

## CHAPTER 126

## CURRICULUM, CONDUCT, TEXTBOOKS

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**126.12 SCHOOL CALENDAR.**

Subdivision 1. Except for learning programs during summer and for flexible school year programs authorized pursuant to sections 120.59 to 120.67, a school district shall not commence an elementary or secondary school year prior to Labor Day. Days which are devoted to teachers' workshops may be held before Labor Day. Districts that enter into cooperative agreements are encouraged to adopt similar school calendars.

Subd. 2. Every Saturday shall be a school holiday, except that school may be held on a Saturday if necessary to meet the requirement in section 124.19 of making a good faith attempt to make up time lost on account of circumstances which were beyond the control of the school board. The school board shall determine the number of school days of each school year on or before April 1 of the calendar year in which such school year commences.

**History:** 1985 c 51 s 1

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1985, chapter 51, section 1, is effective for the 1986-1987 school year. See Laws 1985, chapter 51, section 2.

**126.56 SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A scholarship program is established to enable secondary students to attend summer programs sponsored by post-secondary institutions.

Subd. 2. **Eligible student.** To be eligible for a scholarship, a student shall:

- (1) be a resident of Minnesota;
- (2) attend an eligible program;
- (3) have completed at least one year of secondary school but not have graduated from high school;
- (4) have earned at least a B average during the semester or quarter prior to application; and
- (5) demonstrate need for financial assistance.

Subd. 3. **Financial need.** Need for financial assistance shall be based on family income, family size, and special necessary expenditures of the family. The higher education coordinating board shall determine the financial need of each pupil based on the actual charges made by the institution sponsoring the summer program and shall award scholarships within the limits of the appropriation for this section. If the amount appropriated is insufficient to make a full award to each applicant, the board shall allocate the amount appropriated in the manner it determines. Scholarships shall not be less than \$100 or more than \$1,000.

Subd. 4. **Eligible programs.** A scholarship may be used only for an eligible program. An eligible program shall be approved by the state board of education. An eligible program shall be sponsored by a post-secondary institution that:

- (1) is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges;

(2) offers at least an associate or baccalaureate degree program approved under section 136A.65, subdivision 1; and

(3) is located in Minnesota.

An eligible program shall, as its primary purpose, provide academic instruction for student enrichment in curricular areas including, but not limited to, communications, humanities, social studies, social science, science, mathematics, art, or foreign language. The program shall not be offered for credit to post-secondary students. It shall not provide remedial instruction. Additional requirements for eligibility may be established by the state board of education and the higher education coordinating board.

**Subd. 5. Advisory committee.** An advisory committee shall assist the state board of education in approving eligible programs and shall assist the higher education coordinating board in planning, implementing, and evaluating the scholarship program. The committee shall consist of eleven members, to include the executive director of the higher education coordinating board or a representative, the commissioner of education or a representative, two secondary school administrators and two secondary teachers appointed by the commissioner of education, the executive director of the academic excellence foundation, a private college representative appointed by the president of the Minnesota private college council, a community college representative appointed by the community college chancellor, a state university representative appointed by the state university chancellor, and a University of Minnesota representative appointed by the president of the University of Minnesota.

**Subd. 6. Information.** The academic excellence foundation shall assemble and distribute information about scholarships and eligible programs. It may seek nonstate funds to perform its duties.

**Subd. 7. Administration.** The state board of education and the higher education coordinating board shall determine the time and manner for scholarship applications, awards, and program approval.

**Subd. 8. Exemption from rulemaking.** Sections 14.01 to 14.47 do not apply to this section.

**History:** *1Sp1985 c 12 art 8 s 22*

## **126.64 FOUNDATION REVENUE FOR PUPILS.**

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 12 art 1 s 37 subd 1]

**Subd. 2. District of attendance.** The district receiving a pupil selected to participate in the program of excellence program shall count the pupil as a resident pupil unit as defined in section 124.17 for purpose of determining aids and levies. The district of residence shall not count such a pupil as a resident pupil unit while the pupil attends school in another district.

**History:** *1Sp1985 c 12 art 1 s 32*

## **126.70 PLANNING FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND CURRICULUM.**

Subdivision 1. **Development of plan.** Each school district is encouraged to develop and adopt a written comprehensive plan for excellence in teaching and curriculum. The plan shall be prepared in consultation with the curriculum advisory committee appointed according to section 123.741, subdivision 3.

**Subd. 2. Contents of the plan.** The plan may include:

- (1) procedures the district will use to analyze and identify teaching and curricular needs, including the need for mentor teachers;
- (2) short- and long-term curriculum and staff development needs;
- (3) integration with in-service and curricular efforts already in progress;
- (4) goals to be achieved and the means to be used;
- (5) procedures for evaluating progress;
- (6) whether the school board intends to offer contracts under the excellence in teaching program; and
- (7) integration of areas listed under section 126.71.

Subd. 3. **Exemplary plans.** In consultation with the educational effectiveness advisory task force, advisory committee on technology in education, educational cooperative service units, and other appropriate agencies, the department of education shall develop exemplary plans by November 30, 1985, for districts to use in developing their plans. The exemplary plans shall include a description of methods to provide a link between preservice teacher education and employment as a teacher, to reduce the attrition of new teachers, to create a career development option for experienced teachers, and to improve educational effectiveness in the schools.

**History:** *1Sp1985 c 12 art 8 s 23*

## **126.71 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND CURRICULUM.**

A school board may implement a plan for excellence in teaching and curriculum for any of the following purposes:

- (1) to provide educational effectiveness instruction according to section 121.609;
- (2) to provide in-service education for elementary and secondary teachers to improve the use of technology in education;
- (3) to provide subject area in-service education emphasizing the academic content of curricular areas determined by the district to be a priority area;
- (4) to use experienced teachers, as mentors, to assist in the continued development of new teachers;
- (5) to increase the involvement of parents, business, and the community in education;
- (6) for experimental delivery systems;
- (7) for in-service education to increase the effectiveness of principals and administrators;
- (8) for in-service education or curriculum development for programs for gifted and talented pupils;
- (9) for in-service education or curriculum development for cooperative efforts to increase curriculum offerings, as set forth in section 124.272;
- (10) for improving curriculum, according to the needs identified under the planning, evaluation, and reporting process set forth in section 123.741;
- (11) for in-service education and curriculum development designed to promote sex equity in all aspects of education, with emphasis on curricular areas such as mathematics, science, and technology programs;
- (12) for in-service education or curriculum modification for handicapped pupils and low-achieving pupils; or
- (13) for contracts for the excellence in teaching program as described in section 126.72.

**History:** *1Sp1985 c 12 art 8 s 24*

**126.72 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING CONTRACTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** As part of a program for excellence in teaching and curriculum, a school board may enter into short-term, limited contracts with classroom teachers employed by the district.

Subd. 2. **Purpose.** The school board shall determine the needs of its classroom teachers and the need for changes in its curriculum. In determining these needs, the school board shall obtain recommendations from classroom teachers, staff responsible for curriculum, and the curriculum advisory committee. It shall consider assessment results, other test results, the need for mentor teachers, and the district improvement plan portion of the report adopted according to section 123.741, subdivision 6. Contracts executed under this section shall relate directly to the identified needs.

Subd. 3. **Selection committee.** A committee of six members appointed by the school board shall recommend teachers to receive contracts. Three members of the committee shall be classroom teachers. Three members shall be administrators, parents, members of the school board, or members of the community. The committee shall consider only classroom teachers who have background, knowledge, or expertise needed to perform duties in the areas of need identified by the school board. Years of service in the district shall not be a factor for consideration by the committee. No teacher shall have a right to a contract under this section based on seniority or order of employment in the district. The committee shall recommend to the school board names of individual teachers. The number of individual teachers recommended shall be approximately the number designated by the school board to meet the identified needs. The school board may award contracts to any of the recommended teachers but not to any others. The board may request the committee to recommend additional names of teachers.

Subd. 4. **Short-term, limited contracts.** Contracts executed under this section shall provide classroom teachers any one or a combination of the following:

- (1) released time during the school day;
- (2) additional hours in a school day; or
- (3) additional days or weeks of employment during the summer.

Contracts executed under this section shall terminate within one year of the date of execution. During the term of a contract under this section a teacher may be discharged for cause from duties under this contract; a hearing shall be held on the discharge upon request of the teacher. A teacher has no rights in a subsequent year to a contract under this subdivision.

Subd. 5. **Application of other laws.** The provisions of section 125.12 or 125.17 shall not apply to initial awards, renewal, or termination of contracts under this section. The provisions of this section concerning short-term, limited contracts shall not be construed to alter any aspect of other contracts executed by a school board.

Subd. 6. **Report.** Each district awarding contracts under this section is encouraged to submit a report to the commissioner of education. The report shall indicate the number of contracts awarded, whether duties are to be performed before, during, or after the school day or during the summer, the total cost of all contracts, and a general description of the duties. The statement shall also describe how the recommendations required by subdivision 2 were obtained. Any problems associated with implementing this section may be included.

**History:** *1Sp1985 c 12 art 8 s 25*

**126.80 CITATION.**

Section 126.81 may be cited as "the research, planning, and development act."

**History:** *1Sp1985 c 12 art 8 s 26*

**126.81 EXEMPLARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The legislature recognizes that research, planning, and development is important in maintaining and improving the quality of education in Minnesota. The purpose of this section is to support research, planning, and developing alternative educational practices within teacher education institutions.

Subd. 2. **Grants.** The board of teaching shall award at least three grants to public post-secondary institutions to develop exemplary teacher education programs. The majority of grants shall be awarded for programs that are conducted jointly by an approved teacher education institution and one or more school districts.

Subd. 3. **Consultation with HECB.** The board of teaching shall consult with the higher education coordinating board on the procedures for awarding grants and on the proposals submitted pursuant to this section.

Subd. 4. **Procedure.** The board of teaching shall establish a procedure to apply for grants. Grants shall be awarded by January 1, 1986, and may be for fiscal years 1986 and 1987 or fiscal year 1987. To the extent possible, the grants awarded shall represent a broad range of proposals.

Subd. 5. **Eligibility.** Proposals must be designed to prepare college graduates to teach through structural internships in participating districts or other methods. To be eligible for a grant, a proposal must include:

(1) a learning-teaching program compatible with research in child development and teacher effectiveness;

(2) a description of how the program relates to sections 129B.45, 129B.46, and 129B.47; and

(3) a plan for integrating the educational needs of special education pupils into the program.

Subd. 6. **Evaluation and dissemination.** The board of teaching, in consultation with the higher education coordinating board, shall provide evaluation of programs that receive grants. The board of teaching and the higher education coordinating board shall provide for dissemination of the evaluation results and program models. This information shall be made available to all licensed teachers and all post-secondary students in teacher education programs.

**History:** *1Sp1985 c 12 art 8 s 27*