

CHAPTER 119

MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL COMPUTING
CORPORATION

119.04 Board of directors.
119.06 Application of other law.

119.09 Dissolution.

119.04 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 2. Powers. The board of directors has the authority to engage in all activities which carry out the public purpose expressed in section 119.01 and which are consistent with sections 119.01 to 119.09. This authority includes but is not limited to acquiring, leasing, and disposing of real and personal property, establishing banking relationships, borrowing funds, establishing policies relating to personnel and compensation of personnel, and purchasing insurance. The board of directors may form wholly-owned subsidiaries. A subsidiary shall be under the management control of the MECC board of directors. The board of directors shall employ and set the compensation for the chief officer of MECC at not to exceed 95 percent of the salary of the governor as provided by section 15A.081, subdivision 6. The chief officer shall direct and carry on the work of MECC and assignments of the board. The board may establish bylaws and elect an executive committee.

Subd. 3. Sale of corporation. The board of directors may sell all, substantially all, or part of the assets or any of the ownership of the corporation. When any part is sold, the board shall transfer the assets or ownership that is sold to the purchaser. Upon the sale of all or substantially all of the assets or ownership of the corporation, the board of directors shall dispose of any remaining assets and dissolve the corporation.

Subd. 4. Distribution of proceeds. If all or substantially all of the assets of the corporation are sold, the proceeds of the sale must be applied in the following order:

- (1) any liabilities and obligations of the corporation must be paid, satisfied, or discharged or adequate provision must be made to do so;
- (2) the corporation must be reimbursed for all expenses incurred in connection with the offer for sale and the sale of the corporation; and
- (3) any remaining proceeds must be deposited in the permanent school fund.

History: 1989 c 202 s 1-3

119.06 APPLICATION OF OTHER LAW.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 3. Employee retirement and insurance. As long as the state owns at least a majority of the assets or ownership of MECC, the department of employee relations shall accept MECC employees in retirement plans and group life, health, and dental insurance plans provided MECC and its employees apply and fully pay the premiums and contributions of these plans.

[For text of subds 4 to 6, see M.S.1988]

History: 1989 c 202 s 4

119.09 DISSOLUTION.

In the event of the dissolution of MECC for any reason except a sale of all or substantially all of the assets or ownership of the corporation under section 119.04, the state of Minnesota, upon action by the governor, after consultation with the legislative

advisory commission, shall have the option to require return of all the assets of MECC to the state in exchange for the assumption of all outstanding obligations of MECC.

History: *1989 c 202 s 5*

CHAPTER 120

DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

120.05	Public schools.	120.101	Compulsory instruction.
120.06	Admission to public school.	120.106	Absence from school for religious observance.
120.062	Enrollment options program.	120.13	Repealed.
120.075	Attendance; previous enrollment; families.	120.15	Repealed.
120.0751	State board of education; enrollment exceptions.	120.16	Repealed.
120.0752	Agreements between school boards; enrollment exceptions.	120.17	Handicapped children.
		120.77	Repealed.

120.05 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1989 c 329 art 9 s 34]

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1988]

120.06 ADMISSION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 2a. **Education of homeless.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1, a school district must not deny free admission to a homeless person of school age solely because the school district cannot determine that the person is a resident of the school district.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1988]

History: 1989 c 329 art 7 s 1

120.062 ENROLLMENT OPTIONS PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Certain districts excluded.** For the 1989-1990 school year only, this section applies to a district that has more than 1,000 actual pupil units in kindergarten through grade 12 during the 1987-1988 school year.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 4. **Pupil application procedures.** In order that a pupil may attend a school or program in a nonresident district, the pupil's parent or guardian must submit an application to the nonresident district. Before submitting an application, the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian must explore with a school guidance counselor, or other appropriate staff member employed by the district the pupil is currently attending, the pupil's academic or other reason for applying to enroll in a nonresident district. The pupil's application must identify the reason for enrolling in the nonresident district. The parent or guardian of a pupil must submit an application by January 1 for initial enrollment beginning the following school year. The application shall be on a form provided by the department of education. A particular school or program may be requested by the parent. Once enrolled in a nonresident district, the pupil may remain enrolled and is not required to submit annual or periodic applications. To return to the resident district or to transfer to a different nonresident district, the parent or guardian of the pupil must provide notice to the resident district or apply to a different nonresident district by January 1 for enrollment beginning the following school year.

Subd. 5. **Desegregation district transfers.** (a) This subdivision applies to a transfer into or out of a district that has a desegregation plan approved by the state board of education.

(b) An application to transfer may be submitted at any time for enrollment beginning at any time.

(c) The parent or guardian of a pupil who is a resident of a district that has a

desegregation plan must submit an application to the resident district. If the district accepts the application, it must forward the application to the nonresident district.

(d) The parent or guardian of a pupil who applies for enrollment in a nonresident district that has a desegregation plan must submit an application to the nonresident district.

(e) Each district must accept or reject an application it receives and notify the parent or guardian in writing within 30 calendar days of receiving the application. A notification of acceptance must include the date enrollment can begin.

(f) If an application is rejected, the district must state the reason for rejection in the notification. If a district that has a desegregation plan rejects an application for a reason related to the desegregation plan, the district must state with specificity how acceptance of the application would result in noncompliance with state board rules with respect to the school or program for which application was made.

(g) If an application is accepted, the parent or guardian must notify the nonresident district in writing within 15 calendar days of receiving the acceptance whether the pupil intends to enroll in the nonresident district. Notice of intention to enroll obligates the pupil to enroll in the nonresident district, unless the school boards of the resident and nonresident districts agree otherwise. If a parent or guardian does not notify the nonresident district, the pupil may not enroll in that nonresident district at that time, unless the school boards of the resident and nonresident district agree otherwise.

(h) Within 15 calendar days of receiving the notice from the parent or guardian, the nonresident district shall notify the resident district in writing of the pupil's intention to enroll in the nonresident district.

(i) A pupil enrolled in a nonresident district under this subdivision is not required to make annual or periodic application for enrollment but may remain enrolled in the same district. A pupil may transfer to the resident district at any time.

(j) A pupil enrolled in a nonresident district and applying to transfer into or out of a district that has a desegregation plan must follow the procedures of this subdivision. For the purposes of this type of transfer, "resident district" means the nonresident district in which the pupil is enrolled at the time of application.

(k) A district that has a desegregation plan approved by the state board of education must accept or reject each individual application in a manner that will enable compliance with its desegregation plan.

Subd. 6. Nonresident district procedures. A district that does not exclude nonresident pupils, according to subdivision 3, shall notify the parent or guardian in writing by February 1 whether the application has been accepted or rejected. If an application is rejected, the district must state in the notification the reason for rejection. The parent or guardian shall notify the nonresident district by February 15 whether the pupil intends to enroll in the nonresident district. Notice of intent to enroll in the nonresident district obligates the pupil to attend the nonresident district during the following school year, unless the school boards of the resident and the nonresident districts agree in writing to allow the pupil to transfer back to the resident district, or the pupil's parents or guardians change residence to another district. If a parent or guardian does not notify the nonresident district, the pupil may not enroll in that nonresident district during the following school year, unless the school boards of the resident and nonresident district agree otherwise. The nonresident district shall notify the resident district by March 1 of the pupil's intent to enroll in the nonresident district. The same procedures apply to a pupil who applies to transfer from one participating nonresident district to another participating nonresident district.

[For text of subd 7, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1989 c 329 art 9 s 33]

[For text of subds 9 to 11, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 12. General education aid. Adjustments to general education aid, capital expenditure facilities aid, and equipment aid for the resident and nonresident districts shall be made according to sections 124A.036, subdivision 5, and 124.245, subdivision 6, respectively.

History: 1989 c 222 s 1,2; 1989 c 329 art 9 s 1-3

NOTE: Subdivisions 4 and 6, as amended by Laws 1989, chapter 329, article 9, sections 1 and 3, are effective for the 1990-1991 school year and thereafter. See Laws 1989, chapter 329, article 9, section 35.

120.075 ATTENDANCE; PREVIOUS ENROLLMENT; FAMILIES.

[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 5. General education aid, capital expenditure facilities aid, capital expenditure equipment aid, and transportation aid attributable to pupils covered by programs under this section must be paid according to sections 124A.036, subdivision 5, 124.245, subdivision 6, and 124.225, subdivision 8l.

History: 1989 c 222 s 3

120.0751 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; ENROLLMENT EXCEPTIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 6. Aid. General education aid, capital expenditure facilities aid, capital expenditure equipment aid, and transportation aid for pupils covered by programs under this section must be paid according to sections 124A.036, subdivision 5, 124.245, subdivision 6, and 124.225, subdivision 8l.

History: 1989 c 222 s 4

120.0752 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SCHOOL BOARDS; ENROLLMENT EXCEPTIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 4. General education aid, capital expenditure facilities aid, capital expenditure equipment aid, and transportation aid for pupils covered by programs under this section must be paid according to sections 124A.036, subdivision 5, 124.245, subdivision 6, and 124.225, subdivision 8l.

History: 1989 c 222 s 5

120.101 COMPULSORY INSTRUCTION.

[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 5. Ages and terms. For the 1988-1989 school year and the school years thereafter, every child between seven and 16 years of age shall receive instruction for at least 170 days each year. For the 2000-2001 school year and later school years, every child between seven and 18 years of age shall receive instruction for at least 170 days each year. Every child under the age of seven who is enrolled in a half-day kindergarten, or a full-day kindergarten program on alternate days, or other kindergarten programs shall receive instruction at least equivalent to 170 half days. Except as provided in subdivision 5a, a parent may withdraw a child under the age of seven from enrollment at any time.

Subd. 5a. Optional board policy. A school board may require in a policy that once a pupil under the age of seven is enrolled in a public school, the pupil is subject to the compulsory attendance provisions of this chapter and to section 127.20. A dispute resolution process that involves a neutral third party facilitator for resolving disputes between parents and a school district must be included in a school board policy.

In a school district with the policy, paragraphs (a) to (d) apply.

(a) A parent or guardian may withdraw the pupil from enrollment in the school only for good cause determined by the school board or its designee; good cause includes, but is not limited to, enrollment of the pupil in another school, the developmental immaturity of the child, or significant family stress.

(b) When the pupil enrolls, the enrolling official must provide the parent or guardian who enrolls the pupil with a copy of the school board's current policy. At the time of enrollment, the enrolling parent or guardian must sign a receipt for the copy and a statement saying that they have read and understood the enrollment policy. The receipt and the signed statement must be filed with the pupil's school records.

(c) At all times, the school district's chief attendance officer must keep the truant enforcement authorities supplied with a copy of the school board's current policy certified by the clerk of the school board. A photocopy of the certified copy is prima facie evidence of the current policy in all courts and proceedings.

(d) A pupil under the age of seven who is withdrawn from enrollment in the public school is no longer subject to the compulsory attendance provisions of this chapter.

[For text of subds 6 to 10, see M.S.1988]

History: 1989 c 296 s 1,2

120.106 ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE.

Reasonable efforts must be made by a school district to accommodate any pupil who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance.

History: 1989 c 60 s 1

120.13 [Repealed, 1989 c 329 art 9 s 34]

120.15 [Repealed, 1989 c 329 art 9 s 34]

120.16 [Repealed, 1989 c 329 art 9 s 34]

120.17 HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

[For text of subds 1 to 2, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 3. Rules of the state board. The state board shall promulgate rules relative to qualifications of essential personnel, courses of study, methods of instruction, pupil eligibility, size of classes, rooms, equipment, supervision, parent consultation, and any other rules it deems necessary for instruction of handicapped children. These rules shall provide standards and procedures appropriate for the implementation of and within the limitations of subdivisions 3a and 3b. These rules shall also provide standards for the discipline, control, management and protection of handicapped children. The state board shall not adopt rules for pupils served in level 1, 2, or 3, as defined in Minnesota Rules, part 3525.2340, establishing either case loads or the maximum number of pupils that may be assigned to special education teachers. The state board, in consultation with the departments of health and human services, shall adopt permanent rules for instruction and services for children under age five and their families. The state board shall adopt rules to determine eligibility for special education services. The rules shall include procedures and standards by which to grant variances for experimental eligibility criteria. The state board shall, according to section 14.05, subdivision 4, notify a district applying for a variance from the rules within 45 calendar days of receiving the request whether the request for the variance has been granted or denied. If a request is denied, the board shall specify the program standards used to evaluate the request and the reasons for denying the request.

[For text of subd 3a, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 3b. Procedures for decisions. Every district shall utilize at least the following procedures for decisions involving identification, assessment, and educational placement of handicapped children:

(a) Parents and guardians shall receive prior written notice of:

(1) any proposed formal educational assessment or proposed denial of a formal educational assessment of their child;

(2) a proposed placement of their child in, transfer from or to, or denial of placement in a special education program; or

(3) the proposed provision, addition, denial or removal of special education services for their child;

(b) The district shall not proceed with the initial formal assessment of a child, the initial placement of a child in a special education program, or the initial provision of special education services for a child without the prior written consent of the child's parent or guardian. The refusal of a parent or guardian to consent may be overridden by the decision in a hearing held pursuant to clause (d) at the district's initiative;

(c) Parents and guardians shall have an opportunity to meet with appropriate district staff in at least one conciliation conference if they object to any proposal of which they are notified pursuant to clause (a). The conciliation process shall not be used to deny or delay a parent or guardian's right to a due process hearing. If the parent or guardian refuses efforts by the district to conciliate the dispute with the school district, the requirement of an opportunity for conciliation shall be deemed to be satisfied;

(d) Parents, guardians, and the district shall have an opportunity to obtain an impartial due process hearing initiated and conducted by and in the school district responsible for assuring that an appropriate program is provided in accordance with state board rules, if the parent or guardian continues to object to:

(1) a proposed formal educational assessment or proposed denial of a formal educational assessment of their child;

(2) the proposed placement of their child in, or transfer of their child to a special education program;

(3) the proposed denial of placement of their child in a special education program or the transfer of their child from a special education program;

(4) the proposed provision or addition of special education services for their child;

or

(5) the proposed denial or removal of special education services for their child.

At least five calendar days before the hearing, the objecting party shall provide the other party with a brief written statement of the objection and the reasons for the objection.

The hearing shall take place before an impartial hearing officer mutually agreed to by the school board and the parent or guardian. If the school board and the parent or guardian are unable to agree on a hearing officer, the school board shall request the commissioner to appoint a hearing officer. The hearing officer shall not be a school board member or employee of the school district where the child resides or of the child's school district of residence, an employee of any other public agency involved in the education or care of the child, or any person with a personal or professional interest which would conflict with the person's objectivity at the hearing. A person who otherwise qualifies as a hearing officer is not an employee of the district solely because the person is paid by the district to serve as a hearing officer. If the hearing officer requests an independent educational assessment of a child, the cost of the assessment shall be at district expense. The proceedings shall be recorded and preserved, at the expense of the school district, pending ultimate disposition of the action.

(e) The decision of the hearing officer pursuant to clause (d) shall be rendered not more than 45 calendar days from the date of the receipt of the request for the hearing. A hearing officer may grant specific extensions of time beyond the 45-day period at the request of either party. The decision of the hearing officer shall be binding on all parties unless appealed to the hearing review officer by the parent, guardian, or the school board of the district where the child resides pursuant to clause (f).

The local decision shall:

- (1) be in writing;
 - (2) state the controlling facts upon which the decision is made in sufficient detail to apprise the parties and the hearing review officer of the basis and reason for the decision;
 - (3) state whether the special education program or special education services appropriate to the child's needs can be reasonably provided within the resources available to the responsible district or districts;
 - (4) state the amount and source of any additional district expenditure necessary to implement the decision; and
 - (5) be based on the standards set forth in subdivision 3a and the rules of the state board.
- (f) Any local decision issued pursuant to clauses (d) and (e) may be appealed to the hearing review officer within 30 calendar days of receipt of that written decision, by the parent, guardian, or the school board of the district responsible for assuring that an appropriate program is provided in accordance with state board rules.

If the decision is appealed, a written transcript of the hearing shall be made by the school district and shall be accessible to the parties involved within five calendar days of the filing of the appeal. The hearing review officer shall issue a final decision based on an impartial review of the local decision and the entire record within 30 calendar days after the filing of the appeal. The hearing review officer shall seek additional evidence if necessary and may afford the parties an opportunity for written or oral argument; provided any hearing held to seek additional evidence shall be an impartial due process hearing but shall be deemed not to be a contested case hearing for purposes of chapter 14. The hearing review officer may grant specific extensions of time beyond the 30-day period at the request of any party.

The final decision shall:

- (1) be in writing;
- (2) include findings and conclusions; and
- (3) be based upon the standards set forth in subdivision 3a and in the rules of the state board.

(g) The decision of the hearing review officer shall be final unless appealed by the parent or guardian or school board to the court of appeals. The judicial review shall be in accordance with chapter 14.

(h) The commissioner of education, having delegated general supervision of special education to the appropriate staff, shall be the hearing review officer except for appeals in which:

- (1) the commissioner has a personal interest in or specific involvement with the student who is a party to the hearing;
- (2) the commissioner has been employed as an administrator by the district that is a party to the hearing;
- (3) the commissioner has been involved in the selection of the administrators of the district that is a party to the hearing;
- (4) the commissioner has a personal, economic, or professional interest in the outcome of the hearing other than the proper administration of the federal and state laws, rules, and policies;
- (5) the appeal challenges a state or local policy which was developed with substantial involvement of the commissioner; or
- (6) the appeal challenges the actions of a department employee or official.

For any appeal to which the above exceptions apply, the state board of education shall name an impartial and competent hearing review officer.

In all appeals, the parent or guardian of the handicapped student or the district that is a party to the hearing may challenge the impartiality or competence of the proposed hearing review officer by applying to the state board of education.

(i) Pending the completion of proceedings pursuant to this subdivision, unless the district and the parent or guardian of the child agree otherwise, the child shall remain in the child's current educational placement and shall not be denied initial admission to school.

(j) The child's school district of residence, a resident district, and providing district shall receive notice of and may be a party to any hearings or appeals under this subdivision.

[For text of subds 4 to 11, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 11a. State interagency coordinating council. An interagency coordinating council of 15 members is established. The members and the chair shall be appointed by the governor. The council shall be composed of at least three parents of children under age seven with handicaps, three representatives of public or private providers of services for children under age five with handicaps, one member of the senate, one member of the house of representatives, one representative of teacher preparation programs in early childhood-special education, at least one representative of advocacy organizations for children with handicaps, at least one representative of a school district or a school district cooperative, and other members knowledgeable about children under age five with handicaps. Section 15.059, subdivisions 2 to 5, apply to the council. The council shall meet at least quarterly. A representative of each of the commissioners of education, health, and human services shall attend council meetings as a nonvoting member of the council.

The council shall address methods of implementing the state policy of developing and implementing comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary interagency programs of early intervention services for children with handicaps and their families.

The duties of the council include recommending policies to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated system of all state and local agency services for children under age five with handicaps and their families. The policies must address how to incorporate each agency's services into a unified state and local system of multidisciplinary assessment practices, individual intervention plans, comprehensive systems to find children in need of services, methods to improve public awareness, and assistance in determining the role of interagency early intervention committees.

It is the joint responsibility of county boards and school districts to coordinate, provide, and pay for appropriate services, and to facilitate payment for services from public and private sources. Appropriate services must be determined in consultation with parents, physicians, and other educational, medical, health, and human services providers. Appropriate services include family education and counseling, home visits, occupational and physical therapy, speech pathology, audiology, psychological services, case management, medical services for diagnostic and evaluation purposes, early identification, and screening, assessment, and health services necessary to enable children with handicaps to benefit from early intervention services. School districts must be the primary agency in this cooperative effort.

Each year by January 15 the council shall submit its recommendations to the education committees of the legislature, the governor, and the commissioners of education, health, and human services.

[For text of subds 12 to 16, see M.S.1988]

History: 1989 c 329 art 3 s 1-3

120.77 [Repealed, 1989 c 329 art 9 s 34]