CHAPTER 247—S.F.No. 911

An act relating to education; requiring school districts to make available instruction in Braille reading and writing to blind pupils; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 126.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [126.071] BRAILLE INSTRUCTION.

Subdivision 1. AVAILABILITY. A school district shall make available, to a blind pupil, instruction in Braille reading and writing as specified under subdivisions 2 and 3. A blind pupil is a pupil who is blind as defined in section 290.06, subdivision 3f, paragraph (4), clause (e).

Subd. 2. ASSESSMENT. A reading and writing assessment of a child identified as a blind child must be done at least once every three years. The person who performs the assessment must be mutually agreed upon by the school district and the parent. The assessment must be in writing and must recommend whether or not instruction in Braille reading and writing should be commenced or continued for the assessed child. The commissioner of education shall adopt rules establishing criteria for determining whether or not instruction in braille reading and writing should be commenced or continued for the assessed child.

Subd. 3. SPECIFICS OF RECOMMENDATION. The child's individual education plan must specify:

(1) a reason for recommending or not recommending Braille instruction;

(2) the date on which Braille instruction will commence;

(3) how many Braille sessions per week must be provided by the school district;

(4) the duration of each session;

(5) how to integrate Braille instruction into the assessed child's regular classroom activities; and

(6) the special training if any, that the classroom instructional personnel must have to provide the integrated Braille instruction.

Subd. 4. BRAILLE IS A SERVICE. Instruction in Braille reading and writing is a service included in special instruction and services under section 120.17.

Approved May 26, 1987

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.