighted~~
15 ~~enrollment for special education support services in the~~
16 ~~reorganized area education agency for the base year plus the~~
17 ~~supplemental state aid amount per pupil for special education~~
18 ~~support services for the budget year as calculated in section~~
19 ~~257.8.~~

20 ~~9.~~ 5. Within one year of the effective date of the
21 reorganization, a newly formed area education agency shall meet
22 the accreditation requirements set forth in section 273.10,
23 and the standards set forth in section 273.11. The newly
24 formed area education agency shall be considered accredited
25 for purposes of budget approval by the state board pursuant
26 to section 273.3. The state board shall inform the newly
27 formed area education agency of the accreditation on-site visit
28 schedule.

29 ~~10. The special education support cost per pupil, the media~~
30 ~~cost per pupil, and the educational services cost per pupil for~~
31 ~~a school district petitioning into an area education agency~~
32 ~~shall be the special education support cost per pupil, media~~
33 ~~cost per pupil, and educational services cost per pupil of the~~
34 ~~area education agency into which it petitions if the petition~~
35 ~~is approved.~~

1 ~~11.~~ 6. Unless the reorganization of an area education
2 agency takes effect less than two years before the taking
3 of the next federal decennial census, a newly formed area
4 education agency shall, within one year of the effective date
5 of the reorganization, redraw the boundary lines of director
6 districts in the area education agency if a petition filed by a
7 school district to join the newly formed area education agency,
8 or for release from the newly formed area education agency,
9 in accordance with section 273.22, ~~subsections 4, 6, and 7~~
10 subsection 4, was approved. Until the boundaries are redrawn,
11 the boundaries for the newly formed area education agency shall
12 be as provided in the reorganization plan approved by the state
13 ~~board~~ director of the department in accordance with section
14 273.21.

15 Sec. 25. REPEAL. Sections 273.24, 273.25, 273.26, and
16 273.27, Code 2024, are repealed.

17 DIVISION III

18 AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES — FUNDING

19 Sec. 26. Section 257.1, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
20 2024, is amended to read as follows:

21 *b.* For the budget year commencing July 1, 1999, and for
22 each succeeding budget year beginning before July 1, 2022,
23 the regular program foundation base per pupil is eighty-seven
24 and five-tenths percent of the regular program state cost per
25 pupil. For the budget year commencing July 1, 2022, and for
26 each succeeding budget year, the regular program foundation
27 base per pupil is eighty-eight and four-tenths percent of the
28 regular program state cost per pupil. For the budget year
29 commencing July 1, 1991, and for each succeeding budget year
30 the special education support services foundation base is
31 seventy-nine percent of the special education support services
32 state cost per pupil. The combined foundation base is the sum
33 of the regular program foundation base, the special education
34 support services foundation base, the total teacher salary
35 supplement district cost, the total professional development

1 supplement district cost, the total early intervention
2 supplement district cost, the total teacher leadership
3 supplement district cost, and the total area education agency
4 teacher salary supplement district cost, ~~and the total area~~
5 ~~education agency professional development supplement district~~
6 ~~cost.~~

7 Sec. 27. Section 257.1, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 3. *Computations rounded.* In making computations and
10 payments under this chapter, except in the case of computations
11 relating to funding of special education support services,
12 ~~media services, and educational services provided through the~~
13 ~~area education agencies under section 257.37,~~ and the teacher
14 salary supplement, the professional development supplement,
15 the early intervention supplement, and the teacher leadership
16 supplement, the department of management shall round amounts to
17 the nearest whole dollar.

18 Sec. 28. Section 257.4, subsection 1, paragraph a,
19 subparagraph (7), Code 2024, is amended by striking the
20 subparagraph.

21 Sec. 29. Section 257.9, subsection 10, Code 2024, is amended
22 by striking the subsection.

23 Sec. 30. Section 257.10, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code
24 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph.

25 Sec. 31. Section 257.10, subsection 8, paragraph a, Code
26 2024, is amended to read as follows:

27 a. Combined district cost is the sum of the regular program
28 district cost per pupil multiplied by the weighted enrollment,
29 the special education support services district cost, the
30 total teacher salary supplement district cost, the total
31 professional development supplement district cost, the total
32 early intervention supplement district cost, and the total
33 teacher leadership supplement district cost, plus the sum of
34 the additional district cost allocated to the district ~~to fund~~
35 ~~media services and for~~ educational services ~~provided through~~

1 ~~the area education agency,~~ under section 257.37 and the area
2 education agency total teacher salary supplement district cost
3 ~~and the area education agency total professional development~~
4 ~~supplement district cost.~~

5 Sec. 32. Section 257.11, subsection 5, paragraph a,
6 subparagraph (2), subparagraph division (b), Code 2024, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) "*Political subdivision*" means a city, township, county,
9 school corporation, merged area, ~~area education agency,~~
10 institution governed by the state board of regents, or any
11 other governmental subdivision except for an area education
12 agency.

13 Sec. 33. Section 257.11, subsection 5, paragraph e, Code
14 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph.

15 Sec. 34. Section 257.15, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
16 2024, is amended to read as follows:

17 a. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the
18 department of management shall calculate for each district the
19 difference between the sum of the revenues generated by the
20 foundation property tax and the additional property tax in the
21 district calculated under this chapter and the revenues that
22 would have been generated by the foundation property tax and
23 the additional property tax in that district for that budget
24 year calculated under chapter 442, Code 1989, if chapter 442,
25 Code 1989, were in effect, except that the revenues that
26 would have been generated by the additional property tax levy
27 under chapter 442, Code 1989, shall not include revenues
28 generated for the school improvement program. However in
29 making the calculation of the difference in revenues under
30 this subsection, the department shall not include the revenues
31 generated under section 257.37, Code 1989, and under chapter
32 442, Code 1989, for funding media and educational services
33 through the area education agencies. If the property tax
34 revenues for a district calculated under this chapter exceed
35 the property tax revenues for that district calculated under

1 chapter 442, Code 1989, the department of management shall
2 reduce the revenues raised by the additional property tax levy
3 in that district under this chapter by that difference and
4 the department of education shall pay property tax adjustment
5 aid to the district equal to that difference from moneys
6 appropriated for property tax adjustment aid.

7 Sec. 35. Section 257.16, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 4. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if
10 the governor orders budget reductions in accordance with
11 section 8.31, the teacher salary supplement district cost,
12 the professional development supplement district cost, the
13 early intervention supplement district cost, and the teacher
14 leadership supplement district cost as calculated under section
15 257.10, subsections 9, 10, 11, and 12, and the area education
16 agency teacher salary supplement district cost ~~and the area~~
17 ~~education agency professional development supplement district~~
18 ~~cost~~ as calculated under section 257.37A, ~~subsections 1 and 2,~~
19 shall be paid in full as calculated and the reductions in the
20 appropriations provided in accordance with this section shall
21 be reduced from the remaining moneys appropriated pursuant
22 to this section and shall be distributed on a per pupil
23 basis calculated with the weighted enrollment determined in
24 accordance with section 257.6, subsection 5.

25 Sec. 36. Section 257.32, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
26 2024, is amended to read as follows:

27 a. An area education agency budget review procedure is
28 established for the school budget review committee created
29 in section 257.30. The school budget review committee, in
30 addition to its duties under section 257.31, shall meet and
31 hold hearings each year to review unusual circumstances of
32 area education agencies, either upon the committee's motion or
33 upon the request of an area education agency. The committee
34 may grant supplemental aid to the area education agency from
35 funds appropriated to the department of education for area

1 education agency budget review purposes, ~~or an amount may be~~
2 ~~added to the area education agency special education support~~
3 ~~services modified supplemental amount for districts in an area~~
4 ~~or an additional amount may be added to district cost for media~~
5 ~~services or educational services for all districts in an area~~
6 ~~for the budget year either on a temporary or permanent basis,~~
7 ~~or both.~~

8 Sec. 37. Section 257.32, subsection 1, paragraph b,
9 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) An unusual increase or decrease in enrollment of
11 children requiring special education in school districts
12 receiving services from the area education agency or unusual
13 need for additional moneys for special education support
14 services in school districts receiving services from the area
15 education agency.

16 Sec. 38. Section 257.32, subsection 1, paragraph b,
17 subparagraphs (2), (4), and (5), Code 2024, are amended by
18 striking the subparagraphs.

19 Sec. 39. Section 257.35, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024, are
20 amended to read as follows:

21 1. The For fiscal years beginning before July 1, 2024, the
22 department of management shall deduct the amounts calculated
23 for special education support services, media services, area
24 education agency teacher salary supplement district cost, area
25 education agency professional development supplement district
26 cost, and educational services for each school district from
27 the state aid due to the district pursuant to this chapter
28 and shall pay the amounts to the respective area education
29 agencies on a monthly basis from September 15 through June
30 15 during each school year. The department of management
31 shall notify each school district of the amount of state aid
32 deducted for these purposes and the balance of state aid shall
33 be paid to the district. If a district does not qualify for
34 state aid under this chapter in an amount sufficient to cover
35 its amount due to the area education agency as calculated by

1 the department of management, the school district shall pay
2 the deficiency to the area education agency from other moneys
3 received by the district, on a quarterly basis during each
4 school year.

5 2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the state aid for
6 area education agencies and the portion of the combined
7 district cost calculated for these agencies for the fiscal
8 year beginning July 1, 2002, and each succeeding fiscal
9 year beginning before July 1, 2024, shall be reduced by the
10 department of management by seven million five hundred thousand
11 dollars. The reduction for each area education agency shall be
12 equal to the reduction that the agency received in the fiscal
13 year beginning July 1, 2001.

14 Sec. 40. Section 257.35, subsections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,
15 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, Code 2024, are amended by
16 striking the subsections.

17 Sec. 41. Section 257.35, subsection 19, Code 2024, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 19. a. ~~Notwithstanding section 257.37, an~~ An area education
20 agency may use the funds determined to be available under this
21 section in a manner which the area education agency determines
22 is appropriate to best maintain the level of ~~required~~ area
23 education agency special education services. An area education
24 agency may also use unreserved fund balances ~~for media services~~
25 ~~or education services~~ in a manner which the area education
26 agency determines is appropriate to best maintain the level of
27 ~~required~~ area education agency special education services.

28 b. A school district may use unreserved funds from the
29 education services funding under section 257.37 in a manner
30 which the school district determines is appropriate to best
31 maintain the level of required special education services.

32 Sec. 42. Section 257.37, Code 2024, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 ~~257.37 Funding media and educational~~ 257.37 Educational services
35 funding.

1 ~~Media services and Additional~~ educational services provided
2 ~~by a school district or through the a contract with an area~~
3 ~~education ageneies agency or other educational services~~
4 ~~provider~~ shall be funded, to the extent provided, by an
5 addition to the combined district cost of each school district,
6 determined as follows:

7 ~~1. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and~~
8 ~~succeeding budget years, the total amount funded in each area~~
9 ~~for media services shall be computed as provided in this~~
10 ~~subsection. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the~~
11 ~~total amount funded in each area for media services in the base~~
12 ~~year shall be divided by the enrollment served in the base year~~
13 ~~to provide an area media services cost per pupil in the base~~
14 ~~year, and the department of management shall compute the state~~
15 ~~media services cost per pupil in the base year which is equal~~
16 ~~to the average of the area media services costs per pupil in~~
17 ~~the base year. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and~~
18 ~~succeeding budget years, the department of management shall~~
19 ~~compute the supplemental state aid for media services in the~~
20 ~~budget year by multiplying the state media services cost per~~
21 ~~pupil in the base year times the state percent of growth for~~
22 ~~the budget year, and the total amount funded in each area for~~
23 ~~media services cost in the budget year equals the area media~~
24 ~~services cost per pupil in the base year plus the supplemental~~
25 ~~state aid for media services in the budget year times the~~
26 ~~enrollment served in the budget year. Funds shall be paid to~~
27 ~~area education agencies as provided in section 257.35.~~

28 ~~2. Up to thirty percent of the budget of an area for media~~
29 ~~services may be expended for media resource material including~~
30 ~~the purchase or replacement of material required in section~~
31 ~~273.6, subsection 1. Funds shall be paid to area education~~
32 ~~agencies as provided in section 257.35.~~

33 ~~3. 1.~~ For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and
34 succeeding budget years, the total amount funded in each area
35 for educational services shall be computed as provided in this

1 subsection. For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, the
2 total amount funded in each area for educational services
3 in the base year shall be divided by the enrollment served
4 in the area in the base year to provide an area educational
5 services cost per pupil in the base year, and the department of
6 management shall compute the state educational services cost
7 per pupil in the base year, which is equal to the average of
8 the area educational services costs per pupil in the base year.
9 For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, and succeeding
10 budget years, the department of management shall compute the
11 supplemental state aid for educational services by multiplying
12 the state educational services cost per pupil in the base year
13 times the state percent of growth for the budget year, and the
14 total amount funded in each area for educational services for
15 the budget year equals the area educational services cost per
16 pupil for the base year plus the supplemental state aid for
17 educational services in the budget year times the enrollment
18 served in the area in the budget year. ~~Funds shall be paid~~
19 ~~to area education agencies as provided in section 257.35.~~
20 Educational services funding under this section shall only be
21 expended for educational purposes.

22 4. 2. "Enrollment served" means the basic enrollment of all
23 school districts within the boundaries of the area education
24 agency plus the number of nonpublic school pupils served by
25 the area education agency with media services or educational
26 services, as applicable, except that if a nonpublic school
27 pupil or a pupil attending another district under a whole grade
28 sharing agreement or open enrollment receives services through
29 an area other than the area of the pupil's residence, the
30 pupil shall be deemed to be served by the area of the pupil's
31 residence, which shall by contractual arrangement reimburse
32 the area through which the pupil actually receives services.
33 Each school district shall include in the enrollment report
34 submitted pursuant to section 257.6, subsection 1, the number
35 of nonpublic school pupils within each school district for

1 ~~media and~~ educational services served by the area. However,
2 the school district shall not include in the enrollment report
3 nonpublic school pupils receiving classes or services funded
4 entirely by federal grants or allocations.

5 ~~5.~~ 3. *a.* If an area education agency does not serve
6 nonpublic school pupils in a manner comparable to services
7 provided public school pupils for ~~media and~~ educational
8 services, as determined by the state board of education, the
9 state board shall instruct the department of management to
10 reduce the funds for ~~media services and~~ educational services
11 within the area one time by an amount to compensate for such
12 reduced services. ~~The media services budget shall be reduced~~
13 ~~by an amount equal to the product of the cost per pupil in~~
14 ~~basic enrollment for the budget year for media services times~~
15 ~~the difference between the enrollment served and the basic~~
16 ~~enrollment recorded for the area.~~ The educational services
17 budget shall be reduced by an amount equal to the product of
18 the cost per pupil in basic enrollment for the budget year
19 for educational services times the difference between the
20 enrollment served and the basic enrollment recorded for the
21 area.

22 *b.* This subsection applies only to ~~media and~~ educational
23 services which cannot be diverted for religious purposes.

24 ~~*c.* Notwithstanding this subsection, an area education agency~~
25 ~~shall distribute to nonpublic schools media materials purchased~~
26 ~~wholly or partially with federal funds in a manner comparable~~
27 ~~to the distribution of such media materials to public schools~~
28 ~~as determined by the director of the department of education.~~

29 ~~6.~~ 4. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2002, and each
30 succeeding budget year, notwithstanding the requirements of
31 this section for determining the budgets and funding of ~~media~~
32 ~~services and~~ education services, an area education agency or
33 school district may, ~~within the limits of the total of the~~
34 ~~funds provided for the budget years pursuant to section 257.35,~~
35 expend for special education support services an amount that

1 exceeds the payment for special education support services
2 pursuant to section 257.35 in order to maintain the level
3 of required special education support services in the area
4 education agency or the school district, as applicable.

5 Sec. 43. Section 257.37A, Code 2024, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **257.37A Area education agency salary supplement funding.**

8 ~~1. Area education agency teacher salary supplement cost per
9 pupil and district cost.~~

10 *a.* 1. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the
11 department of management shall add together the teacher
12 compensation allocation made to each area education agency for
13 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, pursuant to section
14 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph "i", Code 2009, and the phase II
15 allocation made to each area education agency for the fiscal
16 year beginning July 1, 2008, pursuant to section 294A.9, Code
17 2009, and divide that sum by the special education support
18 services weighted enrollment in the fiscal year beginning July
19 1, 2009, to determine the area education agency teacher salary
20 supplement cost per pupil. For the budget year beginning July
21 1, 2010, and succeeding budget years, the area education agency
22 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for each area
23 education agency for a budget year is the area education agency
24 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for the base
25 year plus the area education agency teacher salary supplement
26 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

27 *b.* 2. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and
28 succeeding budget years, if the department of management
29 determines that the unadjusted area education agency teacher
30 salary supplement district cost of an area education agency
31 for a budget year is less than one hundred percent of the
32 unadjusted area education agency teacher salary supplement
33 district cost for the base year for the area education agency,
34 the area education agency shall receive a budget adjustment for
35 that budget year equal to the difference.

1 ~~c.~~ ~~(1)~~ 3. a. The unadjusted area education agency teacher
2 salary supplement district cost is the area education agency
3 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for each area
4 education agency for a budget year multiplied by the special
5 education support services weighted enrollment for that area
6 education agency.

7 ~~(2)~~ b. The total area education agency teacher salary
8 supplement district cost is the sum of the unadjusted area
9 education agency teacher salary supplement district cost plus
10 the budget adjustment for that budget year.

11 ~~d.~~ 4. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the
12 use of the funds calculated under this ~~subsection~~ section
13 shall comply with requirements of chapter 284 and shall be
14 distributed to teachers pursuant to section 284.3A. For the
15 budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and succeeding budget
16 years, the use of the funds calculated under this ~~subsection~~
17 section and fund balances received for area education agency
18 professional development for a budget year beginning before
19 July 1, 2024, shall comply with the requirements of chapter
20 284 and shall be distributed to teachers pursuant to section
21 284.3A. The limitation on use of funds calculated under this
22 section shall not apply if such funds are used by the school
23 district to contract for services with a person or entity other
24 than an area education agency.

25 ~~2. Area education agency professional development supplement~~
26 ~~cost per pupil and district cost.~~

27 ~~a.~~ For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the
28 department of management shall divide the area education
29 agency professional development supplement made to each
30 area education agency for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
31 2008, pursuant to section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph
32 "d", Code 2009, by the special education support services
33 weighted enrollment in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009,
34 to determine the professional development supplement cost
35 per pupil. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and

1 ~~succeeding budget years, the area education agency professional~~
2 ~~development supplement district cost per pupil for each area~~
3 ~~education agency for a budget year is the area education agency~~
4 ~~professional development supplement district cost per pupil~~
5 ~~for the base year plus the area education agency professional~~
6 ~~development supplement supplemental state aid amount for the~~
7 ~~budget year.~~

8 ~~b. For the budget year beginning July 1, 2010, and~~
9 ~~succeeding budget years, if the department of management~~
10 ~~determines that the unadjusted area education agency~~
11 ~~professional development supplement district cost of an area~~
12 ~~education agency for a budget year is less than one hundred~~
13 ~~percent of the unadjusted area education agency professional~~
14 ~~development supplement district cost for the base year for~~
15 ~~the area education agency, the area education agency shall~~
16 ~~receive a budget adjustment for that budget year equal to the~~
17 ~~difference.~~

18 ~~c. (1) The unadjusted area education agency professional~~
19 ~~development supplement district cost is the area education~~
20 ~~agency professional development supplement district cost~~
21 ~~per pupil for each area education agency for a budget year~~
22 ~~multiplied by the special education support services weighted~~
23 ~~enrollment for that area education agency.~~

24 ~~(2) The total area education agency professional~~
25 ~~development supplement district cost is the sum of the~~
26 ~~unadjusted area education agency professional development~~
27 ~~supplement district cost plus the budget adjustment for that~~
28 ~~budget year.~~

29 ~~d. The use of the funds calculated under this subsection~~
30 ~~shall comply with requirements of chapter 284.~~

31 ~~Sec. 44. Section 284.3A, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended~~
32 ~~to read as follows:~~

33 ~~4. The teacher salary supplement district cost as~~
34 ~~calculated under section 257.10, subsection 9, and the area~~
35 ~~education agency teacher salary supplement district cost as~~

1 calculated under section 257.37A, ~~subsection 1~~, are not subject
2 to a uniform reduction in accordance with section 8.31.

3 Sec. 45. Section 284.4, subsection 1, paragraph b,
4 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

5 (3) Determine, following the adoption of the Iowa
6 professional development model by the state board of education,
7 the use and distribution of the professional development
8 funds calculated and paid to the school district ~~or agency~~ as
9 provided in ~~section 257.9, subsection 10, or~~ section 257.10,
10 subsection 10, based upon school district ~~or agency~~, attendance
11 center, and individual teacher and professional development
12 plans.

13 Sec. 46. Section 284.6, subsections 8 and 9, Code 2024, are
14 amended to read as follows:

15 8. For each year in which a school district receives funds
16 calculated and paid to school districts for professional
17 development pursuant to section 257.10, subsection 10, ~~or~~
18 ~~section 257.37A, subsection 2~~, the school district shall create
19 quality professional development opportunities. Not less than
20 thirty-six hours in the school calendar, held outside of the
21 minimum school day, shall be set aside during nonpreparation
22 time or designated professional development time to allow
23 practitioners to collaborate with each other to deliver
24 educational programs and assess student learning, or to engage
25 in peer review pursuant to section 284.8, subsection 1. The
26 funds may be used to implement the professional development
27 provisions of the teacher career paths and leadership roles
28 specified in section 284.15, including but not limited to
29 providing professional development to teachers, including
30 additional salaries for time beyond the normal negotiated
31 agreement; activities and pay to support a beginning teacher
32 mentoring and induction program that meets the requirements
33 of section 284.5; pay for substitute teachers, professional
34 development materials, speakers, and professional development
35 content; textbooks and curriculum materials used for classroom

1 purposes if such textbooks and curriculum materials include
2 professional development; administering assessments pursuant to
3 section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "b", subparagraphs (1)
4 and (2), if such assessments include professional development;
5 and costs associated with implementing the individual
6 professional development plans. The use of the funds shall
7 be balanced between school district, attendance center,
8 and individual professional development plans, making every
9 reasonable effort to provide equal access to all teachers.

10 9. Moneys received pursuant to section 257.10, subsection
11 ~~10, or section 257.37A, subsection 2,~~ shall be maintained
12 as a separate listing within a school district's ~~or area~~
13 ~~education agency's~~ budget for funds received and expenditures
14 made pursuant to this subsection. The department shall not
15 require a school district ~~or area education agency~~ to allocate
16 a specific amount or percentage of moneys received pursuant to
17 section 257.10, subsection 10, ~~or section 257.37A, subsection~~
18 ~~2,~~ for professional development related to implementation of
19 the core curriculum under section 256.7, subsection 26. A
20 school district shall certify to the department how the school
21 district allocated the funds and that moneys received under
22 this subsection were used to supplement, not supplant, the
23 professional development opportunities the school district
24 would otherwise make available. For budget years beginning
25 on or after July 1, 2017, all or a portion of the moneys
26 received pursuant to section 257.10, subsection 10, that remain
27 unexpended and unobligated at the end of a fiscal year may,
28 pursuant to section 257.10, subsection 10, paragraph "d", be
29 transferred for deposit in the school district's flexibility
30 account established under section 298A.2, subsection 2.

31 Sec. 47. Section 298.4, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph
32 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

33 The Subject to a reduction under subsection 3, the board of
34 directors of a school district may certify for levy by April 30
35 of a school year, a tax on all taxable property in the school

1 district for a district management levy. The revenue from the
2 tax levied in this section shall be placed in the district
3 management levy fund of the school district. The district
4 management levy shall be expended only for the following
5 purposes:

6 Sec. 48. Section 298.4, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. A tax levied under this section may
9 be reduced by the department of management if the department
10 determines that the reduction in the school district's
11 combined district cost as a result of the repeal of section
12 257.37, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024, does not result in
13 a corresponding reduction in the total amount of property
14 taxes levied by the school district for the budget year. The
15 department of management may evaluate the amounts of property
16 taxes levied by the school district and purposes for which
17 such revenues are budgeted to determine the adequacy of the
18 reduction in the school district's total amount of property
19 taxes.

20 Sec. 49. APPLICABILITY. This division of this Act applies
21 July 1, 2024, for school budget years beginning on or after
22 that date.

23 DIVISION IV

24 TEACHER COMPENSATION

25 Sec. 50. Section 257.10, subsection 12, paragraph d, Code
26 2024, is amended to read as follows:

27 *d.* Except as otherwise allowed under this paragraph, for
28 the budget year beginning July 1, 2014, and succeeding budget
29 years, the use of the funds calculated under this subsection
30 shall comply with the requirements of chapter 284 and shall
31 be distributed to teachers pursuant to section 284.15. The
32 funds shall be used only to increase the payment for a teacher
33 assigned to a leadership role pursuant to a framework or
34 comparable system approved pursuant to section 284.15; to
35 increase the percentages of teachers assigned to leadership

1 roles; to increase the minimum teacher starting salary to
2 ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand ~~five-hundred~~ dollars; to cover the
3 costs for the time mentor and lead teachers are not providing
4 instruction to students in a classroom; for coverage of a
5 classroom when an initial or career teacher is observing or
6 co-teaching with a teacher assigned to a leadership role;
7 for professional development time to learn best practices
8 associated with the career pathways leadership process; and for
9 other costs associated with a framework or comparable system
10 approved by the department of education under section 284.15
11 with the goals of improving instruction and elevating the
12 quality of teaching and student learning. If all requirements
13 for the school district for the use of funds calculated
14 under this subsection are met and funds received under this
15 subsection remain unexpended and unobligated at the end of a
16 fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2020, the school
17 district may transfer all or a portion of such unexpended
18 and unobligated funds for deposit in the school district's
19 flexibility account established under section 298A.2,
20 subsection 2. At the end of a fiscal year beginning on or after
21 July 1, 2022, school districts may use all or a portion of
22 funds under this subsection for the purposes authorized under
23 subsection 9, paragraph "d", and, notwithstanding any provision
24 of law to the contrary, school districts shall not be required
25 to participate in or comply with section 284.15 in order to
26 continue to receive funding under this subsection.

27 Sec. 51. Section 284.15, subsection 2, paragraph a,
28 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

29 (1) The salary for an initial teacher who has successfully
30 completed an approved practitioner preparation program as
31 defined in section 256.145 or holds an initial or intern
32 teacher license issued under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part
33 3, shall be at least ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand ~~five-hundred~~
34 dollars, which shall also constitute the minimum salary for an
35 Iowa teacher.

1 Sec. 52. Section 284.15, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. The salary for a career teacher, model
4 teacher, mentor teacher, or lead teacher, who holds a valid
5 license issued under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3, and
6 who has been a teacher for at least twelve years, shall be at
7 least sixty-two thousand dollars.

8 Sec. 53. Section 284.16, subsection 1, paragraph a,
9 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 The beginning teacher shall be paid not less than
12 ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand ~~five hundred~~ dollars and shall meet
13 the following requirements:

14 Sec. 54. Section 284.16, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
15 following new subsection:

16 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. A career teacher, instructional coach,
17 curriculum and professional development leader, or model
18 teacher, who has been a teacher for at least twelve years,
19 shall be paid not less than sixty-two thousand dollars.

20 Sec. 55. Section 284.17, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 1. A minimum salary of ~~thirty-three~~ fifty thousand ~~five~~
23 ~~hundred~~ dollars for a full-time teacher who has less than
24 twelve years of teaching experience and a minimum salary of
25 sixty-two thousand dollars for a full-time teacher who has at
26 least twelve years of teaching experience.

27 DIVISION V

28 CONFORMING CHANGES — DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

29 Sec. 56. Section 256.9, subsections 18, 26, 32, 62, and 68,
30 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

31 18. Prepare forms and procedures as necessary to be used by
32 ~~area education agency boards,~~ area education agency executive
33 directors, district boards, school officials, principals,
34 teachers, and other employees, and to insure uniformity,
35 accuracy, and efficiency in keeping records in both pupil and

1 cost accounting, the execution of contracts, and the submission
2 of reports, and notify the area education agency ~~board,~~
3 district board, or school authorities when a report has not
4 been filed in the manner or on the dates prescribed by law or by
5 rule that the school will not be accredited until the report
6 has been properly filed. The director shall include, on any
7 report for which the department prescribes the form and manner
8 of its submission, a reference to any state or federal statute,
9 rule, or regulation that requires the inclusion of certain
10 information in the report.

11 26. Approve the salaries of area education agency
12 ~~administrators~~ executive directors.

13 32. ~~Develop, or direct the area education agencies to~~
14 ~~develop,~~ a statewide technical assistance support network to
15 provide school districts or district subcontractors under
16 section 279.49 with assistance in creating developmentally
17 appropriate programs under section 279.49.

18 62. Develop, establish, and distribute to all school
19 districts evidence-based standards, guidelines, and
20 expectations for the appropriate and inappropriate responses
21 to behavior in the classroom that presents an imminent threat
22 of bodily injury to a student or another person and for the
23 reasonable, necessary, and appropriate physical restraint
24 of a student, consistent with rules adopted by the state
25 board pursuant to section 280.21. The director shall ~~consult~~
26 ~~with the area education agencies to~~ create comprehensive and
27 consistent standards and guidance for professional development
28 relating to successfully educating individuals in the least
29 restrictive environment, and for evidence-based interventions
30 consistent with the standards established pursuant to this
31 subsection.

32 68. Develop and distribute to school districts and area
33 education agencies a list of all professional development
34 programs and other training programs in which employees of
35 school districts and area education agencies are required to

1 participate pursuant to federal law or state law, including
2 ~~chapter~~ chapters 273 and 284.

3 Sec. 57. Section 256.9, subsection 25, Code 2024, is amended
4 by striking the subsection.

5 Sec. 58. Section 256.9, subsection 30, paragraph a,
6 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 ~~Conduct or direct the area education agency to conduct~~
9 feasibility surveys and studies, if requested under section
10 282.11, of the school districts ~~within the area education~~
11 ~~agency service areas~~ and all adjacent territory, including but
12 not limited to contiguous districts in other states, for the
13 purpose of evaluating and recommending proposed whole grade
14 sharing agreements requested under section 282.7 and section
15 282.10, subsections 1 and 4. The surveys and studies shall be
16 revised periodically to reflect reorganizations which may have
17 taken place in the area education agency, adjacent territory,
18 and contiguous districts in other states. The surveys and
19 studies shall include a cover page containing recommendations
20 and a short explanation of the recommendations. The factors to
21 be used in determining the recommendations include but are not
22 limited to:

23 Sec. 59. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph a, Code
24 2024, is amended to read as follows:

25 a. Develop and distribute, ~~in collaboration with the area~~
26 ~~education agencies,~~ core curriculum technical assistance and
27 implementation strategies that school districts and accredited
28 nonpublic schools shall utilize, including but not limited to
29 the development and delivery of formative and end-of-course
30 model assessments classroom teachers may use to measure student
31 progress on the core curriculum adopted pursuant to section
32 256.7, subsection 26. The department shall, in collaboration
33 with the advisory group convened in accordance with paragraph
34 "b" and educational assessment providers, identify and make
35 available to school districts end-of-course and additional

1 model end-of-course and additional assessments to align with
2 the expectations included in the Iowa core curriculum.

3 Sec. 60. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph c,
4 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 Establish, subject to an appropriation of funds by the
7 general assembly, an Iowa reading research center which shall
8 ~~collaborate with the area education agencies in implementing~~
9 implement the provisions of this paragraph "c".

10 Sec. 61. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph c,
11 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (e), Code 2024, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (e) Professional development strategies and materials to
14 support teacher effectiveness in student literacy development.
15 Subject to an appropriation of funds by the general assembly,
16 the center shall collaborate and coordinate with the ~~area~~
17 ~~education agencies and the~~ department to develop and offer to
18 school districts at no cost professional development services
19 to enhance the skills of elementary teachers in the use of
20 evidence-based strategies to improve the literacy skills of all
21 students.

22 Sec. 62. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph c,
23 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

24 (2) The first efforts of the center shall focus on
25 kindergarten through grade three. The center shall draw
26 upon national and state expertise in the field of literacy
27 proficiency, including experts from Iowa's institutions of
28 higher education ~~and area education agencies~~ with backgrounds
29 in literacy development. The center shall seek support from
30 the Iowa research community in data report development and
31 analysis of available information from Iowa education data
32 sources. The center shall work with the department to identify
33 additional needs for tools and technical assistance for Iowa
34 schools to help schools achieve literacy proficiency goals
35 and seek public and private partnerships in developing and

1 accessing necessary tools and technical assistance.

2 Sec. 63. Section 256.11, subsection 11, paragraph e, Code
3 2024, is amended to read as follows:

4 e. If the deficiencies have not been corrected, and the
5 conditional accreditation alternatives contained in the report
6 are not mutually acceptable to the state board and the local
7 board, the state board shall deaccredit the school district and
8 merge the territory of the school district with one or more
9 contiguous school districts at the end of the school year. The
10 state board may place a district under receivership for the
11 remainder of the school year. The receivership shall be under
12 the direct supervision and authority of the ~~area education~~
13 ~~agency in which the district is located~~ department or the
14 department's designee, which may include a contiguous school
15 district. The decision of whether to deaccredit the school
16 district or to place the district under receivership shall
17 be based upon a determination by the state board of the best
18 interests of the students, parents, residents of the community,
19 teachers, administrators, and school district board members and
20 upon the recommendations of the accreditation committee and the
21 director.

22 Sec. 64. Section 256.11, subsection 12, paragraph a,
23 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 Division of assets and liabilities of the deaccredited
26 school district shall be as provided in this paragraph "a" and
27 in sections 275.29 ~~through~~ and 275.31.

28 Sec. 65. Section 256.12, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
29 2024, is amended to read as follows:

30 a. This section does not deprive the respective boards
31 of public school districts of any of their legal powers,
32 statutory or otherwise, and in accepting the specially enrolled
33 students, each of the boards shall prescribe the terms of the
34 special enrollment, including but not limited to scheduling
35 of courses and the length of class periods. In addition,

1 the board of the affected public school district shall be
2 given notice by the department of its decision to permit the
3 special enrollment not later than six months prior to the
4 opening of the affected public school district's school year,
5 except that the board of the public school district may waive
6 the notice requirement. School districts and area education
7 ~~agency boards~~ agencies shall make public school services, which
8 shall include special education programs and services and
9 may include health services, services for remedial education
10 programs, guidance services, and school testing services,
11 available to children attending nonpublic schools in the same
12 manner and to the same extent that they are provided to public
13 school students. Service activities shall be similar to those
14 undertaken for public school students. Health services,
15 special education support, and related services provided by
16 area education agencies for the purpose of identifying children
17 with disabilities, assistance with physical and communications
18 needs of students with physical disabilities, and services of
19 an educational interpreter may be provided on nonpublic school
20 premises with the permission of the lawful custodian of the
21 property. Other special education services may be provided
22 on nonpublic school premises at the discretion of the school
23 district or area education agency provider of the service and
24 with the permission of the lawful custodian of the property.

25 Sec. 66. Section 256.32A, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
26 2024, is amended to read as follows:

27 *b.* To the area education agencies regarding the required and
28 preferred qualifications for dyslexia specialists required in
29 accordance with section 273.2, subsection ~~11~~ 9.

30 Sec. 67. Section 256.39, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
31 to read as follows:

32 1. If the general assembly appropriates moneys for the
33 establishment of a career pathways program, the department
34 of education shall develop a career pathways grant program,
35 criteria for the formation of ongoing career pathways consortia

1 in each merged area, and guidelines and a process to be used
2 in selecting career pathways consortium grant recipients,
3 including a requirement that grant recipients shall provide
4 matching funds or match grant funds with in-kind resources on a
5 dollar-for-dollar basis. A portion of the moneys appropriated
6 by the general assembly shall be made available to schools to
7 pay for the issuance of employability skills assessments to
8 public or nonpublic school students. An existing partnership
9 or organization, including a regional career and technical
10 education planning partnership, that meets the established
11 criteria, may be considered a consortium for grant application
12 purposes. One or more school districts may be considered
13 a consortium for grant application purposes, provided the
14 district can demonstrate the manner in which a community
15 college, ~~area education agency~~, representatives from business
16 and labor organizations, and others as determined within
17 the region will be involved. Existing regional career and
18 technical education planning partnerships are encouraged to
19 assist the local consortia in developing a plan and budget.
20 The department shall provide assistance to consortia in
21 planning and implementing career pathways program efforts.

22 Sec. 68. Section 256.82, subsection 1, paragraph b,
23 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

24 (3) One member shall be appointed ~~jointly~~ by the
25 ~~administrators of the area education agencies created by~~
26 ~~chapter 273~~ director of the department.

27 Sec. 69. Section 256.136, subsection 4, paragraph c, Code
28 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph.

29 Sec. 70. Section 256.136, subsection 5, Code 2024, is
30 amended to read as follows:

31 5. Convening the regional career and technical education
32 planning partnership shall be the ~~joint~~ responsibility of the
33 ~~area education agency and~~ community college located within
34 the region. In convening the regional career and technical
35 education planning partnership, the ~~area education agency and~~

1 ~~the~~ community college shall include stakeholders from each
2 member district of the partnership.

3 Sec. 71. Section 256.160, subsection 1, paragraph a,
4 subparagraph (1), unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 The board of directors of a school district or the executive
7 director of an area education agency, the superintendent of a
8 school district, ~~the chief administrator of an area education~~
9 ~~agency~~, and the authorities in charge of an accredited
10 nonpublic school shall report to the board any instance of
11 disciplinary action taken against a licensed school employee by
12 the board of directors of the school district or the executive
13 director of an area education agency, the superintendent of the
14 school district, ~~the chief administrator of the area education~~
15 ~~agency~~, or the authorities in charge of the accredited
16 nonpublic school for conduct constituting any of the following:

17 Sec. 72. Section 256.160, subsection 1, paragraph a,
18 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

19 (2) The board of directors of a school district ~~or area~~
20 ~~education agency~~, the superintendent of a school district, the
21 ~~chief administrator~~ executive director of an area education
22 agency, and the authorities in charge of an accredited
23 nonpublic school shall report to the board the nonrenewal or
24 termination, for reasons of alleged or actual misconduct,
25 of a person's contract executed under sections 279.12,
26 279.13, 279.15, 279.16, 279.18 through 279.21, 279.23, and
27 279.24, and the resignation of a person who holds a license,
28 certificate, or authorization issued by the board as a result
29 of or following an incident or allegation of misconduct that,
30 if proven, would constitute a violation of the rules adopted
31 by the board to implement section 256.146, subsection 13,
32 paragraph "b", subparagraph (1); soliciting, encouraging, or
33 consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship
34 with a student; falsifying student grades, test scores,
35 or other official information or material; or converting

1 public property or funds to the personal use of the school
2 employee, when the board or reporting official has a good
3 faith belief that the incident occurred or the allegation is
4 true. The board may deny a license or revoke the license
5 of an administrator if the board finds by a preponderance
6 of the evidence that the administrator failed to report the
7 termination or resignation of a school employee holding a
8 license, certificate, statement of professional recognition,
9 or coaching authorization, for reasons of alleged or actual
10 misconduct, as defined by this section.

11 Sec. 73. Section 256B.8, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. An area education agency executive director ~~of special~~
14 ~~education~~ may request approval from the department of education
15 to continue the special education program of a person beyond
16 the period specified in section 256B.2, subsection 1, paragraph
17 "a", if the person had an accident or prolonged illness that
18 resulted in delays in the initiation of or interruptions in
19 that person's special education program. Approval may be
20 granted by the department to continue the special education
21 program of that person for up to three years or until the
22 person's twenty-fourth birthday.

23 Sec. 74. Section 256B.9, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 5. The division of special education shall audit the reports
26 required in section 273.5 to determine that all children in the
27 area who have been identified as requiring special education
28 have received the appropriate special education instructional
29 and support services, and to verify the proper identification
30 of pupils in the area who will require special education
31 instructional services during the school year in which the
32 report is filed. The division shall certify to the director
33 of the department of management the correct total enrollment
34 of each school district in the state, determined by applying
35 the appropriate pupil weighting index to each child requiring

1 special education, as certified by the ~~directors of special~~
2 ~~education in~~ executive director of each area education agency.

3 DIVISION VI

4 SCHOOLS — REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS — CONFORMING
5 CHANGES

6 Sec. 75. Section 257.9, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 3. *Special education support services state cost per pupil*
9 *for 1991-1992.* For the budget year beginning July 1, 1991, for
10 the special education support services state cost per pupil,
11 the department of management shall divide the total of the
12 approved budgets of the area education agencies for special
13 education support services for that year approved by the state
14 board of education under section 273.3, subsection ~~12~~ 9, by
15 the total of the weighted enrollment for special education
16 support services in the state for the budget year. The special
17 education support services state cost per pupil for the budget
18 year is the amount calculated by the department of management
19 under this subsection.

20 Sec. 76. Section 257.10, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 3. *Special education support services district cost per*
23 *pupil for 1991-1992.* For the budget year beginning July 1,
24 1991, for the special education support services district
25 cost per pupil, the department of management shall divide the
26 approved budget of each area education agency for special
27 education support services for that year approved by the state
28 board of education, under section 273.3, subsection ~~12~~ 9, by
29 the total of the weighted enrollment for special education
30 support services in the area for that budget year. The
31 special education support services district cost per pupil for
32 each school district in an area for the budget year is the
33 amount calculated by the department of management under this
34 subsection.

35 Sec. 77. Section 257.47, Code 2024, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **257.47 Cooperation by area education agencies.**

3 The area education agencies in which the school districts
4 having approved gifted and talented children programs are
5 located ~~shall~~ may cooperate with the school district in the
6 identification and placement of gifted and talented children
7 and may assist school districts in the establishment of such
8 programs.

9 Sec. 78. Section 257.48, Code 2024, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **257.48 Advisory council.**

12 1. At the written request of one or more boards of school
13 districts, in an area education agency, the area education
14 agency ~~board shall~~ may establish one or more gifted and
15 talented children advisory councils and shall appoint members
16 for four-year staggered terms. The terms of office of advisory
17 council members shall commence on July 1 of each year. An
18 advisory council shall consist of seven members including
19 teachers, parents, school administrators, and other persons
20 interested in education in the area. Except as otherwise
21 provided in this section, members shall be eligible electors
22 residing in the merged area. Members shall serve without
23 compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary
24 expenses and mileage incurred in the performance of their
25 duties from funds available to the area education agency.

26 2. If an area education agency has a weighted enrollment of
27 more than thirty-five thousand, the ~~board~~ area education agency
28 may appoint additional advisory councils for each thirty-five
29 thousand weighted enrollment or fraction of thirty-five
30 thousand. If more than one advisory council is appointed by
31 the ~~board~~ area education agency, the ~~board~~ area education
32 agency shall divide the merged area along school district
33 boundary lines for jurisdiction of the advisory councils, and
34 membership of these advisory councils shall be appointed from
35 the designated portion of the merged area.

1 Sec. 79. Section 274.13, Code 2024, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **274.13 Attaching territory to adjoining corporation.**

4 In any case where, by reason of natural obstacles, any
5 portion of the inhabitants of any school corporation in the
6 opinion of the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of
7 the department of education cannot with reasonable facility
8 attend school in their own corporation, the ~~area education~~
9 ~~agency administrator~~ director shall, by a written order, in
10 duplicate, attach the part thus affected to an adjoining school
11 corporation, the board of the same consenting thereto, one copy
12 of which order shall be at once transmitted to the secretary of
13 each corporation affected thereby, who shall record the same
14 and make the proper designation on the plat of the corporation.
15 Township or county lines shall not be a bar to the operation of
16 this section.

17 Sec. 80. Section 274.14, Code 2024, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 **274.14 Restoration.**

20 When the natural obstacles by reason of which territory
21 has been set off by the ~~area education agency administrator~~
22 director of the department of education from one school
23 district and attached to another in the same or an adjoining
24 county, as provided in section 274.13, have been removed, such
25 territory may, upon the concurrence of the respective boards,
26 be restored to the school district from which set off and shall
27 be so restored by said boards upon the written application of
28 two-thirds of the electors residing upon the territory so set
29 off together with the concurrence of the ~~area education agency~~
30 ~~administrator~~ director and the board of the school district
31 from which such territory was originally set off by the ~~said~~
32 ~~administrator~~ director.

33 Sec. 81. Section 274.37, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 1. The boundary lines of contiguous school corporations

1 may be changed by the concurrent action of the respective
2 boards of directors at their regular meetings in July, or at
3 special meetings called for that purpose. Such concurrent
4 action shall be subject to the approval of the ~~area education~~
5 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education but such
6 concurrent action shall stand approved if the ~~board~~ director
7 does not disapprove such concurrent action within thirty days
8 following receipt of notice thereof. The corporation from
9 which territory is detached shall, after the change, contain
10 not less than four government sections of land.

11 Sec. 82. Section 274.40, Code 2024, is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 **274.40 Vesting of powers to convey.**

14 Whenever a majority of the directors of any school district
15 affected as in section 274.39 have moved from such district and
16 have ceased to be residents thereof thereby creating vacancies
17 on the school board and reducing it to less than a quorum,
18 the powers vested by said section in the board of directors
19 shall vest in the ~~area education agency board~~ director of the
20 department of education and the instrument of conveyance shall
21 be executed on behalf of such school district by the ~~president~~
22 ~~of the area education agency board~~ director of the department
23 of education until an election is called pursuant to chapter
24 277.

25 Sec. 83. Section 275.1, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 3. If a district is attached, division of assets and
28 liabilities shall be made as provided in sections 275.29
29 ~~through and~~ 275.31. The ~~area education agency boards~~ director
30 of the department of education shall develop detailed studies
31 and surveys of the school districts ~~within the area education~~
32 ~~agency~~ and all adjacent territory for the purpose of providing
33 for reorganization of school districts in order to effect more
34 economical operation and the attainment of higher standards
35 of education in the schools. The plans shall be revised

1 periodically to reflect reorganizations which may have taken
2 place ~~in the area education agency~~ within the impacted area and
3 adjacent territory.

4 Sec. 84. Section 275.2, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph
5 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

6 The scope of the studies and surveys shall include all of
7 the following matters in the various districts ~~in the area~~
8 ~~education agency~~ and all adjacent districts ~~adjacent to the~~
9 ~~area education agency~~:

10 Sec. 85. Section 275.2, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 2. The plans shall also include suggested alternate plans
13 that incorporate the school districts ~~in the area education~~
14 ~~agency~~ into reorganized districts that meet the enrollment
15 standards specified in section 275.3 and may include alternate
16 plans proposed by school districts for sharing programs
17 under section 28E.9, 256.13, 280.15, 282.7, or 282.10 as an
18 alternative to school reorganization.

19 Sec. 86. Section 275.3, Code 2024, is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 **275.3 Minimum size.**

22 No new school district shall be planned ~~by an area education~~
23 ~~agency board~~ nor shall any proposal for creation or enlargement
24 of any school district be approved ~~by an area education agency~~
25 ~~board~~ or submitted to electors unless there reside within
26 the proposed limits of such district at least three hundred
27 persons of school age who were enrolled in public schools
28 in the preceding school year. Provided, however, that the
29 director of the department of education shall have authority ~~to~~
30 ~~grant permission to an area education agency board~~ to approve
31 the formation or enlargement of a school district containing
32 a lower school enrollment than required in this section on
33 the written request of ~~such area education agency board~~ the
34 school districts that will be affected by such formation or
35 enlargement if such request is accompanied by evidence tending

1 to show that sparsity of population, natural barriers or
2 other good reason makes it impracticable to meet the school
3 enrollment requirement.

4 Sec. 87. Section 275.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 **275.4 Studies, surveys, and plans.**

7 ~~1. a.~~ In developing studies and surveys, the ~~area education~~
8 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education shall
9 consult with the officials of school districts in the area and
10 other citizens, shall from time to time hold public hearings,
11 and may employ such research and other assistance as ~~it~~
12 the director may determine reasonably necessary in order to
13 properly carry on ~~its~~ the survey and prepare definite plans of
14 reorganization.

15 ~~b.~~ ~~In addition, the area education agency board shall~~
16 ~~consult with the director of the department of education in~~
17 ~~the development of surveys and plans. The director of the~~
18 ~~department of education shall provide assistance to the area~~
19 ~~education agency boards as requested and shall advise the area~~
20 ~~education agency boards concerning plans of contiguous area~~
21 ~~education agencies and the reorganization policies adopted by~~
22 ~~the state board of education.~~

23 ~~2. Completed plans shall be transmitted by the area~~
24 ~~education agency board to the director of the department of~~
25 ~~education.~~

26 Sec. 88. Section 275.5, Code 2024, is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 **275.5 Proposals for merger or consolidation.**

29 A proposal for merger, consolidation, or boundary change of
30 local school districts shall first be submitted to the ~~area~~
31 ~~education agency board~~ director of the department of education
32 following the procedure prescribed in this chapter. Following
33 receipt of a petition pursuant to section 275.12, the ~~area~~
34 ~~education agency board~~ director of the department of education
35 shall review ~~its~~ the plans and determine whether the petition

1 complies with the plans which had been adopted by the ~~board~~
2 director. If the petition does not comply with the plans
3 ~~which had been adopted by the board~~, the ~~board~~ department of
4 education shall conduct further surveys pursuant to section
5 275.4 prior to the date set for the hearing upon the petition.
6 If further surveys have been conducted by the ~~board~~ department
7 of education, the ~~board~~ department shall present the results of
8 the further surveys at the hearing upon the petition.

9 Sec. 89. Section 275.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **275.6 Progressive program.**

12 It is the intent of this chapter that the ~~area education~~
13 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education shall
14 carry on the program of reorganization progressively and shall,
15 insofar as is possible, authorize submission of proposals to
16 the electors as they are developed and approved.

17 Sec. 90. Section 275.7, Code 2024, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 **275.7 Budget.**

20 The ~~area education agency board~~ director of the department
21 of education shall include in the budget submitted each year
22 such sums as ~~it~~ the director deems necessary to carry on ~~its~~
23 the reorganization work under this chapter.

24 Sec. 91. Section 275.8, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,
25 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

26 a. Preparation of a written joint plan by two or more
27 school districts in which contiguous territory ~~in two or more~~
28 ~~area education agencies~~ is considered as a part of a potential
29 school district ~~in the area education agency on behalf of which~~
30 ~~such plan is filed with the department of education by the area~~
31 ~~education agency board~~.

32 b. Adoption of the written joint plan at a joint session of
33 the several ~~area education agency boards~~ of directors of school
34 districts in whose areas the territory is situated. A quorum
35 of each of the boards is necessary to transact business. ~~Votes~~

1 ~~shall be taken in the manner prescribed in section 275.16.~~

2 Sec. 92. Section 275.8, subsection 2, paragraph d, Code
3 2024, is amended to read as follows:

4 ~~d. An affidavit signed on behalf of each of said boards~~
5 ~~of directors of area education agencies by a member of such~~
6 ~~board~~ the director of the department of education stating the
7 boundaries as shown on such plat ~~have been agreed upon by the~~
8 ~~respective boards as are~~ a part of the overall plan of school
9 district reorganization of each such school.

10 Sec. 93. Section 275.8, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 3. Planning of joint districts shall be conducted in
13 the same manner as planning for single districts, except as
14 provided in this section. Studies and surveys relating to
15 the planning of joint districts shall be filed with the area
16 ~~education agency in which one of the districts is located~~
17 director of the department of education by the board of
18 directors of the school district which has the greatest taxable
19 property base in the areas where the territory is situated. In
20 the case of controversy over the planning of joint districts,
21 the matter shall be submitted to the director of the department
22 of education. Judicial review of the director's decision
23 may be sought in accordance with the terms of the Iowa
24 administrative procedure Act, chapter 17A. Notwithstanding the
25 terms of that Act, petitions for judicial review must be filed
26 within thirty days after the decision of the director.

27 Sec. 94. Section 275.9, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
28 to read as follows:

29 2. The provisions of sections 275.1 through 275.5, relating
30 to studies, surveys, hearings and adoption of plans shall
31 constitute a mandatory prerequisite to the effectuation of
32 any proposal for district boundary change. It shall be the
33 mandatory duty of the ~~area education agency board~~ director of
34 the department of education to dismiss the petition if the
35 above provisions are not complied with fully.

1 Sec. 95. Section 275.11, Code 2024, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **275.11 Proposals involving two or more districts.**

4 Subject to the approval of the ~~area education agency~~
5 ~~board~~ director of the department of education, contiguous or
6 marginally adjacent territory located in two or more school
7 districts may be united into a single district in the manner
8 provided in sections 275.12 through 275.18, 275.20, and 275.22.

9 Sec. 96. Section 275.12, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2024, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 1. A petition describing the boundaries, or accurately
12 describing the area included therein by legal descriptions,
13 of the proposed district, which boundaries or area described
14 shall conform to plans developed or the petition shall request
15 change of the plan, shall be filed with the ~~area education~~
16 ~~agency administrator of the area education agency in which the~~
17 ~~greatest number of registered voters reside~~ director of the
18 department of education. However, the ~~area education agency~~
19 ~~administrator~~ director of the department of education shall
20 not accept a petition if any of the school districts affected
21 have approved the issuance of general obligation bonds at
22 an election pursuant to section 296.6 during the preceding
23 six-month period. The petition shall be signed by eligible
24 electors residing in each existing school district or portion
25 affected equal in number to at least twenty percent of the
26 number of registered voters in the school district or portion
27 affected, or four hundred eligible electors, whichever is the
28 smaller number.

29 4. The ~~area education agency board~~ director of the
30 department of education in reviewing the petition as provided
31 in ~~sections~~ section 275.15 and ~~275.16~~ shall review the proposed
32 method of election of school directors and may change or amend
33 the plan in any manner, including to specify a different
34 method of electing school directors as may be required by
35 law, justice, equity, and the interest of the people. In

1 the action, the ~~area education agency board~~ director of the
2 department of education shall follow the same procedure as is
3 required by ~~sections~~ section 275.15 and 275.16 for other action
4 on the petition by the ~~area education agency board~~ director.

5 Sec. 97. Section 275.12, subsection 5, paragraphs a and b,
6 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

7 a. The ~~area education agency board~~ director of the
8 department of education in reviewing a petition as provided
9 in ~~sections~~ section 275.15 and 275.16 that is not subject to
10 the division of assets and liabilities provisions in sections
11 275.29 ~~through~~ and 275.31 shall review the proposal for
12 dividing liability for payment of outstanding bonds issued
13 under section 423E.5 or 423F.4, required to be included under
14 section 275.28, and may change or amend the proposal in any
15 manner, including to specify a different division for the
16 reorganized districts or a different method of payment or
17 retirement of the bonds as may be required by law, justice,
18 equity, and the interest of the people. The review conducted
19 by the ~~area education agency~~ director of the department of
20 education, including any resulting change to the proposal,
21 shall ensure that the reorganized district's estimated revenue
22 under section 423F.2 is sufficient for the payment of principal
23 and interest on the outstanding bonds required to be paid in
24 the budget year following the reorganization.

25 b. For bonds issued under section ~~423E.5 or~~ 423F.4, the
26 approval of the reorganization at election creates a lien on
27 the revenues from the secure an advanced vision for education
28 fund received by the reorganized district designated in the
29 proposal approved by the ~~area education agency~~ director of
30 the department of education, subject to the same priority as
31 provided by the affected school district that issued the bonds.

32 Sec. 98. Section 275.14, Code 2024, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 **275.14 Objection — time of filing — notice.**

35 1. Within ten days after the petition is filed, the area

1 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of
2 education shall fix a final date for filing objections to the
3 petition which shall be not more than sixty days after the
4 petition is filed and shall fix the date for a hearing on the
5 objections to the petition. Objections shall be filed ~~in~~
6 ~~the office of the administrator who~~ with the department of
7 education, which shall give notice at least ten days prior
8 to the final day for filing objections, by one publication
9 in a newspaper published within the territory described in
10 the petition, or if none is published in the territory, in a
11 newspaper published in the county where the petition is filed,
12 and of general circulation in the territory described. The
13 notice shall also list the date, time, and location for the
14 hearing on the petition as provided in section 275.15. The
15 cost of publication shall be assessed to each district whose
16 territory is involved in the ratio that the number of pupils
17 in basic enrollment for the budget year, as defined in section
18 257.6 in each district bears to the total number of pupils
19 in basic enrollment for the budget year in the total area
20 involved. Objections shall be in writing in the form of an
21 affidavit and may be made by any person residing or owning land
22 within the territory described in the petition, or who would
23 be injuriously affected by the change petitioned for and shall
24 be on file not later than 12:00 noon of the final day fixed for
25 filing objections.

26 2. Objection forms shall be prescribed by the department of
27 education and may be obtained from the ~~area education agency~~
28 ~~administrator~~ department. Objection forms that request that
29 property be removed from a proposed district shall include the
30 correct legal description of the property to be removed.

31 Sec. 99. Section 275.15, Code 2024, is amended to read as
32 follows:

33 **275.15 Hearing — decision — publication — appeal.**

34 1. At the hearing, which shall be held within ten days of
35 the final date set for filing objections, interested parties,

1 both petitioners and objectors, may present evidence and
2 arguments, and the ~~area education agency board~~ director of
3 the department of education shall review the matter on its
4 merits and within ten days after the conclusion of any hearing,
5 shall rule on the objections and shall enter an order fixing
6 the boundaries for the proposed school corporation as will
7 in ~~its~~ the director's judgment be for the best interests of
8 all parties concerned, having due regard for the welfare of
9 adjoining districts, or dismiss the petition.

10 2. The ~~area education agency board~~ director of the
11 department of education, when entering the order fixing the
12 boundaries, shall consider all available evidence including,
13 but not limited to, information presented by the petitioners,
14 all objections requesting territory exclusion, reorganization
15 studies and plans, geographical patterns evidenced by students
16 using open enrollment to attend school in another district
17 pursuant to section 282.18, potential travel distances required
18 of students, and geographic configuration of the proposed
19 district. The exclusion of territory shall represent a balance
20 between the rights of the objectors and the welfare of the
21 reorganized district.

22 3. If the petition is not dismissed and the ~~board~~ director
23 of the department of education determines that additional
24 information is required in order to fix boundary lines of the
25 proposed school corporation, the ~~board~~ director may continue
26 the hearing for no more than thirty days. The date of the
27 continued hearing shall be announced at the original meeting.
28 Additional objections in the form required in section 275.14
29 may be considered if filed with the ~~administrator~~ director of
30 the department of education within five days, not including
31 Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays, after the date of the original
32 board hearing. If the hearing is continued, the ~~area education~~
33 ~~agency administrator~~ director of the department of education
34 may conduct one or more meetings with the boards of directors
35 of the affected districts. Notice of any such meeting must

1 be given at least forty-eight hours in advance by the area
2 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of
3 education in the manner provided in section 21.4. ~~The area~~
4 ~~education agency board may request that the administrator make~~
5 ~~alternative recommendations regarding the boundary lines of the~~
6 ~~proposed school corporation.~~ The area ~~education agency board~~
7 director of the department of education shall make a decision
8 on the boundary lines within ten days following the conclusion
9 of the continued hearing.

10 4. The ~~administrator~~ director of the department of
11 education shall at once publish the decision in the same
12 newspaper in which the original notice was published. Within
13 twenty days after the publication, the decision rendered by
14 the ~~area education agency board~~ director of the department of
15 education may be appealed to the district court in the county
16 involved by any school district affected. For purposes of
17 appeal, only those school districts who filed reorganization
18 petitions are school districts affected. An appeal from a
19 decision of an ~~area education agency board or joint area~~
20 ~~education agency boards~~ the director of the department of
21 education under section 275.4, ~~275.16,~~ or this section is
22 subject to appeal procedures under this chapter and is not
23 subject to appeal under chapter 290.

24 Sec. 100. Section 275.17, Code 2024, is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 **275.17 Filing a petition.**

27 If an ~~area education agency board~~ the director of the
28 department of education does not approve the change in
29 boundaries of school districts in accordance with a petition, a
30 petition describing the identical or similar boundaries shall
31 not be filed for a period of six months following the date
32 ~~of the hearing or the vote of the board, whichever is later~~
33 director publishes the director's decision pursuant to section
34 275.15, subsection 4.

35 Sec. 101. Section 275.18, Code 2024, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **275.18 Special election called — time.**

3 1. When the boundaries of the territory to be included in
4 a proposed school corporation and the number and method of
5 the election of the school directors of the proposed school
6 corporation have been determined as provided in this chapter,
7 ~~the area education agency administrator with whom the petition~~
8 ~~is filed~~ director of the department of education shall give
9 written notice of the election to the county commissioner of
10 elections of the county in the proposed school corporation
11 which has the greatest taxable base. The question shall be
12 submitted to the voters at an election held on a date specified
13 in section 39.2, subsection 4, paragraph "c" in the calendar
14 year prior to the calendar year in which the reorganization
15 will take effect.

16 2. The county commissioner of elections shall give notice
17 of the election by one publication in the same newspaper in
18 which previous notices have been published regarding the
19 proposed school reorganization, and in addition, if more than
20 one county is involved, by one publication in a legal newspaper
21 in each county other than that of the first publication. The
22 publication shall be not less than four nor more than twenty
23 days prior to the election. If the decision published pursuant
24 to section 275.15 ~~or 275.16~~ includes a description of the
25 proposed school corporation and a description of the director
26 districts, if any, the notice for election and the ballot do
27 not need to include these descriptions. Notice for an election
28 shall not be published until the expiration of time for appeal,
29 which shall be the same as that provided in section 275.15 ~~or~~
30 ~~275.16, whichever is applicable;~~ and if there is an appeal, not
31 until the appeal has been disposed of.

32 3. ~~The area education agency administrator~~ director of the
33 department of education shall furnish to the commissioner a
34 map of the proposed reorganized area which must be approved by
35 the commissioner as suitable for posting. The map shall be

1 displayed prominently in at least one place within the voting
2 precinct, and inside each voting booth.

3 Sec. 102. Section 275.22, Code 2024, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **275.22 Canvass and return.**

6 The canvass shall be conducted pursuant to section
7 50.24. The county commissioner of elections or controlling
8 commissioner shall certify the results of the election to the
9 ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of the department
10 of education. If the majority of the votes cast by the
11 registered voters is in favor of the proposition, as provided
12 in section 275.20, a new school corporation shall be organized.
13 If the majority of votes cast is opposed to the proposition,
14 a new petition describing the identical or similar boundaries
15 shall not be filed for at least six months from the date of
16 the election. If territory is excluded from the reorganized
17 district, action pursuant to section 274.37 shall be taken
18 prior to the effective date of reorganization. The secretary
19 of the new school corporation shall file a written description
20 of the boundaries as provided in section 274.4.

21 Sec. 103. Section 275.23A, subsection 2, Code 2024, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 2. Following each federal decennial census the school
24 board shall determine whether the existing director district
25 boundaries meet the standards in subsection 1 according to
26 the most recent federal decennial census. In addition to the
27 authority granted to voters to change the number of directors
28 or method of election as provided in sections 275.35, 275.36,
29 and 278.1, the board of directors of a school district may,
30 following a federal decennial census, by resolution and
31 in accordance with this section, authorize a change in the
32 method of election as set forth in section 275.12, subsection
33 2, or a change to either five or seven directors after the
34 board conducts a hearing on the resolution. If the board
35 proposes to change the number of directors from seven to five

1 directors, the resolution shall include a plan for reducing
2 the number of directors. If the board proposes to increase
3 the number of directors to seven directors, two directors
4 shall be added according to the procedure described in section
5 277.23, subsection 2. If necessary, the board of directors
6 shall redraw the director district boundaries. The director
7 district boundaries shall be described in the resolution
8 adopted by the school board. The resolution shall be adopted
9 no earlier than November 15 of the second year immediately
10 following the year in which the federal decennial census is
11 taken and no later than May 15 of the third year immediately
12 following the year in which the federal decennial census
13 is taken. A copy of the plan shall be filed with the ~~area~~
14 ~~education agency administrator of the area education agency in~~
15 ~~which the school's electors reside~~ director of the department
16 of education. If the board does not provide for an election
17 as provided in sections 275.35, 275.36, and 278.1 and adopts
18 a resolution to change the number of directors or method of
19 election in accordance with this subsection, the district
20 shall change the number of directors or method of election as
21 provided unless, within twenty-eight days following the action
22 of the board, the secretary of the board receives a petition
23 containing the required number of signatures, asking that an
24 election be called to approve or disapprove the action of
25 the board in adopting the resolution. The petition must be
26 signed by eligible electors equal in number to not less than
27 one hundred or thirty percent of the number of voters at the
28 last preceding regular school election, whichever is greater.
29 The board shall either rescind its action or direct the
30 county commissioner of elections to submit the question to the
31 registered voters of the school district at an election held
32 on a date specified in section 39.2, subsection 4, paragraph
33 "c". If a majority of those voting on the question at the
34 election favors disapproval of the action of the board, the
35 district shall not change the number of directors or method of

1 election. If a majority of those voting on the question does
2 not favor disapproval of the action, the board shall certify
3 the results of the election to the department of management and
4 the district shall change the number of directors or method of
5 election as provided in this subsection. At the expiration of
6 the twenty-eight-day period, if no petition is filed, the board
7 shall certify its action to the department of management and
8 the district shall change the number of directors or method of
9 election as provided in this subsection.

10 Sec. 104. Section 275.25, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
11 2024, is amended to read as follows:

12 a. If the proposition to establish a new school district
13 carries under the method provided in this chapter, the ~~area~~
14 ~~education agency administrator with whom the petition was filed~~
15 director of the department of education shall give written
16 notice of a proposed date for a special election for directors
17 of the newly formed school district to the commissioner
18 of elections of the county in the district involved in the
19 reorganization which has the greatest taxable base. The
20 proposed date shall be as soon as possible pursuant to section
21 39.2, subsections 1 and 2, and section 47.6, subsections 1
22 and 2, but not later than the third Tuesday in January of the
23 calendar year in which the reorganization takes effect.

24 Sec. 105. Section 275.25, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
25 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 b. The county board of supervisors shall canvass the votes
27 and the county commissioner of elections shall report the
28 results to the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of
29 the department of education who shall notify the persons who
30 are elected directors.

31 Sec. 106. Section 275.25, subsection 4, Code 2024, is
32 amended to read as follows:

33 4. The board of the newly formed district shall organize
34 within fifteen days after the special election upon the call
35 of the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director of the

1 department of education. The new board shall have control of
2 the employment of personnel for the newly formed district for
3 the next following school year under section 275.33. Following
4 the first organizational meeting of the board of the newly
5 formed district, the board may establish policy, organize
6 curriculum, enter into contracts, complete planning, and take
7 action as necessary for the efficient management of the newly
8 formed community school district.

9 Sec. 107. Section 275.26, Code 2024, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **275.26 Payment of expenses.**

12 1. If a district is established or changes its boundaries it
13 shall pay all expenses incurred by the ~~area education agency~~
14 ~~administrator and the area education agency board~~ department
15 of education in connection with the proceedings. The county
16 commissioner of elections shall assess the costs of the
17 election against the district as provided in section 47.3. If
18 the proposition is dismissed or defeated at the election, all
19 expenses shall be apportioned among the several districts in
20 proportion to the assessed valuation of property therein.

21 2. If the proposed district or boundary change embraces
22 territory in more than one ~~area education agency~~ school
23 district, such expenses shall be certified to and, if
24 necessary, apportioned among the several districts by the ~~joint~~
25 ~~agency board~~ director of the department of education. ~~If in~~
26 ~~only one agency, the certification shall be made by the agency~~
27 ~~administrator.~~

28 3. The respective boards to which such expenses are
29 certified shall audit and order the same paid from the general
30 fund. In the event of failure of any board to so audit and
31 pay the expenses certified to it, the ~~area education agency~~
32 ~~administrator~~ director of the department of education shall
33 certify the expenses to the county auditor in the same manner
34 as is provided for tuition claims in section 282.21 and the
35 funds shall be transferred by the county treasurer from the

1 debtor district to the ~~agency board~~ department of education for
2 payment of said expenses.

3 Sec. 108. Section 275.28, Code 2024, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **275.28 Plan of division of assets and liabilities.**

6 In addition to setting up the territory to comprise the
7 reorganized districts, a reorganization petition shall provide
8 for a division of assets and liabilities of the districts
9 affected among the reorganized districts. However, if
10 territory is excluded from the reorganized district by the
11 petition or by the ~~area education agency board of directors~~
12 director of the department of education, the division of all
13 assets and liabilities shall be made under the provisions of
14 sections 275.29 ~~through~~ and 275.31.

15 Sec. 109. Section 275.39, Code 2024, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 **275.39 Excluded territory included in new petition.**

18 Territory described in the petition of a proposed
19 reorganization which has been set out of the proposed
20 reorganization ~~by the area education agency board or the joint~~
21 ~~boards and~~ in the event of an appeal, after the decision of the
22 director of the department of education or the courts, may be
23 included in any new petition for reorganization.

24 Sec. 110. Section 275.41, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2024,
25 are amended to read as follows:

26 1. As an alternative to the method specified in section
27 275.25 for electing directors in a newly formed community
28 school district, the procedure specified in this section may
29 be used and if used, the petition filed under section 275.12
30 shall state the number of directors on the initial board.
31 If two districts are named in the petition, either five or
32 seven directors shall serve on the initial board. If three
33 or more districts are named in the petition, either seven or
34 nine directors shall serve on the initial board. The petition
35 shall specify the number of directors to be retained from each

1 district, and those numbers shall be proportionate to the
2 populations of the districts. If the exclusion of territory
3 from a reorganization affects the proportionate balance
4 of directors among the affected districts specified in the
5 petition, or if the proposal specified in the petition does not
6 comply with the requirement for proportionate representation,
7 ~~the area education board~~ director of the department of
8 education shall modify the proposal. However, all districts
9 affected shall retain at least one member.

10 4. The board of the newly formed district shall organize
11 within forty-five days after the approval of the merger upon
12 the call of the ~~area education agency administrator~~ director
13 of the department of education. The new board shall have
14 control of the employment of all personnel for the newly
15 formed district for the ensuing school year. Following the
16 organization of the new board the board shall have authority to
17 establish policy, organize curriculum, enter into contracts and
18 complete such planning and take such action as is essential for
19 the efficient management of the newly formed community school
20 district.

21 Sec. 111. Section 275.51, subsection 4, Code 2024, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 4. The board of the school district shall certify to
24 the ~~area education agency board~~ director of the department
25 of education that a commission has been formed, the
26 names and addresses of commission members, and that the
27 commission members represent the various geographic areas and
28 socioeconomic factors present in the district.

29 Sec. 112. Section 275.52, subsection 3, Code 2024, is
30 amended to read as follows:

31 3. The commission may seek assistance from the ~~area~~
32 ~~education agency and the~~ department of education.

33 Sec. 113. Section 275.54, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code
34 2024, is amended to read as follows:

35 a. If the board of a district to which area of the

1 dissolving school district will be attached objects to
2 the division of assets and liabilities contained in the
3 dissolution proposal, the matter shall be decided by a panel
4 of disinterested arbitrators. The panel shall consist of one
5 arbitrator selected jointly by affected districts objecting
6 to the provisions of the dissolution proposal, one selected
7 jointly by the affected districts in favor of the provisions of
8 the dissolution proposal, and one selected by the dissolving
9 district. If the number of arbitrators selected is even, a
10 disinterested arbitrator shall be selected by the ~~administrator~~
11 ~~of the area education agency to which the dissolving district~~
12 ~~belongs~~ director of the department of education. The decision
13 of the arbitrators shall be made in writing and filed with
14 the secretary of each affected school district. A party to
15 the proceedings may appeal the decision to the district court
16 by serving notice on the secretary of each affected school
17 district within twenty days after the decision is filed.
18 The appeal shall be tried in equity and a decree entered
19 determining the entire matter, including the levy, collection,
20 and distribution of any necessary taxes.

21 Sec. 114. Section 276.10, subsection 5, Code 2024, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 5. The school districts may cooperate with community
24 colleges, and institutions under the control of the state board
25 of regents, ~~and area education agencies~~ in providing community
26 education programs.

27 Sec. 115. Section 279.6, subsection 1, paragraph b,
28 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

29 (4) Notwithstanding any requirement of this paragraph to
30 the contrary, when the board is reduced below a quorum, the
31 secretary of the board, or if there is no secretary, the ~~area~~
32 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of
33 education, shall call a special election in the district,
34 subdistrict, or subdistricts, as the case may be, to fill the
35 vacancies.

1 Sec. 116. Section 279.7, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 1. If a vacancy or vacancies occur among the elective
4 officers or members of a school board and the remaining members
5 of the board have not filled the vacancy within thirty days
6 after the vacancy occurs or if a valid petition is submitted
7 to the secretary of the board pursuant to section 279.6,
8 subsection 1, or when the board is reduced below a quorum,
9 the secretary of the board, or if there is no secretary,
10 ~~the area education agency administrator~~ director of the
11 department of education, shall call a special election in the
12 district, subdistrict, or subdistricts, as the case may be,
13 to fill the vacancy or vacancies. The county commissioner of
14 elections shall publish the notices required by law for special
15 elections, and the election shall be held not sooner than
16 thirty days nor later than forty days after the thirtieth day
17 following the day the vacancy occurs. If the secretary fails
18 for more than three days to call an election, the ~~administrator~~
19 director of the department of education shall call it.

20 Sec. 117. Section 279.23, subsection 4, Code 2024, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 4. For purposes of this section and sections 279.23A,
23 279.24, and 279.25, the term "*administrator*" includes school
24 superintendents, assistant superintendents, educational
25 directors employed by school districts for grades kindergarten
26 through twelve, ~~educational directors employed by area~~
27 ~~education agencies under chapter 273~~, principals, assistant
28 principals, other certified school supervisors employed
29 by school districts for grades kindergarten through twelve
30 as defined under section 20.4, and other certified school
31 supervisors employed by area education agencies under chapter
32 273. For purposes of this section and sections 279.23A,
33 279.24, and 279.25, with regard to community college employees,
34 "*administrator*" includes the administrator of an instructional
35 division or an area of instructional responsibility, and the

1 administrator of an instructional unit, department, or section.

2 Sec. 118. Section 279.30, Code 2024, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **279.30 Payments — exceptions.**

5 Each payment must be made payable to the person entitled to
6 receive the money or deposited directly into an account at a
7 financial institution, as defined in section 527.2, specified
8 by the person entitled to receive the money. The board of
9 directors of a school district or an executive director of
10 an area education agency may by resolution authorize the
11 secretary, upon approval of the superintendent or designee,
12 or ~~administrator~~ executive director, in the case of an area
13 education agency, to issue payments when the board of directors
14 is not in session in payment of reasonable and necessary
15 expenses, but only upon verified bills filed with the secretary
16 or ~~administrator~~ executive director, and for the payment of
17 salaries pursuant to the terms of a written contract. Each
18 payment must be made payable only to the person performing
19 the service or presenting the verified bill, and must state
20 the purpose for which the payment is issued. All bills and
21 salaries for which payments are issued prior to audit and
22 allowance by the board must be passed upon by the board of
23 directors at the next meeting and be entered in the regular
24 minutes of the secretary.

25 Sec. 119. Section 279.50, subsection 8, Code 2024, is
26 amended by striking the subsection.

27 Sec. 120. Section 279.51, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
28 2024, is amended to read as follows:

29 a. Two hundred seventy-five thousand eight hundred
30 sixty-four dollars of the funds appropriated shall be allocated
31 to the ~~area education agencies~~ child development coordinating
32 council to assist school districts in developing program plans
33 and budgets under this section and to assist school districts
34 and child development programs under section 256A.3 in meeting
35 other responsibilities in early childhood education.

1 Sec. 121. Section 279.51A, subsection 3, Code 2024, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. If the student whose behavior caused the classroom
4 clearance has an individualized education program or a
5 behavioral intervention plan, the classroom teacher shall call
6 for and be included in a review and potential revision of
7 the student's individualized education program or behavioral
8 intervention plan by the student's individualized education
9 program team. ~~The area education agency, in collaboration with~~
10 ~~the school district~~ and area education agency, if the area
11 education agency is providing special education services to the
12 school district pursuant to a contract, may, when the parent
13 or guardian meets with the individualized education program
14 team during the reevaluation of the student's individualized
15 education program, inform the parent or guardian of individual
16 or family counseling services available in the area.

17 Sec. 122. Section 280.19A, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024,
18 are amended to read as follows:

19 1. Each school district shall adopt a plan to provide
20 alternative options education programs to students who are
21 either at risk of dropping out or have dropped out. An
22 alternative options education program may be provided in a
23 district, through a sharing agreement with a school in a
24 contiguous district, or through an areawide program available
25 at the community college serving the merged area in which
26 the school district is located. ~~Each area education agency~~
27 ~~shall provide assistance in establishing a plan to provide~~
28 ~~alternative education options to students attending a public~~
29 ~~school in a district served by the agency.~~

30 2. When a plan is developed, the district shall be
31 responsible for the operation of the program ~~and shall~~
32 ~~reimburse the area education agency for the actual costs~~
33 ~~incurred by the area education agency under this section.~~

34 Sec. 123. Section 280.29, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
35 2024, is amended to read as follows:

1 a. Work with an area education agency child welfare
2 liaison, if the area education agency has employed such a
3 liaison in accordance with section 273.2, subsection ~~10~~ 8, to
4 develop systems to ease the enrollment transition of a child
5 adjudicated under chapter 232 or receiving foster care services
6 to another school.

7 Sec. 124. Section 280A.4, subsection 6, Code 2024, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 6. A school district, an accredited nonpublic school,
10 an area education agency, the board of directors of a school
11 district ~~or an area education agency~~, authorities in charge of
12 the accredited nonpublic school, and employees of the school
13 district, accredited nonpublic school or area education agency,
14 shall not be liable for any injury arising from the provision
15 of voluntary behavioral health screenings or behavioral health
16 services in accordance with this chapter, provided such person
17 has acted reasonably and in good faith and in accordance with
18 the provisions of this chapter.

19 Sec. 125. Section 282.7, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 3. Notwithstanding sections 28E.9 and 282.8, a school
22 district may negotiate an agreement under subsection 1 for
23 attendance of its pupils in a school district located in a
24 contiguous state subject to a reciprocal agreement by the two
25 state boards in the manner provided in this subsection. Prior
26 to negotiating an agreement with the school district in the
27 contiguous state, the board of directors shall file a written
28 request with the state board of education for a determination
29 whether the school district in the contiguous state meets
30 requirements substantially similar to those required for
31 accredited or approved school districts in this state ~~and~~
32 ~~the school district receives or has available services~~
33 ~~equivalent to those that would be provided in this state by~~
34 ~~an area education agency~~. The school district shall also
35 obtain approval by the department of education of the sharing

1 proposal, before the agreement becomes effective. Six months
2 before making the request for approval, the district shall
3 request a feasibility study from the department of education.
4 If the state board of this state and the corresponding
5 state board in the contiguous state agree that the school
6 districts of their respective states meet substantially similar
7 requirements and have substantially similar services available
8 to the school district, and if the Iowa department of education
9 approves the proposed contract, the two state boards may sign
10 a reciprocal agreement for attendance of their pupils in the
11 school district of the other state, subject to the agreement
12 signed between the boards of directors of the two districts.
13 A school district that negotiates an agreement with a school
14 district in a contiguous state under this subsection is not
15 eligible for supplementary weighting under section 257.11 as a
16 result of that agreement.

17 Sec. 126. Section 284.2, subsection 9, Code 2024, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 9. "*School board*" means the board of directors of a school
20 district, or a collaboration of boards of directors of school
21 districts, ~~or the board of directors of an area education~~
22 ~~agency~~, as the context requires.

23 Sec. 127. Section 284.3A, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,
24 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

25 a. For the school year beginning July 1, 2009, if the
26 licensed employees of a school district or area education
27 agency receiving funds pursuant to sections 257.10 and 257.37A
28 are organized under chapter 20 for collective bargaining
29 purposes, the school board or the area education agency and
30 the certified bargaining representative for the licensed
31 employees shall negotiate the distribution of the funds
32 among the teachers employed by the school district or area
33 education agency according to chapter 20. The department of
34 administrative services shall be the chief negotiator for the
35 area education agency.

1 *b.* If the licensed employees of a school district or area
2 education agency are not organized for collective bargaining
3 purposes, the board of directors or the area education agency
4 shall determine the method of distribution of such funds.

5 Sec. 128. Section 284.3A, subsection 2, paragraph *c*, Code
6 2024, is amended to read as follows:

7 *c.* If the licensed employees of a school district or area
8 education agency are not organized for collective bargaining
9 purposes, the board of directors or the area education agency
10 shall create the new combined salary. The board of directors
11 or the area education agency shall determine adjustments in
12 salaries resulting from a reduction in the teacher salary
13 supplement per pupil amount.

14 Sec. 129. Section 284.6, subsection 10, Code 2024, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 10. If funds are allocated for purposes of professional
17 development pursuant to section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph
18 "*c*", the department shall, ~~in collaboration with the area~~
19 ~~education agencies,~~ establish teacher development academies for
20 school-based teams of teachers and instructional leaders. Each
21 academy shall include an institute and shall provide follow-up
22 training and coaching.

23 Sec. 130. Section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph *d*,
24 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

25 (3) Of the moneys allocated to the department for the
26 purposes of this paragraph "*d*", for each fiscal year included
27 in subparagraph (1), not more than six hundred twenty-six
28 thousand one hundred ninety-one dollars shall be used by
29 the department for the development of a delivery system, ~~in~~
30 ~~collaboration with area education agencies,~~ to assist in
31 implementing the career paths and leadership roles considered
32 pursuant to sections 284.15, 284.16, and 284.17, including but
33 not limited to planning grants to school districts and area
34 education agencies, technical assistance for the department,
35 technical assistance for districts and area education agencies,

1 training and staff development, and the contracting of external
2 expertise and services. In using moneys allocated for purposes
3 of this subparagraph (3), the department shall give priority to
4 school districts with certified enrollments of fewer than six
5 hundred students. A portion of the moneys allocated annually
6 to the department for purposes of this subparagraph (3) may be
7 used by the department for administrative purposes and for not
8 more than five full-time equivalent positions.

9 Sec. 131. Section 284.13, subsection 1, paragraph f, Code
10 2024, is amended to read as follows:

11 f. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending
12 June 30, 2024, to the department an amount up to six hundred
13 twenty-six thousand one hundred ninety-one dollars shall be
14 used by the department for a delivery system, ~~in collaboration~~
15 ~~with area education agencies,~~ to assist in implementing the
16 career paths and leadership roles considered pursuant to
17 sections 284.15, 284.16, and 284.17, including but not limited
18 to planning grants to school districts and area education
19 agencies, technical assistance for the department, technical
20 assistance for districts and area education agencies, training
21 and staff development, and the contracting of external
22 expertise and services. In using moneys allocated for purposes
23 of this paragraph, the department shall give priority to school
24 districts with certified enrollments of fewer than six hundred
25 students. A portion of the moneys allocated annually to the
26 department for purposes of this paragraph may be used by the
27 department for administrative purposes and for not more than
28 five full-time equivalent positions.

29 Sec. 132. Section 284.15, subsection 12, paragraph a,
30 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (d), Code 2024, is
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (d) One person appointed jointly by the ~~administrators~~
33 executive directors of the area education agencies created
34 under chapter 273.

35 Sec. 133. Section 284.16, subsection 1, paragraph c,

1 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

2 (4) Instructional coaching shall include detailed
3 preliminary discussions as to areas in which the teachers
4 being coached desire to improve; formulation of an action
5 plan to bring about such improvement; in-class supervision
6 by the instructional coach; postclass discussion of
7 strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for improvement; and
8 dialogue between the instructional coach and students and
9 school officials regarding the teachers being coached. An
10 ~~instructional coach shall coordinate instructional coaching~~
11 ~~activities relating to training and professional development~~
12 ~~with an area education agency where appropriate.~~

13 Sec. 134. Section 284A.2, subsections 1 and 7, Code 2024,
14 are amended to read as follows:

15 1. "*Administrator*" means an individual holding a
16 professional administrator license issued under chapter
17 256, subchapter VII, part 3, who is employed in a school
18 district administrative position by a school district ~~or area~~
19 ~~education agency~~ pursuant to a contract issued by a board of
20 directors under section 279.23 and is engaged in instructional
21 leadership. An administrator may be employed in both an
22 administrative and a nonadministrative position by a board of
23 directors and shall be considered a part-time administrator
24 for the portion of time that the individual is employed in an
25 administrative position.

26 7. "*Mentor*" means an individual employed by a school
27 district ~~or area education agency~~ as a school district
28 administrator or a retired administrator who holds a valid
29 license issued under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3. The
30 individual must have a record of four years of successful
31 administrative experience and must demonstrate professional
32 commitment to both the improvement of teaching and learning and
33 the development of beginning administrators.

34 Sec. 135. Section 284A.5, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2024,
35 are amended to read as follows:

1 4. A beginning administrator shall be informed by the school
2 district ~~or the area education agency~~, prior to the beginning
3 administrator's participation in a mentoring and induction
4 program, of the criteria upon which the administrator will be
5 evaluated and of the evaluation process utilized by the school
6 district ~~or area education agency~~.

7 5. By the end of a beginning administrator's first year of
8 employment, the beginning administrator may be comprehensively
9 evaluated to determine if the administrator meets expectations
10 to move to a professional administrator license, where
11 appropriate. The school district ~~or area education agency~~ that
12 employs a beginning administrator shall recommend the beginning
13 administrator for a professional administrator license, where
14 appropriate, if the beginning administrator is determined
15 through a comprehensive evaluation to demonstrate competence in
16 the Iowa standards for school administrators adopted pursuant
17 to section 256.7, subsection 27. A school district ~~or area~~
18 ~~education agency~~ may allow a beginning administrator a second
19 year to demonstrate competence in the Iowa standards for school
20 administrators if, after conducting a comprehensive evaluation,
21 the school district ~~or area education agency~~ determines
22 that the administrator is likely to successfully demonstrate
23 competence in the Iowa standards for school administrators by
24 the end of the second year. Upon notification by the school
25 district ~~or area education agency~~, the board of educational
26 examiners shall grant a beginning administrator who has been
27 allowed a second year to demonstrate competence a one-year
28 extension of the beginning administrator's initial license. An
29 administrator granted a second year to demonstrate competence
30 shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation at the end of the
31 second year.

32 Sec. 136. Section 284A.6, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024,
33 are amended to read as follows:

34 1. Each school district shall be responsible for the
35 provision of professional growth programming for individuals

1 employed in a school district administrative position by the
2 school district ~~or area education agency~~ as deemed appropriate
3 by the board of directors of the school district ~~or area~~
4 ~~education agency~~. School districts may collaborate with other
5 educational stakeholders including other school districts,
6 ~~area education agencies~~, professional organizations, higher
7 education institutions, and private providers regarding the
8 provision of professional development for school district
9 administrators. Professional development programming for
10 school district administrators may include support that meets
11 the professional development needs of individual administrators
12 aligned to the Iowa standards for school administrators adopted
13 pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 27, and meets individual
14 administrator professional development plans.

15 2. In cooperation with the administrator's evaluator,
16 the administrator who has a professional administrator
17 license issued by the board of educational examiners pursuant
18 to chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3, and is employed
19 by a school district ~~or area education agency~~ in a school
20 district administrative position shall develop an individual
21 administrator professional development plan. The purpose
22 of the plan is to promote individual and group professional
23 development. The individual plan shall be based, at a minimum,
24 on the needs of the administrator, the Iowa standards for
25 school administrators adopted pursuant to section 256.7,
26 subsection 27, and the student achievement goals of the
27 attendance center and the school district.

28 Sec. 137. Section 285.1, subsections 6, 7, 9, and 13, Code
29 2024, are amended to read as follows:

30 6. When the school designated for attendance of pupils
31 is engaged in the transportation of pupils, the sending or
32 designating school shall use these facilities and pay the pro
33 rata cost of transportation except that a district sending
34 pupils to another school may make other arrangements when it
35 can be shown that such arrangements will be more efficient and

1 economical than to use facilities of the receiving school,
2 ~~providing such arrangements are approved by the board of the~~
3 ~~area education agency.~~

4 7. If a local board closes either elementary or high school
5 facilities ~~and is approved by the board of the area education~~
6 ~~agency to operate its own transportation equipment,~~ the full
7 cost of transportation shall be paid by the board for all
8 pupils living beyond the statutory walking distance from the
9 school designated for attendance.

10 9. Distance to school or to a bus route shall in all
11 cases be measured on the public highway only and over the
12 most passable and safest route ~~as determined by the area~~
13 ~~education agency board,~~ starting in the roadway opposite the
14 private entrance to the residence of the pupil and ending in
15 the roadway opposite the entrance to the school grounds or
16 designated point on bus route.

17 13. When a local board fails to pay transportation costs
18 due to another school for transportation service rendered, the
19 board of the creditor corporation shall file a sworn statement
20 with the ~~area education agency board~~ department of education
21 specifying the amount due. The ~~agency board~~ department of
22 education shall check such claim and if the claim is valid
23 shall certify to the county auditor. The auditor shall
24 transmit to the county treasurer an order directing the county
25 treasurer to transfer the amount of such claim from the funds
26 of the debtor corporation to the creditor corporation and the
27 treasurer shall pay the same accordingly.

28 Sec. 138. Section 285.1, subsection 16, paragraphs b and c,
29 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

30 *b.* As an alternative to paragraph "a" of this subsection,
31 ~~subject to section 285.9, subsection 3,~~ where practicable,
32 and at the option of the public school district in which
33 a nonpublic school pupil resides, the school district
34 may transport a nonpublic school pupil to a nonpublic
35 school located outside the boundary lines of the public

1 school district if the nonpublic school is located in a
2 school district contiguous to the school district which is
3 transporting the nonpublic school pupils, or may contract with
4 the contiguous public school district in which a nonpublic
5 school is located for the contiguous school district to
6 transport the nonpublic school pupils to the nonpublic school
7 of attendance within the boundary lines of the contiguous
8 school district.

9 *c.* If the nonpublic school designated for attendance of
10 a pupil is located outside the boundary line of the school
11 district of the pupil's residence and the district of residence
12 meets the requirements of subsections 14, 15, and this
13 subsection by using subsection 17, paragraph "c", and the
14 district in which the nonpublic school is located is contiguous
15 to the district of the pupil's residence and is willing to
16 provide transportation under subsection 17, paragraph "a" or
17 "b", the district in which the nonpublic school is located may
18 provide transportation services, ~~subject to section 285.9,~~
19 ~~subsection 3,~~ and may make the claim for reimbursement under
20 section 285.2. The district in which the nonpublic school is
21 located shall notify the district of the pupil's residence that
22 it is making the claim for reimbursement, and the district of
23 the pupil's residence shall be relieved of the requirement
24 for providing transportation and shall not make a claim for
25 reimbursement for those nonpublic school pupils for which a
26 claim is filed by the district in which the nonpublic school
27 is located.

28 Sec. 139. Section 285.2, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 4. *a.* Claims shall be allowed where practical, and at the
31 option of the public school district of the pupil's residence,
32 ~~subject to approval by the area education agency of the pupil's~~
33 ~~residence, under section 285.9, subsection 3,~~ the public school
34 district of the pupil's residence may transport a pupil to a
35 school located in a contiguous public school district outside

1 the boundary lines of the public school district of the pupil's
2 residence.

3 *b.* The public school district of the pupil's residence
4 may contract with the contiguous public school district or
5 with a private contractor under section 285.5 to transport the
6 pupils to the school of attendance within the boundary lines
7 of the contiguous public school district. The public school
8 district in which the pupil resides may contract with the
9 contiguous public school district or with a private contractor
10 under section 285.5 to transport the pupil from the pupil's
11 residence or from designated school bus collection locations to
12 the school located within the boundary lines of the contiguous
13 public school district, ~~subject to the approval of the area~~
14 ~~education agency of the pupil's residence.~~ The public school
15 district of the pupil's residence may utilize the reimbursement
16 provisions of section 285.1, subsection 3.

17 Sec. 140. Section 285.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 **285.4 Pupils sent to another district.**

20 ~~1.~~ When a board closes its elementary school facilities for
21 lack of pupils or by action of the board, it shall, if there
22 is a school bus service available in the area, designate for
23 attendance the school operating the buses, provided the board
24 of such school is willing to receive them and the facilities
25 and curricular offerings are adequate. The board of the
26 district where the pupils reside may ~~with the approval of the~~
27 ~~area education agency board,~~ subject to legal limitations and
28 established uniform standards, designate another rural school
29 and provide their own transportation if the transportation
30 costs will be less than to use the established bus service.

31 ~~2.~~ ~~All designations must be submitted to the area education~~
32 ~~agency board on or before July 15, for review and approval.~~
33 ~~The agency board shall after due investigation alter or change~~
34 ~~designations to make them conform to legal requirements and~~
35 ~~established uniform standards for making designations and for~~

1 ~~locating and establishing bus routes. After designations are~~
2 ~~made, they will remain the same from year to year except that~~
3 ~~on or before July 15, of each year, the rural board or parents~~
4 ~~may petition the agency board for a change of designation to~~
5 ~~another school. Appeals from the decision of the agency board~~
6 ~~on designations may be made by either the parents or board to~~
7 ~~the director of the department of education as provided in~~
8 ~~section 285.12 and section 285.13.~~

9 Sec. 141. Section 285.8, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
10 by striking the subsection.

11 Sec. 142. Section 285.8, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 3. Establish uniform standards for locating and operating
14 bus routes and for the protection of the health and safety of
15 pupils transported, and provide technical assistance on the
16 implementation of those standards.

17 Sec. 143. Section 285.12, Code 2024, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 **285.12 Disputes — hearings and appeals.**

20 In the event of a disagreement between a school patron and
21 the board of the school district, or between the boards of two
22 or more school districts, the patron if dissatisfied with the
23 ~~decision of the district board,~~ party may appeal to the area
24 education agency board, ~~notifying the secretary of the district~~
25 ~~in writing within ten days of the decision of the board and by~~
26 ~~filing an affidavit of appeal with the agency board within the~~
27 ~~ten-day period~~ director of the department of education within
28 ten days of the decision of the board of the school district
29 by filing an affidavit of appeal with the board of the school
30 district. The affidavit of appeal shall include the reasons
31 for the appeal and points at issue. The secretary of the local
32 board on receiving notice of appeal shall certify all papers
33 to the ~~agency board which~~ director, who shall hear the appeal
34 within ten days of the receipt of the papers and decide it
35 within three days of the conclusion of the hearing and shall

1 immediately notify all parties of ~~its~~ the director's decision
2 and return all papers. ~~Either party may appeal the decision of~~
3 ~~the agency board to the director of the department of education~~
4 ~~by notifying the opposite party and the agency administrator~~
5 ~~in writing within five days after receipt of notice of the~~
6 ~~decision of the agency board and by filing with the director~~
7 ~~of the department of education an affidavit of appeal, reasons~~
8 ~~for appeal, and the facts involved in the disagreement within~~
9 ~~five days after receipt of notice of the decision of the agency~~
10 ~~board. The agency administrator shall, within ten days of~~
11 ~~receipt of the notice, file with the director all records and~~
12 ~~papers pertaining to the case, including action of the agency~~
13 ~~board. The director shall hear the appeal within fifteen~~
14 ~~days of the filing of the records in the director's office,~~
15 ~~notifying all parties and the agency administrator of the date~~
16 ~~and time of hearing. The director shall notify all parties of~~
17 ~~the decision and return all papers with a copy of the decision~~
18 ~~to the agency administrator. The decision of the director~~
19 ~~shall be subject to judicial review in accordance with chapter~~
20 ~~17A. Pending final order made by the director, upon any appeal~~
21 ~~prosecuted to such director, the order of the agency board of~~
22 the school district from which the appeal is taken shall be
23 operative and be in full force and effect.

24 Sec. 144. Section 285.15, Code 2024, is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 **285.15 Forfeiture of reimbursement rights.**

27 The failure of any local district to comply with the
28 provisions of this chapter or any other laws relating to the
29 transportation of pupils, or any rules made by the department
30 of education under this chapter ~~or the final decisions of the~~
31 ~~area education agency board,~~ or the final decisions of the
32 department of education shall during the period such failure
33 to comply existed forfeit the rights to collect transportation
34 costs from school or parents while operating in such illegal
35 manner. Any superintendent, board, or board member who

1 knowingly operates or permits to be operated any school
2 bus transporting public school pupils in violation of any
3 school transportation law shall be deemed guilty of a simple
4 misdemeanor.

5 Sec. 145. Section 297.8, Code 2024, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **297.8 Emergency repairs.**

8 When emergency repairs costing more than the competitive
9 bid threshold in section 26.3, or as established in section
10 314.1B, are necessary in order to ensure the continued use
11 of any school or school facility, the provisions of the law
12 with reference to advertising for bids shall not apply, and in
13 that event the board may contract for such emergency repairs
14 without advertising for bids. However, before such emergency
15 repairs can be made to any schoolhouse or school facility,
16 it shall be necessary to procure a certificate from the ~~area~~
17 ~~education agency administrator~~ director of the department of
18 education that such emergency repairs are necessary to ensure
19 the continued use of the school or school facility.

20 Sec. 146. Section 297.22, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
21 2024, is amended to read as follows:

22 a. The board of directors of a school district may sell,
23 lease, exchange, give, or grant, and accept any interest
24 in real property to, with, or from a county, municipal
25 corporation, school district, township, or ~~area education~~
26 ~~agency~~ the department of administrative services if the real
27 property is within the jurisdiction of both the grantor and
28 grantee.

29 Sec. 147. Section 299.3, Code 2024, is amended to read as
30 follows:

31 **299.3 Reports from accredited nonpublic schools.**

32 Within ten days from receipt of notice from the secretary of
33 the school district within which an accredited nonpublic school
34 is conducted, the principal of the accredited nonpublic school
35 shall, once during each school year, and at any time when

1 requested in individual cases, furnish to the secretary of the
2 public school district, within which the accredited nonpublic
3 school is located, a certificate and report in duplicate on
4 forms provided by the public school district of the names and
5 ages of each pupil of the accredited nonpublic school who
6 is of compulsory attendance age and the grade level of each
7 pupil, during the preceding year and from the time of the last
8 preceding report to the time at which a report is required. In
9 addition, the report shall identify all students of compulsory
10 attendance age who were truant as defined by law or school
11 policy and the number of days of truancy for the period covered
12 by the report, and children who dropped out, withdrew from
13 enrollment, or transferred to another Iowa school and the date
14 their attendance ceased at the accredited nonpublic school.
15 The secretary shall retain ~~one of the reports and file the~~
16 ~~other with the secretary of the area education agency.~~

17 Sec. 148. Section 299.4, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 1. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child
20 who is of compulsory attendance age, who places the child
21 under competent private instruction under section 299A.2, not
22 in an accredited school or a home school assistance program
23 operated by a school district or accredited nonpublic school,
24 shall furnish a report ~~in duplicate~~ on forms provided by the
25 public school district, to the district by September 1 of the
26 school year in which the child will be under competent private
27 instruction. The secretary shall retain and file ~~one copy and~~
28 ~~forward the other copy to the district's area education agency~~
29 report. The report shall state the name and age of the child,
30 the period of time during which the child has been or will be
31 under competent private instruction for the year, an outline
32 of the course of study, texts used, and the name and address
33 of the instructor. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian
34 of a child, who is placing the child under competent private
35 instruction for the first time, shall also provide the district

1 with evidence that the child has had the immunizations required
2 under section 139A.8, and, if the child is elementary school
3 age, a blood lead test in accordance with section 135.105D.

4 The term "*outline of course of study*" shall include subjects
5 covered, lesson plans, and time spent on the areas of study.

6 Sec. 149. Section 299A.4, subsections 3 and 6, Code 2024,
7 are amended to read as follows:

8 3. The director of the department of education, or the
9 director's designee, which may include a school district ~~or an~~
10 ~~area education agency~~, shall conduct the evaluations required
11 under subsections 1 and 2 for children under competent private
12 instruction. Evaluation shall occur at a time and a place to
13 be determined by the person responsible for conducting the
14 evaluation. Persons conducting the evaluations shall make
15 every reasonable effort to conduct the evaluations at times and
16 places which are convenient for the parent, guardian, or legal
17 custodian.

18 6. A school district ~~or area education agency~~ shall, if
19 requested, administer the annual achievement evaluation at no
20 cost to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child
21 being evaluated, and, in addition, the parent, guardian, or
22 legal custodian is not required to reimburse the evaluating
23 entity for costs incurred as a result of evaluation under
24 section 299A.9. The administration of the annual achievement
25 evaluation shall not constitute a dual enrollment purpose under
26 section 299A.8.

27 Sec. 150. Section 301.28, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024,
28 are amended to read as follows:

29 2. An area education agency executive director, officer,
30 or teacher shall not act as an agent for school textbooks or
31 school supplies, including sports apparel or equipment, in any
32 transaction with a director, officer, or other staff member
33 of the area education agency or any school district located
34 within the area education agency during such time of office or
35 employment.

1 3. A school district or area education agency executive
2 director, officer, or teacher who acts as agent or dealer in
3 school textbooks or school supplies during the person's term
4 of office or employment in violation of this section shall be
5 deemed guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

6 Sec. 151. REPEAL. Sections 275.16, 275.27, 275.30, 285.9,
7 and 285.13, Code 2024, are repealed.

8 DIVISION VII

9 CONFORMING CHANGES — MISCELLANEOUS

10 Sec. 152. Section 8A.202, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code
11 2024, is amended to read as follows:

12 e. Develop and approve, in consultation with the area
13 ~~education agency media centers and the commission~~, a
14 biennial unified plan of service and service delivery for the
15 department.

16 Sec. 153. Section 8A.203, subsection 1, paragraph a,
17 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

18 (4) One member shall be employed as a librarian by a school
19 ~~district or area education agency~~.

20 Sec. 154. Section 8D.13, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 3. The financing for the procurement costs for the entirety
23 of Part I except for the communications connections between
24 central switching and institutions under the control of
25 the board of regents, and nonprofit institutions of higher
26 education eligible for tuition grants, and for the video,
27 data, and voice capacity for state agencies and for Part II
28 and Part III, shall be provided by the state. The financing
29 for the procurement and maintenance costs for Part III shall
30 be provided by the state. A local school board, governing
31 authority of a nonpublic school, or an area education agency
32 ~~board~~ may elect to provide one hundred percent of the financing
33 for the procurement and maintenance costs for Part III to
34 become part of the network. The basis for the amount of state
35 financing is one hundred percent of a single interactive

1 audio and interactive video connection for Part III, and
2 such data and voice capacity as is necessary. If a school
3 board, governing authority of a nonpublic school, or area
4 education agency ~~board~~ elects to provide one hundred percent
5 of the financing for the leasing costs for Part III, the
6 school district or area education agency may become part of
7 the network as soon as the network can reasonably connect the
8 district or agency. A local school board, governing authority
9 of a nonpublic school, or an area education agency ~~board~~ may
10 also elect not to become part of the network. Construction of
11 Part III, related to a school board, or governing authority
12 of a nonpublic school, ~~or area education agency board~~ which
13 provides one hundred percent of the financing for the leasing
14 costs for Part III, may proceed as determined by the commission
15 and consistent with the purpose of this chapter.

16 Sec. 155. Section 73.18, Code 2024, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **73.18 Notice of solicitation for bids — identification of**
19 **targeted small businesses.**

20 The director of each agency or department, the ~~administrator~~
21 executive director of each area education agency, the president
22 of each community college, and the superintendent of each
23 school district releasing a solicitation for bids or request
24 for proposal under the targeted small business procurement goal
25 program shall consult a directory of certified targeted small
26 businesses produced by the economic development authority that
27 lists all certified targeted small businesses by category of
28 goods or services provided prior to or upon release of the
29 solicitation and shall send a copy of the request for proposal
30 or solicitation to any appropriate targeted small business
31 listed in the directory. The economic development authority
32 may charge the department, agency, area education agency,
33 community college, or school district a reasonable fee to
34 cover the cost of producing, distributing, and updating the
35 directory.

1 Sec. 156. Section 74.1, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended
2 by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 157. Section 84A.16, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code
4 2024, is amended to read as follows:

5 a. The department of workforce development shall
6 establish and facilitate a steering committee comprised
7 of representatives from the department of education, the
8 economic development authority, the community colleges, the
9 institutions under the control of the state board of regents,
10 accredited private institutions, ~~area education agencies,~~
11 school districts, the workplace learning connection, and an
12 apprenticeship sponsor as defined in section 84E.2. The
13 steering committee shall be responsible for the development
14 and implementation of the statewide work-based learning
15 intermediary network.

16 Sec. 158. Section 143.1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **143.1 Authority to employ.**

19 Any local board of health, area education agency ~~board,~~
20 or the school board of any school district may employ public
21 health nurses at periods each year and in numbers as deemed
22 advisable. The council of any city, or the school board of
23 any school district, or any of them acting in cooperation, may
24 contract with any nonprofit nurses' association for public
25 health nursing service. The compensation and expenses shall
26 be paid out of the general fund of the political subdivision
27 employing nurses.

28 Sec. 159. Section 216B.3, Code 2024, is amended by adding
29 the following new subsection:

30 NEW SUBSECTION. 9A. Operate and manage a library loan
31 program, and provide materials and resources, for the benefit
32 of students enrolled in school districts and nonpublic schools
33 in the state.

34 Sec. 160. Section 225C.51, subsection 1, paragraph e,
35 subparagraph (5), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

1 (5) One member shall be an ~~administrator~~ executive director
2 of an area education agency.

3 Sec. 161. Section 256A.2, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
4 2024, is amended to read as follows:

5 c. An early childhood specialist of an area education agency
6 selected by the area education agency ~~administrators~~ executive
7 directors.

8 Sec. 162. Section 256B.2, subsection 5, Code 2024, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 5. Moneys received by the school district of the child's
11 residence for the child's education, derived from moneys
12 received through chapter 257, this chapter, and section 273.9
13 shall be paid by the school district of the child's residence
14 to the appropriate education agency, private agency, or other
15 school district providing special education for the child
16 pursuant to contractual arrangements as provided in section
17 273.3, ~~subsections 5 and 6~~.

18 Sec. 163. Section 256B.3, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
19 2024, is amended to read as follows:

20 The division of special education within the department of
21 education has the following duties and powers:

22 Sec. 164. Section 256B.3, subsections 1, 2, 7, and 8, Code
23 2024, are amended to read as follows:

24 1. ~~To aid in the organization of special schools, classes~~
25 ~~and instructional facilities for children requiring special~~
26 ~~education, and to supervise the system of special education for~~
27 children requiring special education.

28 2. To administer rules adopted by the state board that
29 are consistent with this chapter ~~for the approval of plans~~
30 ~~for special education programs and services submitted by the~~
31 ~~director of special education of the area education agency~~.

32 7. To initiate the establishment of classes for children
33 requiring special education or home study services in
34 hospitals, nursing, convalescent, juvenile and private homes,
35 in cooperation with the management thereof and local school

1 districts or area education ~~agency boards~~ agencies.

2 8. To cooperate with school districts or area education
3 ~~agency boards~~ agencies in arranging for any child requiring
4 special education to attend school in a district other than
5 the one in which the child resides when there is no available
6 special school, class, or instruction in the districts in which
7 the child resides.

8 Sec. 165. Section 256B.3, subsection 4, Code 2024, is
9 amended by striking the subsection.

10 Sec. 166. Section 256B.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 **256B.4 Powers of board of directors — area education**
13 **agencies.**

14 1. The board of directors of a school district or area
15 education agency, with the approval of the director of the
16 department of education, may provide special education
17 programs and services as defined in this chapter. If services
18 are provided by the area education agency, the ~~board of~~
19 ~~directors~~ executive director of the area education agency
20 with the cooperation of the local school districts within its
21 jurisdiction and the division of special education within the
22 department of education may:

23 a. Establish and operate special education programs and
24 classes for the education of children requiring special
25 education.

26 b. ~~Acquire, maintain, and construct~~ Use facilities and
27 property provided by the department of administrative services
28 for the area education agencies in which to provide education,
29 corrective services, and supportive services for children
30 requiring special education.

31 c. Make arrangements with participating school districts for
32 the provision of special education, corrective, and supportive
33 services to the children requiring special education residing
34 in the school districts.

35 d. Employ special education teachers and personnel required

1 to furnish corrective or supportive services to children
2 requiring special education services.

3 e. Provide transportation for children requiring special
4 education services that are in need of transportation in
5 connection with any programs, classes, or services.

6 f. Receive, administer, and expend funds appropriated for
7 its use.

8 g. Receive, administer, and expend the proceeds of any issue
9 of school bonds or other bonds intended wholly or partly for
10 its benefit.

11 h. Apply for, accept, and utilize grants, gifts, or other
12 assistance.

13 i. Participate in, and make its employees eligible to
14 participate in, any retirement system, group insurance system,
15 or other program of employee benefits, on the same terms as
16 govern school districts and their employees.

17 j. Do such other things as are necessary and incidental to
18 the execution of any of its powers.

19 2. The board of directors of the local district or ~~the~~ an
20 area education agency shall employ qualified teachers certified
21 by the authority provided by law as teachers for children
22 requiring such special education. The maximum number of pupils
23 per teacher shall be determined by the board of directors of
24 the local district or the area education agency ~~board~~, with the
25 approval of the director of the department of education, in
26 accordance with the rules and regulations of the state board
27 of education.

28 3. The board of directors of the local district or the area
29 education agency, with the approval of the director of the
30 department of education, may establish and operate one or more
31 special education centers to provide diagnostic, therapeutic,
32 corrective, and other services, on a more comprehensive,
33 expert, economical, and efficient basis than can be reasonably
34 provided by a single school district. The services, if offered
35 by the area education agency ~~board~~, may be provided in the

1 regular schools using personnel and equipment of the area
2 education agency or, if it is impractical or inefficient to
3 provide them on the premises of a regular school, the area
4 education agency may provide services in its own facilities.
5 To the maximum extent feasible, centers shall be established
6 at and in conjunction with, or in close proximity to, one or
7 more elementary and secondary schools. Local districts or the
8 area education agencies may accept diagnostic and evaluation
9 studies conducted by other individuals, hospitals, or centers,
10 if determined to be competent. Children requiring special
11 education services may be identified in any way that the
12 department of education determines to be reliable. Centers
13 established pursuant to this section may contain classrooms
14 and other educational facilities and equipment to supplement
15 instruction and other services to children with disabilities
16 in the regular schools, and to provide separate instruction to
17 children whose degree or type of educational disability makes
18 it impractical or inappropriate for them to participate in
19 classes with normal children.

20 Sec. 167. Section 256F.2, subsection 5, Code 2024, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 5. "*Innovation zone consortium*" means a consortium of two
23 or more school districts ~~and an area education agency in which~~
24 ~~one or more of the school districts are located~~, that receives
25 approval to establish an innovation zone school pursuant to
26 this chapter. In addition, the innovation zone consortium
27 may receive technical assistance from an accredited higher
28 education institution.

29 Sec. 168. Section 256I.8, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
30 2024, is amended to read as follows:

31 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in
32 section 28E.2, a community action agency as defined in section
33 216A.91, ~~an area education agency established under section~~
34 ~~273.2~~, or a nonprofit corporation, to be the fiscal agent for
35 grant moneys and for other moneys administered by the area

1 board.

2 Sec. 169. Section 260C.11, subsection 1, Code 2024, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 1. The governing board of a merged area is a board of
5 directors composed of one member elected from each director
6 district in the area by the electors of the respective
7 district. Members of the board shall be residents of the
8 district from which elected. Successors shall be chosen at
9 the regular school elections for members whose terms expire.
10 The term of a member of the board of directors is four years
11 and commences at the organizational meeting. Vacancies on
12 the board shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the
13 board by appointment by the remaining members of the board. A
14 member so chosen shall be a resident of the district in which
15 the vacancy occurred and shall serve until a member is elected
16 at the next school election or intervening special election
17 held for the merged area, in accordance with section 69.12.
18 A vacancy is defined in section 277.29. A member shall not
19 serve on the board of directors who is a member of a board of
20 directors of a local school district ~~or a member of an area~~
21 ~~education agency board.~~

22 Sec. 170. Section 262.32, Code 2024, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 **262.32 Contract — time limit.**

25 A contract for instruction under section 262.30 shall be in
26 writing and shall extend over a period of not to exceed two
27 years. ~~A copy of the contract shall be filed in the office of~~
28 ~~the administrator of the area education agency.~~

29 Sec. 171. Section 476.48, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
30 2024, is amended to read as follows:

31 c. *"Small wind innovation zone"* means a political
32 subdivision of this state, including but not limited to a city,
33 county, township, school district, community college, area
34 ~~education agency,~~ institution under the control of the state
35 board of regents, or any other local commission, association,

1 or tribal council which adopts, or is encompassed within a
2 local government which adopts, the model ordinance as provided
3 in subsection 3.

4 Sec. 172. Section 598.21B, subsection 2, paragraph e,
5 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (d), Code 2024, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (d) The parent has been identified by the executive director
8 of ~~special education~~ of the area education agency as a child
9 requiring special education as defined in section 256B.2.

10 Sec. 173. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following, being deemed of
11 immediate importance, take effect upon enactment:

12 The sections of this division of this Act amending section
13 256B.3.

14 DIVISION VIII

15 TEACHER SALARY SUPPLEMENT DISTRICT COST PER PUPIL

16 Sec. 174. Section 257.10, subsection 9, paragraph a, Code
17 2024, is amended to read as follows:

18 a. (1) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2009, the
19 department of management shall add together the teacher
20 compensation allocation made to each district for the fiscal
21 year beginning July 1, 2008, pursuant to section 284.13,
22 subsection 1, paragraph "h", Code 2009, and the phase II
23 allocation made to each district for the fiscal year beginning
24 July 1, 2008, pursuant to section 294A.9, Code 2009, and divide
25 that sum by the district's budget enrollment in the fiscal
26 year beginning July 1, 2009, to determine the teacher salary
27 supplement district cost per pupil. For the budget year
28 beginning July 1, 2010, and succeeding budget years beginning
29 before July 1, 2024, the teacher salary supplement district
30 cost per pupil for each school district for a budget year
31 is the teacher salary supplement program district cost per
32 pupil for the base year plus the teacher salary supplement
33 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

34 (2) (a) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2024, the
35 teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for each

1 school district shall be determined under this subparagraph.

2 (b) The department of management shall categorize all
3 school districts into not more than ten tiers according to each
4 school district's actual enrollment. Each tier established
5 by the department of management containing a school district
6 with an actual enrollment above three thousand five hundred
7 pupils shall contain, to the extent feasible, the same number
8 of school districts as other tiers containing school districts
9 with an actual enrollment of more than three thousand five
10 hundred pupils. Each tier established by the department
11 of management containing a school district with an actual
12 enrollment equal to or less than three thousand five hundred
13 pupils shall contain, to the extent feasible, the same number
14 of school districts as other tiers containing school districts
15 with an actual enrollment equal to or less than three thousand
16 five hundred pupils.

17 (c) (i) To support school districts with meeting the
18 minimum teacher starting salary requirement of fifty thousand
19 dollars and the minimum teacher salary requirement for
20 full-time teachers with at least twelve years of experience of
21 sixty-two thousand dollars under chapter 284 and other costs
22 associated with such salary requirements, as identified in
23 subparagraph subdivision (ii), the department of management
24 shall calculate and assign to all school districts in a tier
25 established under subparagraph division (b), a teacher salary
26 supplement district cost per pupil in an amount based in part
27 on the average cost to school districts within the tier to meet
28 the requirements.

29 (ii) If, however, a school district's total teacher
30 salary supplement district cost under paragraph "c", as
31 calculated using the teacher salary supplement district cost
32 per pupil assigned to the school district's applicable tier,
33 is insufficient to comply with the applicable minimum teacher
34 salary requirements of the school district, including costs
35 associated with the employer's share of contributions to the

1 Iowa public employees' retirement system and the employer's
2 share of the tax imposed by the federal Insurance Contributions
3 Act, the department of management shall set the school
4 district's teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil
5 at an amount necessary to meet the district's minimum salary
6 requirements and associated costs.

7 (3) For the budget year beginning July 1, 2025, and
8 succeeding budget years, the teacher salary supplement district
9 cost per pupil for each school district for a budget year
10 is the teacher salary supplement program district cost per
11 pupil for the base year plus the teacher salary supplement
12 supplemental state aid amount for the budget year.

13 DIVISION IX

14 STATE MANDATE

15 Sec. 175. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
16 3, shall not apply to this Act.>

PROPOSED COMMITTEE AMENDMENT