

DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES

Education

CHAPTER 120

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120.01 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.01 CITATION, EDUCATION CODE.

Chapters 120 to 129 may be cited as the education code.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 1; 1975 c 162 s 1*

120.02 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of this chapter the words, phrases and terms defined in this section shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education.

Subd. 3. "District" means a school district.

Subd. 4. "Board" means a school board.

Subd. 5. "County board" means a board of county commissioners.

Subd. 6. "Superintendent" means superintendent of the school district involved.

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1975 c 162 s 42]

Subd. 8. "Department" means state department of education.

Subd. 9. "Auditor" means county auditor.

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1975 c 162 s 42]

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1978 c 706 s 69]

Subd. 12. "State board" means state board of education.

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Subd. 13. A common district is any school district validly created and existing as a common school district or joint common school district as of July 1, 1957, or pursuant to the terms of the education code.

Subd. 14. An independent district is any school district validly created and existing as an independent, consolidated, joint independent, county or a ten or more township district as of July 1, 1957, or pursuant to the education code.

Subd. 15. A special district is a district established by a charter granted by the legislature or by a home rule charter including any district which is designated a special independent school district by the legislature.

Subd. 16. [Repealed, 1971 c 25 s 30]

Subd. 17. [Repealed, 1975 c 162 s 42]

Subd. 18. School district tax is the tax levied and collected to provide the amount of money voted or levied by the district or the board for school purposes.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 2*

120.021 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.023 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.03 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.03 HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, DEFINED.

Subdivision 1. Every child who is deaf, hard of hearing, blind, partially seeing, crippled or who has defective speech or who is otherwise physically impaired in body or limb so that he needs special instruction and services, but who is educable, as determined by the standards of the state board is a handicapped child.

Subd. 2. Every child who is mentally retarded in such degree that he needs special instruction and services, but who is educable as determined by the standards of the state board, is a handicapped child.

Subd. 3. Every child who by reason of an emotional disturbance, or a learning disability, or a special behavior problem needs special instruction and services, but who is educable, as determined by the standards of the state board is a handicapped child.

Subd. 4. Every child who is mentally retarded in such degree that he requires special training and services and who is trainable as defined by standards of the state board is a trainable handicapped child.

Subd. 5. A child with a short-term or temporary physical or emotional illness or disability, as determined by the standards of the state board, is not a handicapped child.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 3; 1969 c 981 s 1; 1975 c 432 s 7; 1981 c 358 art 3 s 1*

120.04 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.04 MS 1967 [Repealed, 1969 c 981 s 7]

120.05 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.05 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Subdivision 1. **Classification.** For the purpose of administration all public schools are classified under the following heads, provided the requirements in subdivision 2 are met:

(1) Elementary,

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- (2) Middle school,
- (3) Secondary,
- (4) Vocational center school,
- (5) Area vocational-technical school.

Subd. 2. Definitions. (1) Elementary school means any school with building, equipment, courses of study, class schedules, enrollment of pupils ordinarily in grades one through six or any portion thereof and staff meeting the standards established by the state board of education.

(a) The state board of education shall not close a school or deny any state aids to a district for its elementary schools because of enrollment limitations classified in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 2, clause (1).

(2) Middle school means any school other than a secondary school giving an approved course of study in a minimum of three consecutive grades above fourth but below tenth with building, equipment, courses of study, class schedules, enrollment and staff meeting the standards established by the state board of education.

(3) Secondary school means any school with building, equipment, courses of study, class schedules, enrollment of pupils ordinarily in grades seven through twelve or any portion thereof and staff meeting the standards established by the state board of education.

(4) A vocational center school is one serving a group of secondary schools with approved areas of secondary vocational training and offering vocational secondary and adult programs necessary to meet local needs and meeting standards established by the state board of education.

(5) An area vocational-technical school is a school organized according to section 121.21, and standards established by the state board of education.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 5; 1961 c 562 s 7; 1971 c 25 s 31; 1971 c 118 s 1; 1978 c 616 s 1*

120.06 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.06 ADMISSION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Subdivision 1. Age limitations; pupils. All schools supported in whole or in part by state funds are public schools. Admission to a public school is free to any person who resides within the district which operates the school, who is under 21 years of age, and who satisfies the minimum age requirements imposed by this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary, the conduct of all students under 21 years of age attending a public secondary school shall be governed by a single set of reasonable rules and regulations promulgated by the local board of education. No person shall be admitted to any public school after September 1, 1971, (1) as a kindergarten student, unless he is at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which he seeks admission commences; or (2) as a first grade student, unless he is at least six years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which he seeks admission commences or has completed kindergarten; except that any school board may establish a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1981 c 358 art 7 s 31]

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 6; 1967 c 173 s 1; 1974 c 529 s 1*

120.065 [Repealed, 1978 c 764 s 143]

120.07 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.07 MS 1976 [Repealed, 1978 c 764 s 143]

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120.075 ATTENDANCE; PREVIOUS ENROLLMENT; FAMILIES.

Subdivision 1. Any pupil who, pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 120.065, or Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section 123.39, Subdivision 5a, was enrolled on either January 1, 1978, or April 5, 1978, in a school district of which he was not a resident may continue in enrollment in that district.

Subd. 1a. Any pupil who, pursuant to section 123.39, subdivision 5, has continuously been enrolled since January 1, 1977 in a school district of which he was not a resident may continue in enrollment in that district, and that district shall be considered the pupil's district of residence.

Subd. 2. Any child who was under school age on either January 1, 1978, or April 5, 1978, but who otherwise would have qualified pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 120.065, or Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section 123.39, Subdivision 5a, for enrollment in a school district of which he was not a resident may enroll in that district.

Subd. 3. Any pupil enrolled on either January 1, 1978, or April 5, 1978, in a non-public school, as defined in section 123.932, subdivision 3, located in a district of which he was not a resident who would otherwise have qualified for enrollment in that district as a resident pursuant to subdivision 1 may attend the public schools of that district as a resident.

Subd. 3a. Any child who was born on or before January 1, 1978 but who was adopted after January 1, 1978 and whose adoptive parent on January 1, 1978 owned property residence upon which would have qualified the child for enrollment pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 120.065, in a school district of which the child was not a resident may enroll in that district. Any child who was born on or before January 1, 1978 but who was adopted after January 1, 1978 and whose adoptive parent on January 1, 1978 owned or was a tenant upon property so as to qualify a child for enrollment pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section 123.39, Subdivision 5a, in a school district of which the child was not a resident may enroll in that district.

Subd. 4. Subdivisions 1, 1a, 2, 3 and 3a shall also apply to any brother or sister of a qualified pupil who is related to that pupil by blood, adoption or marriage and to any foster child of that pupil's parents. The enrollment of any pupil pursuant to subdivision 1, 2, 3 or 3a and of a brother or sister of that pupil or of a foster child of that pupil's parents pursuant to this subdivision shall remain subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 120.065 and Minnesota Statutes, 1977 Supplement, Section 123.39, Subdivision 5a, as they read on January 1, 1978.

History: 1978 c 764 s 2; 1979 c 334 art 6 s 2; 1980 c 375 s 1; 1980 c 609 art 6 s 1-3

120.0751 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; ENROLLMENT EXCEPTIONS.

Subdivision 1. The state board of education may permit a pupil who enrolls in a school district of which he is not a resident to be deemed a resident pupil of that district pursuant to this section.

Subd. 2. The pupil or his parent or guardian shall make application to the state board, explaining the particular circumstances which make the nonresident district the appropriate district of attendance for the pupil. The application must be signed by the pupil's parent or guardian and the superintendent of the nonresident district.

Subd. 3. In granting or denying the application the state board of education shall consider the following criteria:

(a) whether attending school in the district of residence creates a particular hardship for the pupil; and

(b) whether the circumstances of the pupil are similar or analogous to the exceptions permitted by section 120.075.

Subd. 4. The state board of education shall render its decision in each case within 60 days of receiving the application in subdivision 2.

Subd. 5. The department of education shall provide the forms required by subdivision 2. The state board of education shall adopt the procedures necessary to implement this section.

History: 1980 c 609 art 6 s 4; 1981 c 358 art 7 s 4

120.0752 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SCHOOL BOARDS; ENROLLMENT EXCEPTIONS.

Subdivision 1. A pupil may enroll in a school district of which he is not a resident and be deemed a resident pupil of that district pursuant to this section.

Subd. 2. The pupil's parent or guardian must receive the approval of the school board of the nonresident district and the school board of the resident district. The approval shall be on a form provided by the department of education. The superintendent of the nonresident district shall forward a copy of this form to the department of education within ten days of its approval. If the student withdraws his enrollment from the nonresident district the superintendent of that district shall report the fact to the department of education.

History: 1980 c 609 art 6 s 5

120.08 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.08 ATTENDANCE; HIGH SCHOOL IN ADJOINING STATE.

Subdivision 1. Any person under 21 years of age residing in any district not maintaining a secondary school who has successfully completed the elementary school may, with the consent of the board of such district, attend any secondary school of a district in an adjoining state willing to admit him, which secondary school is nearer to his place of residence than any duly established secondary school in Minnesota, the distances being measured by the usual traveled routes. Any tuition charged by the district so attended shall be paid to the district attended by the district in which the person resides. This tuition shall not be more than (a) such district charges non-resident pupils of that state, (b) the average maintenance cost exclusive of transportation per pupil unit in average daily membership in the school attended, nor (c) the tuition rate provided for in section 124.18, subdivision 2.

Any pupil attending a secondary school in an adjoining state for whom tuition is paid from district funds is entitled to transportation services in accordance with Minnesota Statutes.

Subd. 2. A school board in a district maintaining a secondary school may by a majority vote provide for the instruction of any resident pupil in a school district in an adjoining state nearer to his place of residence than the school of his resident district, the distances being measured by the usual traveled routes. Any charge for tuition by the district so attended or for transportation shall be paid by the pupil's resident district provided that such pupil shall continue to be a pupil of the district of his residence for the payment of apportionment and other state aids.

History: Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 8; 1961 c 562 s 8; 1975 c 162 s 2

120.09 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.09 MS 1967 [Repealed, 1969 c 1082 s 2]

120.095 SCHOOL CENSUS.

Subdivision 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the school board of each district shall cause to be taken an enumeration, called the school census of all persons under 21 years of age on September 1 during the year the census is taken. The school census shall show the name and date of birth of each person required to be enumerated and the name and address of his parent, guardian, or other person having charge of such child, and such other data as the state board may require.

Subd. 2. The school census shall be taken by the clerk of the board, or by some other person appointed by the board. Such person taking such census shall certify to the board the correctness of the enumeration and the information therein contained. The board shall fix the compensation for such work. Each child shall be counted in only one district, being that in which he resides on September 1 and the enumeration period shall be from September 1 through October 1.

Subd. 3. The school census shall be taken each year during the period September 1 through October 1 and reported in summary form to the department of education before October 15 of each census year in all districts except as follows:

In districts including cities of the first class and other school districts in which the district boundaries coincide with those of federal census tracts the decennial and middecade census tabulation made by the federal bureau of the census may be substituted for the prescribed enumeration.

Subd. 4. The school board of any district, at its option, may establish a permanent and continuing census or enumeration that will keep current the data required by subdivisions 1 to 3.

Subd. 5. The school census shall include an enumeration of children requiring special education by categories as designated by the state board and as required for reports deemed necessary by the commissioner of education.

Subd. 6. The school census shall include an enumeration of children of limited English proficiency residing within the district by primary language. In making this census the school board shall seek the assistance and cooperation of agencies, organizations or community groups, public or private, which might have information about students of limited English proficiency residing in the school district. As used in this subdivision, the following terms have the meanings given them:

(a) "Children of limited English proficiency" means children whose primary language is other than English or who come from home environments where the primary language is other than English and by reason thereof have difficulty reading, writing, speaking and understanding ordinary classroom instruction and have difficulty in performing ordinary classwork in the English language; and

(b) "Primary language" means a language other than English which is the language normally used by the child or the language which is spoken in the child's home environment.

Subd. 7. The school census shall include an enumeration of American Indian children resident within the district. In making this census the school board shall seek the assistance and cooperation of agencies, organizations or community groups, public or private, which might have information about American Indian children residing in the school district.

History: 1969 c 1082 s 1; 1971 c 84 s 1,2; 1977 c 306 s 13; 1977 c 312 s 12; 1980 c 609 art 3 s 1

120.10 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.10 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE.

Subdivision 1. **Ages and term.** Every child between seven and 16 years of age shall attend a public school, or a private school, during the entire time that the school is in session during any school year. No child shall be required to attend a public school more than 200 days or their equivalent, during any school year.

Subd. 2. **School.** A school, to satisfy the requirements of compulsory attendance, must be one: (1) in which all the common branches are taught in the English language, from textbooks written in the English language, and taught by teachers whose qualifications are essentially equivalent to the minimum standards for public school teachers of the same grades or subjects and (2) which is in session each school year for at least 175 days or their equivalent; provided that in a program of instruction for children of limited English proficiency, instruction and textbooks may be in the primary language of the children of limited English proficiency enrolled therein. Any other language may be taught as provided in section 126.07. As used in this subdivision, the terms "children of limited English proficiency" and "primary language" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in section 126.262.

Subd. 3. **Legitimate exemptions.** A parent, guardian, or other person having control of a child may apply to a school district to have the child excused from attendance for the whole or any part of the time school is in session during any school year. Application may be made to any member of the board, a truant officer, a principal, or the superintendent. The school board of the district in which the child resides may approve the application upon the following being demonstrated to the satisfaction of that board:

(1) That the child's bodily or mental condition is such as to prevent his attendance at school or application to study for the period required; or

(2) That the child has already completed the studies ordinarily required in the tenth grade; or

(3) That it is the wish of the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child, that he attend for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three hours in any week, a school for religious instruction conducted and maintained by some church, or association of churches, or any Sunday school association incorporated under the laws of this state, or any auxiliary thereof. This school for religious instruction shall be conducted and maintained in a place other than a public school building, and in no event, in whole or in part, shall be conducted and maintained at public expense. However, a child may be absent from school on such days as the child attends upon instruction according to the ordinances of some church.

Subd. 4. **Issuing and reporting excuses.** The clerk or any authorized officer of the school board shall issue and keep a record of such excuses, under such rules as the board may from time to time establish.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 10 subds 2,3; 1961 c 567 s 1; 1967 c 82 s 1; 1969 c 161 s 1,2; 1974 c 326 s 1; 1975 c 162 s 3; 1977 c 306 s 14; 1977 c 447 art 7 s 2,3; 1978 c 616 s 2; 1978 c 706 s 1; 1980 c 609 art 3 s 2*

120.11 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.11 SCHOOL BOARDS AND TEACHERS, DUTIES.

It shall be the duty of each board through its clerk or other authorized agent or employee, to report the names of children between six and 16 years of age, with excuses, if any, granted in such district, to the superintendent or principals thereof, within the first week of school. Subsequent excuses granted shall be forthwith reported in the same manner. The clerk or principal shall provide the teachers in

the several schools under his supervision, with the necessary information for the respective grades of school, relating to the list of pupils with excuses granted. On receipt of the list of such pupils of school age and the excuses granted, the clerk or principals shall report the names of children not excused, who are not attending school, with the names and addresses of their parents, to the district superintendent within five days after receiving the report.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 11; 1975 c 162 s 4*

120.12 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.12 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE; HOW ENFORCED.

Subdivision 1. Notice to parents and county attorney. The district superintendent shall forthwith notify the parent, guardian, or person in charge to send such child, of whose unexcused absence he has been informed, to school and upon his neglect or refusal to comply with the notification, the district superintendent shall, upon receipt of information of such non-compliance, notify the county attorney of the facts in each case. Notification by certified mail shall be considered sufficient notice.

Subd. 2. Private schools. It shall be the duty of the principal, teacher, or other person in charge of any private school to make reports at such times and containing such information as is herein required respecting public schools. Such report shall be made to the district superintendent in whose district such private school is located.

Subd. 3. Criminal complaint; prosecution. The district superintendent shall make and file a criminal complaint against persons neglecting or refusing to comply with the provisions of law relating to the sending of children to school, in any court in the county exercising criminal jurisdiction and, upon the making of such complaint, a warrant shall be issued and proceedings and trial be had as provided by law in cases of misdemeanor and shall be prosecuted by the county attorney of the county wherein the offense is committed.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 12; 1975 c 162 s 5; 1978 c 674 s 60*

120.13 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.13 DUTIES AND POWERS OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

The department of labor and industry and its assistants shall assist in the enforcement of the provisions of law relating to compulsory school attendance and have authority to examine the excuses granted thereunder, to make investigation into the causes for which excuses have been granted, and to revoke and cancel any that may be found to be granted without proper or sufficient cause.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 13; Ex1967 c 1 s 6*

120.14 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.14 ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

The board of any district may authorize the employment of attendance officers, who shall investigate truancy or non-attendance at school, make complaints, serve notice and process, and attend to the enforcement of all laws and district rules regarding school attendance. When any attendance officer learns of any case of habitual truancy or continued non-attendance of any child required to attend school he shall immediately notify the person having control of such child

to forthwith send to and keep him in school. He shall act under the general supervision of the district superintendent.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 14; 1978 c 616 s 3*

120.15 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.15 CLASSES FOR TRUANTS.

A board may maintain ungraded classes for the instruction of children between seven and 16 years of age who are habitually truant or not in attendance.

All such children shall be deemed delinquent and the board may compel their attendance at such ungraded classes, or any department of the public schools, as the board may determine, and cause them to be brought before the juvenile court of the county for appropriate discipline.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 15; 1978 c 616 s 4*

120.16 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.16 INVESTIGATION AND AID TO CHILDREN.

Subdivision 1. **Resolution; certification.** When a board finds, by resolution, that any child in the district is unable to attend school because his financial resources and needs require his employment elsewhere, the clerk shall certify the resolution of such fact to the county board of the county of the child's residence. Upon such certification, the county board shall, after investigation, furnish such aid as will enable the child to attend school during the entire school year.

Subd. 2. **Reports; children receiving aid.** The truant officer or other authorized officer shall notify the teacher to whom any child receiving aid under the provisions of this section may be assigned. It shall be the duty of the teacher having charge of such child to report monthly to the board the progress such child is making in his school work, and the record of attendance, together with such other information as may be deemed necessary by the teacher.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 16*

120.17 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.17 HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

Subdivision 1. **Special instruction for handicapped children of school age.** Every district shall provide special instruction and services, either within the district or in another district, for handicapped children of school age who are residents of the district and who are handicapped as set forth in section 120.03. School age means the ages of four years to 21 years for children who are handicapped as defined in section 120.03 and shall not extend beyond secondary school or its equivalent. For purposes of this subdivision, the age of a handicapped child shall be his age as of September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which he seeks special instruction and services commences. Every district may provide special instruction and services for handicapped children who have not attained school age. Districts with less than the minimum number of eligible handicapped children as determined by the state board shall cooperate with other districts to maintain a full sequence of programs for education, training and services for handicapped children as defined in section 120.03.

Subd. 1a. School districts may provide special instruction and services through the school year in which the pupil reaches age 25 for trainable mentally retarded pupils as defined in section 120.03, subdivision 4, who have attended public school less than nine years.

Any district may provide special instruction and services for these trainable mentally retarded pupils living within the district, including nonresident pupils temporarily placed in the district pursuant to subdivision 6 or 7. Prior to October 1 or 30 days after placement, whichever is later in the school year, the providing district shall give notice to the district of residence of any nonresident pupil placed in the district pursuant to subdivision 6 or 7, of its intention to provide the special instruction and services and bill the district of residence for the actual unreimbursed costs of providing the special instruction and services. The unreimbursed actual cost of providing the special instruction and services for eligible nonresident pupils shall be billed to the district of the pupil's residence and shall be paid by the resident district. The district of residence may claim state aid for these pupils as if the pupils were under 21 years of age.

This subdivision shall expire on June 30, 1983.

Subd. 2. Method of special instruction. Special instruction or training and services for handicapped children may be provided by one or more of the following methods:

(a) Special instruction and services in connection with attending regular elementary and secondary school classes;

(b) The establishment of special classes;

(c) Instruction and services at the home or bedside of the child;

(d) Instruction and services in other districts;

(e) Instruction and services in a state university laboratory school or a University of Minnesota laboratory school;

(f) Instruction and services in a state residential school or a school department of a state institution approved by the commissioner; or by any other method approved by him;

(g) Instruction and services in other states;

(h) Contract with public, private or voluntary agencies.

The primary responsibility for the education of a handicapped child shall remain with the district of the child's residence regardless of which method of providing special instruction or training and services is used.

Subd. 3. Rules of the state board. The state board shall promulgate rules relative to qualifications of essential personnel, courses of study or training, methods of instruction and training, pupil eligibility, size of classes, rooms, equipment, supervision, parent consultation and any other rules and standards 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.

Subd. 3a. School district obligations. Every district shall insure that:

(a) All handicapped children are provided the special instruction and services which are appropriate to their needs;

(b) Handicapped children and their parents or guardians are guaranteed procedural safeguards and the right to participate in decisions involving identification, assessment and educational placement of handicapped children;

(c) To the maximum extent appropriate, handicapped children, including those in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not handicapped, and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of handicapped children from the regular educational environment occurs only when and to the extent that the nature or severity of the handicap is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary services cannot be achieved satisfactorily;

(d) In accordance with recognized professional standards, testing and evaluation materials and procedures utilized for the purposes of classification and placement of handicapped children are selected and administered so as not to be racially or culturally discriminatory; and

(e) The rights of the child are protected when the parents or guardians are not known or not available, or the child is a ward of the state.

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; provided the refusal of a parent or guardian to provide this consent may be overridden by the decision in a hearing held pursuant to clause (d) at the district's initiative after at least one attempt to obtain this consent through a conciliation conference held pursuant to clause (c);

(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);

(d) Parents, guardians and the district shall have an opportunity to obtain an impartial due process hearing initiated and conducted in the school district where the child resides, if after at least one conciliation conference 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 his 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 commissioner 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 commissioner 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 commissioner within 15 calendar days of receipt of that written decision, by the parent, guardian, or the school board of the district where the child resides.

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 commissioner 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 commissioner 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 commissioner 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 commissioner shall be final unless appealed by the parent or guardian or school board to the district court of the county in which the school district in whole or in part is located. The scope of judicial review shall be as provided in chapter 14.

(h) 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 his current educational placement and shall not be denied initial admission to school.

(i) The child's school district of residence, if different from the district where the child actually resides, shall receive notice of and may be a party to any hearings or appeals pursuant to this subdivision.

Subd. 3c. [Repealed, 1981 c 358 art 3 s 20]

Subd. 4. **Special instructions for non-resident children.** When a school district provides instruction and services outside the district of residence, board and lodging, and any tuition to be paid, shall be paid by the district of residence. The tuition rate to be charged for any handicapped child shall be the actual cost of providing special instruction and services to the child including a proportionate

amount for capital outlay and debt service but not including any amount for transportation, minus the amount of special aid for handicapped children received on behalf of that child. If the boards involved do not agree upon the tuition rate, either board may apply to the commissioner to fix the rate. The commissioner shall then set a date for a hearing, giving each board at least ten days' notice, and after the hearing the commissioner shall make his order fixing the tuition rate, which shall be binding on both school districts.

When a district provides instruction and services in a day program outside the district of residence, the district of residence shall be responsible for providing transportation. When a district provides instruction and services requiring board and lodging or placement in a residential program outside the district of residence, the nonresident district in which the child is placed shall be responsible for providing transportation. Transportation costs shall be paid by the district responsible for providing transportation and the state shall pay transportation aid to that district.

For the purposes of this section, any school district may enter into an agreement, upon terms and conditions which are mutually agreed upon, to provide special instruction and services for handicapped children. In that event, one of the participating units may employ and contract with necessary qualified personnel to offer services in the several districts. Each participating unit shall reimburse the employing unit a proportionate amount of the actual cost of providing the special instruction and services, less the amount of state special education aid, which shall be claimed in full by the employing district.

Subd. 4a. Attendance in another district. No resident of a district who is eligible for special instruction and services pursuant to this section shall be denied provision of this instruction and service because he attends a public school in another school district pursuant to section 123.39, subdivision 5, if his attendance is not subject to section 120.075, 120.0751, or 120.0752. If the pupil attends a public school located in a contiguous district and the district of attendance does not provide special instruction and services, the district of residence shall provide necessary transportation for the pupil between the boundary of the district of residence and the educational facility where special instruction and services are provided within the district of residence. The district of residence may provide necessary transportation for the pupil between its boundary and the school attended in the contiguous district, but shall not pay the cost of transportation provided outside the boundary of the district of residence.

Subd. 5. School of parents' choice. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as preventing parents of a handicapped educable child from sending such child to a school of their choice, if they so elect, subject to admission standards and policies to be adopted pursuant to the provisions of sections 128A.01 to 128A.07, and all other provisions of chapters 120 to 129.

Subd. 5a. Summer programs. A district may provide summer programs for handicapped children living within the district and nonresident children temporarily placed in the district pursuant to subdivisions 6 or 7. Prior to March 31 or 30 days after the handicapped child is placed in the district, whichever is later, the providing district shall give notice to the district of residence of any nonresident children temporarily placed in the district pursuant to subdivisions 6 or 7, of its intention to provide these programs. Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in subdivisions 6 and 7, the school district providing the special instruction and services shall apply for special education aid for the summer program. For the purposes of computing the summer school revenue allowance as provided in section 124.201, pupils enrolled in these programs shall be counted by the district of residence and not by the district providing the programs. The unreimbursed actual cost of providing the program for nonresident handicapped children,

including the cost of board and lodging, may be billed to the district of the child's residence and shall be paid by the resident district. Transportation costs shall be paid by the district responsible for providing transportation pursuant to subdivision 6 or 7 and transportation aid shall be paid to that district.

Subd. 6. Placement in another district; responsibility. The responsibility for special instruction and services for a handicapped child temporarily placed in another district for care and treatment shall be determined in the following manner:

(a) The school district of residence of a child shall be the district in which his parent resides, if living, or his guardian, or the district designated by the commissioner of education if neither parent nor guardian is living within the state.

(b) When a child is temporarily placed for care and treatment in a day program located in another district and the child continues to live within the district of residence during the care and treatment, the district of residence is responsible for providing transportation and an appropriate educational program for the child. The district may provide the educational program at a school within the district of residence, at the child's residence, or in the district in which the day treatment center is located by paying tuition to that district.

(c) When a child is temporarily placed in a residential program for care and treatment, the nonresident district in which the child is placed is responsible for providing an appropriate educational program for the child and necessary transportation within the district while the child is attending the educational program; and shall bill the district of the child's residence for the actual cost of providing the program, as outlined in subdivision 4, except that the board, lodging, and treatment costs incurred in behalf of a handicapped child placed outside of the school district of his residence by the commissioner of public welfare or the commissioner of corrections or their agents, for reasons other than for making provision for his special educational needs shall not become the responsibility of either the district providing the instruction or the district of the child's residence.

(d) The district of residence shall pay tuition and other program costs, not including transportation costs, to the district providing the instruction and services. The district of residence may claim foundation aid for the child as provided by law. Transportation costs shall be paid by the district responsible for providing the transportation and the state shall pay transportation aid to that district.

Subd. 7. Placement in state institution; responsibility. Responsibility for special instruction and services for a handicapped child placed in a state institution on a temporary basis shall be determined in the following manner:

(a) The legal residence of such child shall be the school district in which his parent resides, if living, or his guardian;

(b) When the educational needs of such child can be met through the institutional program, the costs for such instruction shall be paid by the department to which the institution is assigned;

(c) When it is determined that such child can benefit from public school enrollment, provision for such instruction shall be made in the following manner:

(1) Determination of eligibility for special instruction and services shall be made by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of the department responsible for the institution;

(2) The school district where the institution is located shall be responsible for providing transportation and an appropriate educational program for the child and shall make a tuition charge to the child's district of residence for the actual cost of providing the program;

(3) The district of the child's residence shall pay the tuition and other program costs excluding transportation costs and may claim foundation aid for the child.

Transportation costs shall be paid by the district where the institution is located and the state shall pay transportation aid to that district.

Subd. 7a. **Attendance at school for the handicapped.** Responsibility for special instruction and services for a visually disabled or hearing impaired child attending the Minnesota school for the deaf or the Minnesota braille and sight-saving school shall be determined in the following manner:

(a) The legal residence of the child shall be the school district in which his parent or guardian resides.

(b) When it is determined pursuant to section 128A.05, subdivisions 1 or 2 that the child is entitled to attend either school, the state board shall provide the appropriate educational program for the child. The state board shall make a tuition charge to the child's district of residence for the actual cost of providing the program; provided, however, that effective for the 1979-1980 school year and thereafter, the amount of tuition charged shall not exceed the sum of \$500 plus the foundation aid formula allowance of the district for that child, for an entire school year, or a prorated amount based on the portion of the school year for which the child is a resident of the district or is actually in membership in the program. For purposes of this subdivision, "foundation aid formula allowance" shall have the meaning attributed to it in section 124.32, subdivision 1a. The district of the child's residence shall pay the tuition and may claim foundation aid for the child. The district of the child's residence shall not receive aid pursuant to section 124.32, subdivision 5, for tuition paid pursuant to this subdivision. All tuition received by the state board shall be deposited in the state treasury.

(c) When it is determined that the child can benefit from public school enrollment but that the child should also remain in attendance at the applicable school, the school district where the institution is located shall provide an appropriate educational program for the child and shall make a tuition charge to the state board for the actual cost of providing the program, less any amount of aid received pursuant to section 124.32. The state board shall pay the tuition and other program costs including the unreimbursed transportation costs. Aids for handicapped children shall be paid to the district providing the special instruction and services. Special transportation shall be provided by the district providing the educational program and the state shall reimburse such district within the limits provided by law.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (b) and (c), the state board may agree to make a tuition charge for less than the amount specified in clause (b) for pupils attending the applicable school who are residents of the district where the institution is located and who do not board at the institution, if that district agrees to make a tuition charge to the state board for less than the amount specified in clause (c) for providing appropriate educational programs to pupils attending the applicable school.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (b) and (c), the state board may agree to supply staff from the Minnesota School for the Deaf and the Minnesota Braille and Sight-Saving School to participate in the programs provided by the district where the institutions are located when the programs are provided to students in attendance at the state schools.

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1973 c 683 s 30]

Subd. 8a. **Residence of child under special conditions.** The legal residence of a handicapped child placed in a foster facility for care and treatment when: (1) parental rights have been terminated by court order; (2) parent or guardian is not living within the state; or (3) no other school district residence can be established, shall be the school district in which the child resides. The school board of the district of residence shall provide the same educational program for such child as it provides for all resident handicapped children in the district.

Subd. 9. **Special instruction.** No resident of a district who is eligible for special instruction and services pursuant to this section shall be denied provision of this instruction and service on a shared time basis because of attendance at a nonpublic school defined in section 123.932, subdivision 3. If a resident handicapped pupil attends a nonpublic school located within his district of residence, the district shall provide necessary transportation for that pupil within the district between the nonpublic school and the educational facility where special instruction and services are provided on a shared time basis. If a resident handicapped pupil attends a nonpublic school located in a district contiguous to his district of residence and if no agreement exists pursuant to section 124.2127, subdivision 1, clause (c) or (d), for the provision of special instruction and services on a shared time basis to that pupil by the district of attendance, the district of residence shall provide necessary transportation for that pupil between the boundary of the district of residence and the educational facility where the special instruction and services are provided within the district of residence. The district of residence may provide necessary transportation for that pupil between its boundary and the nonpublic school attended, but the nonpublic school shall pay the cost of transportation provided outside the district boundary.

Subd. 10. **Nonresident education; billing.** All tuition billing for the education of nonresident children pursuant to section 120.17 shall be done on uniform forms prescribed by the commissioner. The billing shall contain an itemized statement of costs which are being charged to the district of residence. One copy of each such billing shall be filed with the commissioner.

Subd. 11. **Transportation aid agreements.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions 4, 5a, and 6, when a child receives special instruction and services in a day program outside the resident district, the resident district and the nonresident district where the child is placed may enter into an agreement providing for the nonresident district to pay the cost of any particular transportation categories specified in section 124.225, subdivision 1, and claim transportation aid for those categories. In this case, the nonresident district may not obtain any payment from the resident district for the categories covered by the agreement.

History: *Ex1959 c 71 art 1 s 17; 1961 c 559 s 2; 1961 c 690 s 1; 1965 c 241 s 1-3; 1967 c 872 s 1; 1969 c 981 s 2-5; 1971 c 689 s 1-3; 1973 c 683 s 1,2; 1975 c 162 s 41; 1975 c 321 s 2; 1975 c 432 s 8-10; 1976 c 211 s 1-6; 1976 c 271 s 13-18; 1977 c 447 art 3 s 1-4; 1977 c 449 s 12; 1978 c 733 s 1; 1978 c 764 s 3-5; 1978 c 793 s 61; 1979 c 334 art 2 s 1,2; art 3 s 2,3; 1980 c 509 s 30; 1981 c 358 art 1 s 1; art 3 s 2-7; 1982 c 424 s 28,29,130; 1982 c 548 art 3 s 1-3*

120.171 [Repealed, 1979 c 334 art 3 s 19]

120.172 LEGISLATIVE COMMITMENT TO CONCILIATION.

Subdivision 1. **Policy statement.** The legislature finds that conciliation conferences pursuant to section 120.17 serve better than formal hearings to promote communications between parents and school staff and to reach prompt, shared decisions about educational programs for handicapped children. Further, the legislature urges the United States department of education and the United States office of civil rights to acknowledge that the conciliation conference process violates no federal statute or regulation.

Subd. 2. **State plan.** The state board of education shall not adopt any provision in the state plan for special education which reduces the opportunities for parents and school districts to resolve their differences through conciliation.

Subd. 3. **Report.** The Minnesota commissioner of education shall report to the education committees of the legislature before January 1, 1983, on the effect of the procedures required in section 120.17, subdivision 3b, and on any changes in

federal statutes or regulations which would contribute to greater flexibility in the procedures for decisions about educational programs for handicapped children.

History: 1981 c 358 art 3 s 8

120.18 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.18 MS 1967 [Repealed, 1969 c 981 s 7]

120.181 TEMPORARY PLACEMENTS FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF NON-HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

The responsibility for providing instruction and transportation for a non-handicapped pupil who has a short-term or temporary physical or emotional illness or disability, as determined by the standards of the state board, and who is temporarily placed for care and treatment for that illness or disability, shall be determined in the following manner:

(a) The school district of residence of the pupil shall be the district in which the pupil's parent or guardian resides or the district designated by the commissioner of education if neither parent nor guardian is living within the state.

(b) Prior to the placement of a pupil for care and treatment, the district of residence shall be notified and provided an opportunity to participate in the placement decision. When an immediate emergency placement is necessary and time does not permit resident district participation in the placement decision, the district in which the pupil is temporarily placed, if different from the district of residence, shall notify the district of residence of the emergency placement within 15 days of the placement.

(c) When a non-handicapped pupil is temporarily placed for care and treatment in a day program and the pupil continues to live within the district of residence during the care and treatment, the district of residence shall provide instruction and necessary transportation for the pupil. The district may provide the instruction at a school within the district of residence, at the pupil's residence, or in the case of a placement outside of the resident district, in the district in which the day treatment program is located by paying tuition to that district.

(d) When a non-handicapped pupil is temporarily placed in a residential program for care and treatment, the district in which the pupil is placed shall provide instruction for the pupil and necessary transportation within that district while the pupil is receiving instruction, and in the case of a placement outside of the district of residence, the nonresident district shall bill the district of residence for the actual cost of providing the instruction, excluding transportation costs.

(e) The district of residence shall receive foundation aid for the pupil and pay tuition and other instructional costs, excluding transportation costs, to the district providing the instruction. Transportation costs shall be paid by the district providing the transportation and the state shall pay transportation aid to that district. For purposes of computing state transportation aid, pupils governed by this subdivision shall be included in the handicapped transportation category.

History: 1982 c 548 art 1 s 1

120.19-120.38 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.41-120.43 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.44 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26; 1961 c 446 s 2; 1961 c 567 s 2 subd 2]

120.46 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.51-120.57 MS 1957 [Repealed, 1959 c 687 s 13; Ex1959 c 27 s 13; Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.58 MS 1957 [Repealed, Ex1959 c 71 art 8 s 26]

120.59 FLEXIBLE SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMS; PURPOSE.

The purpose of sections 120.59 to 120.67 is to authorize school districts to evaluate, plan and employ the use of flexible school year programs. It is anticipated that the open selection of the type of flexible school year operation from a variety of alternatives will allow each district which seeks to utilize this concept to suitably fulfill the educational needs of its pupils. These alternatives shall include but not be limited to various 45-15 plans, four-quarter plans, quinmester plans, extended school year plans, flexible all-year plans, and four-day week plans.

History: 1974 c 326 s 2

120.60 DEFINITION.

"Flexible school year program" means any school district plan approved by the state board of education which utilizes school buildings and facilities during the entire year and/or which provides forms of optional scheduling of pupils and school personnel during the school year in elementary and secondary schools or residential facilities for handicapped children.

History: 1974 c 326 s 3

120.61 ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

The school board of any district, with the approval of the state board of education, may establish and operate a flexible school year program in one or more of the schools or residential facilities for handicapped children within the district.

History: 1974 c 326 s 4

120.62 DIVISION OF CHILDREN INTO GROUPS.

The school board of any district operating a flexible school year program in one or more of the schools within the district shall divide the students of each selected school into as many groups as necessary to accommodate this program. Students of the same family shall be placed in the same group unless one or more of these students is enrolled in a special education class or unless the parent or guardian of these students requests that the students be placed in different groups. No school board shall discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sex, or national origin when assigning pupils to attendance groups pursuant to this section.

History: 1974 c 326 s 5

120.63 HEARING.

Prior to implementing a flexible school year program in any school of the district, the school board shall negotiate with the teachers, principals, assistant principals, supervisory personnel, and employees of the school to the extent required by the public employment labor relations act, and shall consult with the parents of pupils who would be affected by the change, and with the community at large. These procedures shall include at least three informational meetings for which the board has given published notice to the teachers and employees and to the parents of pupils affected.

History: 1974 c 326 s 6

120.64 ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHERS.

Subdivision 1. In school districts where a flexible school year program is implemented in fewer than all of the schools maintained by the school district, the

board of the school district shall make every reasonable effort to assign qualified teachers who prefer the regular school schedule to schools of the same level retaining the regular school schedule.

Subd. 2. A full-time classroom teacher currently employed by a school district which converts to a flexible school year program shall not, without his written consent, be required to teach under this program (1) more or less than the number of scheduled days or their equivalent the schools of the district were maintained during the year preceding implementation of the flexible school year program; (2) in a period of the calendar year substantially different from the period in which he taught during the year preceding implementation of the flexible year program.

Subd. 3. In no event shall a teacher's continuing contract rights to a position held the year preceding implementation of a flexible school year program or teaching experience earned during a probationary period the year preceding implementation be lost or impaired upon adoption of a flexible school year program. If the year of teaching preceding implementation was the end of a probationary period, the continuing contract right to a full year's contract which normally would be acquired for the next succeeding school year shall be acquired in the year of adoption of the flexible program.

Subd. 4. Any school district operating a flexible school year program shall enter into one contract governing the entire school year with each teacher employed in a flexible program. If individual teachers contract to teach less than a period of 175 days during a school year, each 175 days of employment accrued during any five year period after the adoption of a flexible year program shall be deemed consecutive and shall constitute a full year's employment for purposes of establishing and retaining continuing contract rights to a full school year position pursuant to sections 125.12, subdivisions 3 and 4, and 125.17, subdivisions 2 and 3. A teacher who has not been discharged or advised of a refusal to renew his contract by the applicable date, as specified in section 125.12 or 125.17, in the year in which he will complete the requisite number of days for securing a continuing contract shall have a continuing full school year contract with the district.

Subd. 5. Continuing contract rights established pursuant to this section shall not be impaired or lost by the termination of a flexible school year program.

History: 1974 c 326 s 7; 1978 c 764 s 6

120.65 ESTABLISHMENT AND APPROVAL.

The state board of education shall:

- (1) Establish standards and requirements for the qualification of school districts which may operate on a flexible school year basis;
- (2) Establish standards and evaluation criteria for flexible school year programs;
- (3) Prepare and distribute all necessary forms for application by any school district for state authorization for a flexible school year program;
- (4) Review the proposed flexible school year program of any qualified school district as to conformity to standards and the evaluation of appropriateness of priorities, workability of procedure and overall value;
- (5) Approve or disapprove proposed flexible school year programs.

History: 1974 c 326 s 8

120.66 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STATE BOARD.

Subdivision 1. The state board of education shall:

- (1) Promulgate rules necessary to the operation of sections 120.59 to 120.67;

(2) Cooperate with and provide supervision of flexible school year programs to determine compliance with the provisions of sections 120.59 to 120.67, the state board standards and qualifications, and the proposed program as submitted and approved;

(3) Provide any necessary adjustments of (a) attendance and membership computations and (b) the dates and percentages of apportionment of state aids;

(4) Consistent with the definition of "average daily membership" in section 124.17, subdivision 2, furnish the board of a district implementing a flexible school year program with a formula for computing average daily membership. This formula shall be computed so that tax levies to be made by the district, state aids to be received by the district, and any and all other formulas based upon average daily membership are not affected solely as a result of adopting this plan of instruction.

Subd. 2. Sections 120.59 to 120.67 shall not be construed to authorize the state board to require the establishment of a flexible school year program in any district in which the school board has not voted to establish, maintain, and operate such a program.

History: 1974 c 326 s 9; 1978 c 706 s 3 .

120.67 TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.

The school board of any district, with the approval of the state board of education, may terminate a flexible school year program in one or more of the schools or residential facilities for handicapped children within the district. This section shall not be construed to permit an exception to sections 120.10 or 124.19.

History: 1974 c 326 s 10

120.68 FOUR DAY SCHOOL WEEK.

The state board of education, pursuant to sections 120.59 to 120.67, shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 14 permitting districts requesting to operate a four day week to qualify for a flexible school year program.

History: 1980 c 609 art 6 s 6; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 548 art 4 s 1

120.71 MINNESOTA PUBLIC SCHOOL FEE LAW, CITATION.

Sections 120.71 to 120.76 may be cited as "The Minnesota Public School Fee Law."

History: 1974 c 561 s 1

120.72 GENERAL POLICY.

It is the policy of the state of Minnesota that public school education shall be free and no pupil shall be denied an education because of economic inability to furnish educational books and supplies necessary to complete educational requirements necessary for graduation. Any practice leading to suspension, coercion, exclusion, withholding of grades or diplomas, or discriminatory action based upon nonpayment of fees denies pupils their right to equal protection and entitled privileges. It is recognized that school boards do have the right to accept voluntary contributions and to make certain charges and to establish fees in areas considered extra curricular, noncurricular or supplementary to the requirements for the successful completion of a class or educational program. No public school board may require, except as authorized by sections 120.73 and 120.75, the payment of fees.

History: 1974 c 561 s 2

120.73 AUTHORIZED FEES.

Subdivision 1. A school board is authorized to require payment of fees in the following areas:

(a) In any program where the resultant product, in excess of minimum requirements and at the pupil's option, becomes the personal property of the pupil;

(b) Admission fees or charges for extra curricular activities, where attendance is optional;

(c) A security deposit for the return of materials, supplies, or equipment;

(d) Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel, although any pupil may provide his own if it meets reasonable requirements and standards relating to health and safety established by the school board;

(e) Items of personal use or products which a student may purchase at his own option such as student publications, class rings, annuals, and graduation announcements;

(f) Fees specifically permitted by any other statute, including but not limited to section 171.04, clause (1);

(g) Field trips considered supplementary to a district educational program;

(h) Any authorized voluntary student health and accident benefit plan;

(i) For the use of musical instruments owned or rented by the district, a reasonable rental fee not to exceed either the rental cost to the district or the annual depreciation plus the actual annual maintenance cost for each instrument;

(j) Transportation of pupils to and from extra curricular activities conducted at locations other than school, where attendance is optional;

(k) Motorcycle classroom education courses conducted outside of regular school hours; provided the charge shall not exceed the actual cost of these courses to the school district.

Subd. 2. Students may be required to furnish personal or consumable items including pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks.

Subd. 2a. Students may be required to furnish their own transportation to and from an instructional community-based employment station which is part of an approved occupational experience secondary vocational program. As an alternative, a school board may require the payment of reasonable fees for transportation to and from these instructional community-based employment stations. This subdivision shall only be applied to students who receive remuneration for their participation in these programs.

Subd. 3. Sections 120.71 to 120.76 shall not preclude the operation of a school store wherein pupils may purchase school supplies and materials.

Subd. 4. A school board may waive any such deposit or fee if any pupil or his parent or guardian is unable to pay it.

History: 1974 c 561 s 3; 1976 c 271 s 19; 1978 c 764 s 7

120.74 PROHIBITED FEES.

Subdivision 1. A school board is not authorized to charge fees in the following areas:

(a) Textbooks, workbooks, art materials, laboratory supplies, towels;

(b) Supplies necessary for participation in any instructional course except as authorized in sections 120.73 and 120.75;

(c) Field trips which are required as a part of a basic education program or course;

(d) Graduation caps, gowns, any specific form of dress necessary for any educational program, and diplomas;

(e) Instructional costs for necessary school personnel employed in any course or educational program required for graduation;

(f) Library books required to be utilized for any educational course or program;

(g) Admission fees, dues, or fees for any activity the pupil is required to attend;

(h) Any admission or examination cost for any required educational course or program;

(i) Locker rentals;

(j) Transportation of pupils (1) to and from school as authorized pursuant to section 123.39 or (2) for which state transportation aid is authorized pursuant to section 124.223.

Subd. 2. No pupil's rights or privileges, including the receipt of grades or diplomas may be denied or abridged for nonpayment of fees; but this provision shall not prohibit a school district from maintaining any action provided by law for the collection of such fees authorized by sections 120.73 and 120.75.

History: 1974 c 561 s 4; 1976 c 271 s 20

120.75 HEARING.

Subdivision 1. Prior to the initiation of any fee not authorized or prohibited by sections 120.73 and 120.74, the local school board shall hold a public hearing within the district upon three weeks published notice in the district's official newspaper. The local school board shall notify the state board of any fee it proposes to initiate under this section. If within 45 days of this notification, the state board does not disapprove the proposed fee, the local school board may initiate the proposed fee.

Subd. 2. The state board pursuant to the administrative procedures act, sections 14.01 to 14.70, and consistent with the general policy of section 120.72 shall have the power to specify further authorized and prohibited fees and to adopt rules and regulations for the purposes of sections 120.71 to 120.76.

History: 1974 c 561 s 5; 1982 c 424 s 130

120.76 POST-SECONDARY INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS.

Sections 120.71 to 120.76 shall not be construed to prohibit a school board from charging reasonable fees for goods and services provided in connection with any post-secondary instructional program, including but not limited to vocational-technical, veteran farmer cooperative training, and community education programs, and continuing education and evening school programs other than those conducted pursuant to section 124.26.

History: 1974 c 561 s 6; 1975 c 432 s 11; 1980 c 609 art 4 s 22

120.77 FUEL CONSERVATION.

The legislature finds that it is necessary to promote fuel conservation among the school districts of the state.

History: 1974 c 577 s 1

120.78 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1982 c 563 s 17]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1981 c 358 art 7 s 31]

120.80 EARLY GRADUATION.

Subdivision 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any secondary school student who has completed all required courses may, with the approval of

the student, his parent or guardian, and local school officials, graduate prior to the completion of the school year. All aid which such student, had he not graduated, would have earned for the district pursuant to section 124.212, plus that portion of the amount raised by the local tax levy which results from such transitional year students shall continue to be earned by the district.

Subd. 2. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations setting forth the standards for application for and approval of this early graduation procedure.

History: 1974 c 521 s 7; 1975 c 432 s 12; 1979 c 334 art 1 s 1

120.81 MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL COMPUTING CONSORTIUM, RECEIPTS.

Subdivision 1. Effective October 1, 1977, no funds appropriated by the state shall be transferred to or expended with or by the Minnesota educational computing consortium unless the consortium adheres to the provisions of chapters 15, 16, excepting sections 16.90 and 16.94 thereof, 16A and 43.

Subd. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, the consortium is authorized to maintain a revolving fund for all receipts derived from computer services provided by the consortium. The Minnesota educational computing consortium shall charge users of consortium facilities for on-line computer time actually used. Receipts shall be deposited in the Minnesota educational computing consortium revolving fund and are appropriated to the consortium. The consortium board shall appoint an executive director who shall be its chief administrative officer. The executive director may be in the unclassified service. All other employees are in the classified service of the state.

History: 1977 c 449 s 20; 1979 c 335 s 11

120.82 CONTRACTS.

The Minnesota educational computing consortium, created and now existing pursuant to section 471.59, its members and elementary-secondary and vocational school regional computing centers, are authorized to provide computer services to private educational institutions and to other individuals or groups in the event that MECC has computer service capabilities in excess of need and to establish and collect fees therefor. Provided, however, that the fees shall in no event be less than the cost of providing the services.

History: 1977 c 449 s 21

120.83 PURCHASE OF ANNUITIES FOR EMPLOYEES.

Subdivision 1. At the request of an employee, the consortium board may negotiate and purchase an individual annuity contract from a company licensed to do business in the state of Minnesota for an employee for retirement or other purposes and may allocate a portion of the compensation otherwise payable to the employee as salary for the purpose of paying the entire premium due or to become due under such contract. The allocation shall be made in a manner which will qualify the annuity premiums, or a portion thereof, for the benefit afforded under section 403(b) of the current Federal Internal Revenue Code or any equivalent provision of subsequent federal income tax law. The employee shall own such contract and his rights thereunder shall be nonforfeitable except for failure to pay premiums.

Subd. 2. All amounts so allocated shall be deposited in an annuity account, which is established in the state treasury. There is annually appropriated from the annuity account in the state treasury to the board all moneys deposited therein for the payment of annuity premiums when due or for other application in accordance

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with the salary agreement entered into between the employee and the board. The moneys in the annuity account in the state treasury are not subject to the budget, allotment, and encumbrance system provided for in chapter 16, and any act amendatory thereof.

History: 1979 c 335 s 12

120.84 PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

A state permanent school fund advisory committee is established to advise the department of natural resources on the management of permanent school fund land, which is held in trust for the school districts of the state. The advisory committee shall consist of the following persons or their designees: the chairpersons of the education committees of the legislature, the chairpersons of the senate committee on finance and house committee on appropriations, the commissioner of education, one superintendent from a non-metropolitan district, and one superintendent from a metropolitan area district. The school district superintendents shall be appointed by the commissioner of education.

The advisory committee shall review the policies of the department of natural resources on management of school trust fund lands and shall recommend necessary changes in policy and implementation in order to ensure provident utilization of the permanent school fund lands.

History: 1982 c 548 art 4 s 2