

**Legal References
in
Alternative Education
in Iowa
2001**

Chapter 11.5(3)—Iowa School Rules—Educational Program-form and content—The educational program shall set forth the administrative measures and the sequence of learning situations through which attempts are made to provide pupils with well-articulated developmental learning experiences from the date of school entrance until high school graduation.

282.18 Open enrollment—Iowa Code—It is the goal of the general assembly to permit a wide range of educational choices for children enrolled in schools in this state and to maximize ability to use those choices. It is therefore the intent that this section be construed broadly to maximize parental choice and access to educational opportunities which are not available to children because of where they live. For the school year commencing July 1, 1989, and each succeeding school year, a parent or guardian residing in a school district may enroll the parent's or guardian's child in a public school in another school district in the manner provided in this section.

Chapter 12.5(13)—Iowa School Rules—Provisions for at-risk students- Each school district shall include in its comprehensive school improvement plan the following provisions for meeting the needs of at-risk students:

- Valid and systematic procedures and criteria to identify at-risk students throughout the school district's school-age population
- Determination of appropriate on-going educational strategies for alternative options education programs as required in Iowa Code Section 280.19A and
- Review and Evaluation of the effectiveness of provisions for at-risk students.

280.12 (2) To meet the requirements of Iowa Code Section 280.12 (2), the board shall appoint and charge a school improvement advisory committee to make recommendations to the board. Based on the committee members' analysis of the needs assessment data, they shall make recommendations to the board about the following components:

- a. Major educational needs
- b. Student learning goals
- c. Long-range goals that include, but are not limited to, state indicators that address reading, mathematics and science achievement.

280.19A—Iowa Code—By January 15, 1995, each school district shall adopt a plan to provide alternative options education programs to students who are either at-risk of dropping out or have dropped out. An alternative options education program may be provided in a district, through a sharing agreement with a school in a contiguous district, or through an area-wide program available at the community college serving the merged area where the school district is located. when a plan is developed, the district shall be responsible for the operation of the program...

282.1—Iowa Code—School age—A board may establish and maintain evening schools or an educational program under section 282.1A (Extended school programs) for residents of the corporation regardless of age and for which no tuition need be charged.

282.1A—Iowa Code—A board of directors may, subject to approval of the department of education, provide an extended school program for residents of the district who are over the maximum school age established in section 282.1, who do not possess a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma under chapter 259A, and who are currently enrolled in the educational program in the district. The

educational program may be separate from or integrated into the regular school program. Residents attending the program ...shall attend on a tuition-free basis.

299A.1—Iowa Code—Private Instruction-home schooling—The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child of compulsory attendance age who places a child under private instruction... (Instruction using a plan and course of study in a setting other than a public or organized accredited nonpublic school)...must comply with Chapter 299A. Competent private instruction may include, but is not limited to, a home school assistance program which provides instruction or instructional supervision offered through an accredited nonpublic or public school district by a teacher...who assists and supervises a parent, guardian, or legal custodian in providing instruction to a child.

256.20—Iowa Code—Year Around schools...the board of directors of a school district may request approval from the state board of education for a pilot project for a year around three semester school year.

282.8—Iowa Code—Attending school outside state—The board of directors of school districts located near the state boundaries may designate schools of equivalent standing across the state line for attendance of both elementary and high school pupils when the public school in the adjoining state is nearer than any appropriate public school in a pupils district of residence or in Iowa. A person attending school in another state shall continue to be treated as a pupil of the district of residence in the apportionment of the current school fund and the payment of state aid.

282.10 —Iowa Code—Whole grade sharing—Whole grade sharing is a procedure used by school districts whereby all or a substantial portion of the pupils in any grade in two or more school districts share an education program for all or a substantial portion of a school day under written agreement pursuant to section 256.13, 280.15, or 282.7, subsection 1 or subsections 1 and 3. Whole grade sharing may either be one-way or two-way sharing.

282.19 —Iowa Code—Child living in foster care facility—A child who is living in a licensed child foster care facility as defined in 237.1, or in a facility that provides residential treatment as “facility” is defined in section 125.2, which is located in a school district in which the child resided before receiving foster care may enroll in and attend an accredited school in the school district in which the child is living. The instructional costs for students who do not require special education shall be paid as provided in section 282.31.....

28E—Iowa Code—Joint Exercise of Governmental Powers—The purpose of this chapter is to permit state and local governments in Iowa to make use of their powers by enabling them to provide joint services and facilities with other agencies and to cooperate in other ways of mutual advantage.

257.38-41—Iowa Code—Programs for Returning Dropouts and Dropout Prevention—Generate additional funds via modified allowable growth for schools and programs for potential dropouts and dropouts.

257.11—Supplementary Weighting Plan—In order to provide additional funding to school districts for programs serving at-risk pupils and alternative school pupils in secondary schools, a supplementary weighting formula is adopted. Amounts received as supplementary weighting for at-risk pupils shall be utilized by a school district to develop or maintain at-risk programs, which may include alternative schools programs.

Chapter 12 (12.2(256) General Accreditation Standards--Provides definitions for:
Alternative Options Education, Alternative Program, At-risk Student, Dropout, Potential dropout, Returning dropout.