

CHAPTER 128A

SCHOOLS; DEAF AND SIGHT-SAVING

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128A.01 LOCATION.

The Minnesota school for the deaf and the Minnesota braille and sight-saving school shall be continued at Faribault, and shall be grouped and classed with the educational institutions of the state.

History: 1976 c 271 s 66

128A.02 TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY.

Subdivision 1. The state board of education shall be responsible for the control, management and administration of the Minnesota school for the deaf and the Minnesota braille and sight-saving school, and all the property real or personal appertaining thereto.

Subd. 2. The state board may promulgate rules regarding the operation of both schools and the individuals in attendance, and shall perform all duties necessary to provide the most beneficial and least restrictive program of education for each child handicapped by visual disability or hearing impairment.

Subd. 3. The state board may employ central administrative staffs and other personnel as necessary to provide and support programs and services in each school. The board may place the position of the residential school administrator in the unclassified service if the position meets the criteria established in section 43A.08, subdivision 1a. These schools shall be deemed to be public schools for the purposes of sections 125.03 and 125.04, and all teachers as defined in those sections who are employed at these schools shall be subject to the standards of the board of teaching and the state board of education; provided that any teacher who does not meet these standards as of July 1, 1977 shall be required to meet these standards by September 15, 1980 in order to continue in employment.

Subd. 4. The state board may enter into contracts with other public and private agencies and institutions to provide residential and building maintenance services if it determines that these services could thus be provided in a more efficient and less expensive manner. The state board may also enter into contracts with public and private agencies and institutions, school districts or combinations thereof, and educational cooperative service units to provide supplementary educational instruction and services.

Subd. 5. The state board of education may by agreement with teacher preparing institutions or accredited institutions of higher education arrange for practical experience in the Minnesota school for the deaf and the Minnesota braille and sight-saving school for practice or student teachers, or for other students engaged in fields of study which prepare professionals to provide special services to handicapped children in school programs, who have completed not less than two years of an approved program in their respective fields. These student trainees shall be provided with appropriate supervision by a teacher licensed by the board of teaching or by a professional licensed or registered in the appropriate field of special services and shall be deemed employees of the school for the deaf or the braille and sight-saving school, as applicable, for purposes of workers' compensation.

Subd. 6. The rules of the state board pursuant to this section shall establish procedures for admission to and discharge from the schools, for decisions on a child's program at the schools and for evaluation of the progress of children enrolled in the schools. These procedures shall guarantee children and their parents appropriate procedural safeguards, including a review of the placement determination made pursuant to sections 120.17 and 128A.05, and the right to participate in educational program decisions. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14.02, proceedings concerning admission to and discharge from the schools, a child's program at the schools and a child's progress at the schools shall not be deemed to be contested cases subject to sections 14.01 to 14.70 but shall be governed instead by the rules of the state board pursuant to this section.

History: 1975 c 271 s 6; 1976 c 222 s 27; 1976 c 271 s 67; 1977 c 447 art 3 s 10,11; 1977 c 449 s 13; 1978 c 764 s 95,96; 1979 c 334 art 3 s 17; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 560 s 46

128A.03 ADVISORY COUNCILS.

Subdivision 1. The state board of education shall appoint an advisory council on the Minnesota school for the deaf and an advisory council on the Minnesota braille and sight-saving school. These councils shall advise the state board on policies pertaining to the control, management, and administration of these schools.

Subd. 2. Each advisory council shall consist of eight members. The members shall be representative of the various geographic regions of the state, shall include parents or guardians of visually disabled or hearing impaired children, shall include a staff representative of the applicable school, and shall include two representatives from groups representing the interests of visually disabled or hearing impaired individuals, as applicable. All members shall have knowledge, experience and interest in the problems of visually disabled or hearing impaired children.

Subd. 3. The councils shall expire and the terms, compensation and removal of members shall be as provided in section 15.059.

History: 1976 c 271 s 68; 1978 c 764 s 97

128A.04 GIFTS AND CONVEYANCES.

The state board of education shall take and hold in trust all lands or other property granted, given, devised, or conveyed to the schools, or to either of them. All moneys and securities so received and all income from this property shall be deposited in the state treasury in compliance with section 16A.275, subject to the order of the state board.

History: 1976 c 271 s 69; 1980 c 509 s 38

128A.05 ATTENDANCE.

Subdivision 1. Any individual who is between four and 21 years of age and who is deaf or hard of hearing shall be entitled to attend the school for the deaf if it is determined pursuant to the provisions of section 120.17, that the nature or severity of the hearing impairment is such that education in regular or special education classes provided for by the school district of residence cannot be achieved satisfactorily and that attendance at the school would be the least restrictive alternative for that individual. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as a limitation on the attendance at this school of children who have other handicaps in addition to being deaf or hard of hearing.

Subd. 2. Any individual who is between four and 21 years of age and who is blind or partially seeing shall be entitled to attend the braille and sight-saving

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school if it is determined pursuant to the provisions of section 120.17, that the nature or severity of the visual impairment is such that education in regular or special education classes provided for by the school district of residence cannot be achieved satisfactorily and that attendance at the school would be the least restrictive alternative for that individual. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as a limitation on the attendance at this school of children who have other handicaps in addition to being blind or partially seeing.

Subd. 3. Attendance at the school for the deaf and the braille and sight-saving schools shall be subject to the compulsory attendance provisions of section 120.10 except that attendance may be excused pursuant to that section by the commissioner of education or his designee. Any person failing to comply with the provisions of section 120.10 shall be subject to the provisions of section 120.12. The superintendent of the applicable school shall exercise the duties imposed by section 120.12. Attendance at the school for the deaf or the braille and sight-saving school shall fulfill the mandatory requirements of section 120.17.

History: 1976 c 271 s 70

128A.06 [Repealed, 1978 c 764 s 143]

128A.07 EXPENSE OF PUPILS.

Any individual attending the school for the deaf or the braille and sight-saving school shall be provided, by the person legally liable for his support, with sufficient funds to furnish him with proper clothing, postage, and necessary incidental expenses. If the person legally liable for his support is unable to make these provisions for him, the county welfare board of the county of which he is a resident shall pay to the superintendent of the school in which he is a pupil a sum to be fixed by the commissioner of education pursuant to rules promulgated by the state board. In addition, the school district of residence shall be liable for the actual transportation of the pupil to and from the school in which he is a pupil.

Applicants from other states who can benefit by being enrolled may be accepted so long as acceptance does not preclude acceptance of an eligible Minnesota resident. The commissioner of education shall obtain reimbursement from other states for the costs incurred in connection with nonresidents accepted and may contract with the appropriate authorities of other states to effect reimbursement. All money received from other states shall be paid to the state treasurer and placed in the general fund.

History: 1976 c 271 s 72; 1977 c 449 s 15

128A.08 [Repealed, 1977 c 449 s 23]