

## CHAPTER 129B

### QUALITY EDUCATION COUNCIL; PROGRAMS

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#### COUNCIL ON QUALITY EDUCATION

##### 129B.01 ESTABLISHMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Membership, terms.** There is hereby created a council on quality education consisting of 19 persons. The members of such council shall be appointed as follows:

- (1) One member shall be appointed by the Minnesota education association;
- (2) One member shall be appointed by the Minnesota federation of teachers;
- (3) One member shall be appointed by the Minnesota school board association;
- (4) One member shall be appointed by the Minnesota state advisory council for vocational education;
- (5) One member shall be appointed by the Minnesota state advisory council for special education;
- (6) One member shall be appointed by the state university board;
- (7) One member shall be appointed by the state board for community colleges;
- (8) One member shall be appointed by the regents of the University of Minnesota;
- (9) One member shall be appointed by the private college council;
- (10) One member from each congressional district and two members at large, shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, none of whom shall be officers, employees or board members of state educational institutions, departments, agencies or boards.

Subd. 2. **Terms, compensation, removal, vacancies.** The membership terms, compensation, removal of members and filling of vacancies shall be as provided for in section 15.0575.

**History:** *Ex1971 c 31 art 15 s 1; 1973 c 349 s 2; 1975 c 321 s 2; 1975 c 432 s 5; 1976 c 134 s 3; 1979 c 334 art 7 s 1*

##### 129B.02 PURPOSE.

The legislature of the state of Minnesota expresses concern over the future of elementary and secondary education in this state, its ability to meet the educational needs of the public school students, the professional growth and satisfaction of school staffs, the effectiveness and efficiency of present schools and their learning processes, continuing pupil unit cost escalation and the resulting financial crisis which this brings about. New approaches to the learning process, better utilization of professional staff and community resources, different requirements as to course offerings, course content, grading, graduation and school attendance must be researched and developed. It is believed that revised programs, innovations, new attitudes about learning and the public schools' responsibilities can be

effectively achieved if such research and development are performed by the council on quality education and at the local school level by the school's staff and with involvement by the students and their community. Although funds spent now for such purposes can produce substantial educational and cost benefits in the future, such capital type funds are seldom available within any single school district's budget.

The purpose of the council on quality education is, therefore, to encourage, promote, aid, and perform research and development for quality education in Minnesota elementary and secondary schools, to evaluate the results of significant innovative programs and to disseminate information about these programs throughout the state.

To these ends, the council through the state board of education shall establish a venture fund from which grants or loans may be made in support of research and development programs relating to the problems and objectives heretofore described which shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) Effective utilization of community personnel and resources.
- (2) Developing model personnel policies and procedures, and new staffing concepts such as differentiated staffing.
- (3) Assessment and evaluation of education programs.
- (4) Developing a management and unit of instructional objectives design which will provide accountability by relating time and dollars to the amount of learning produced.
- (5) Determining responsibilities to be assumed by the schools exclusively or concurrently with other agencies or individuals.
- (6) Effective dissemination of educational information.
- (7) Developing new knowledge about learning and teaching.
- (8) Developing model educational programs as alternatives to existing educational practices and curricula.
- (9) Model programs and innovations to increase equality of educational opportunities.
- (10) Research and testing of new concepts of educational efficiency, effectiveness and cost benefits.
- (11) Comprehensive interdisciplinary programs in health education and comprehensive programs designed to coordinate and integrate the delivery of pupil support services.

The council shall not be limited to supporting innovations, programs or procedures supplementary to existing school structures and programs but may assist or research entirely new concepts such as open schools, informal schools and the like. It is the legislature's intent that any supported program shall hold promise of both educational and cost benefits and that the costs and improvements in learning effectiveness introduced thereby shall be measured and related.

The council may also review literature and other information about innovative programs in Minnesota and other states and disseminate the results of this research throughout the state. The council may identify ideas for innovative programs in the course of this research and solicit proposals from school boards for grants for such programs; provided not to exceed ten percent of the funds appropriated to the venture fund in any year may be expended to fund such research and programs.

The council shall make a report by November 15 of each even numbered year to the legislature concerning all research and all proposals received and the dispositions made thereof by the council and the state board of education.

**History:** *Ex1971 c 31 art 15 s 2; 1974 c 406 s 55; 1977 c 404 s 1; 1979 c 334 art 7 s 2*

**129B.03 PROGRAMS FOR HANDICAPPED ADULTS.**

Programs funded by the council on quality education may include programs designed to benefit handicapped adults.

**History:** 1981 c 358 art 6 s 1

**129B.04 PROPOSALS.**

Subdivision 1. **Requirements.** The board of any local school district or any group of such boards may develop a proposal for a grant or loan in support of a research and development program of the kind described in section 129B.02. Every such proposal shall include:

(1) a statement of the objectives of the program, and the procedures for achieving the objectives;

(2) a description of the evaluation procedures for measuring the effectiveness of the program;

(3) provision for such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as are necessary to assure proper disbursement and accounting for funds paid to the applicant;

(4) provision for administration of the program by the local school district, or in cooperation with other school districts, educational institutions, or local agencies under the supervision of the local school district; and

(5) a description of the involvement of local school staff, students, and members of the community in planning and implementing the program.

Subd. 2. **Procedure.** Every program proposal shall be submitted to the council created by section 129B.01, not less than three months before the planned commencement of the program. The council shall recommend approval or disapproval, or shall modify and then recommend such modification with respect to every proposal submitted to it. The council shall also recommend the amount and type of grant to be made in support of the proposed program in the light of the then currently available moneys in the venture fund, which information shall be provided to the council by the state board of education. The council shall also recommend what rules and regulations, if any, shall be suspended or modified in order to implement the proposal. Only such proposals as are recommended for approval shall be transmitted by the council to the state board, and all such proposals shall be approved and funded from the venture fund by the state board as recommended by the council unless the state board, within 30 days of receipt of a proposal from the council, shall make other disposition of the proposal by formal board action. One half of each grant recommended by the council and funded by the state board may be deemed an interest free loan to be repaid over a five year period.

**History:** Ex1971 c 31 art 15 s 3; 1974 c 553 s 1

**129B.05 STATE BOARD AND COMMISSIONER.**

The state board of education shall develop and promulgate such additional recommendatory guidelines as may be appropriate for the furtherance of sections 129B.01 to 129B.05 and the development and implementation of the programs contemplated herein, for its benefit and the benefit of the council and applicants. The commissioner of education shall make available to the council at its request such staff as the council deems necessary to perform its functions. The council may also employ or contract for the services of outside consultants, and as much of the annual appropriation to the state department of education, made for the purposes of sections 129B.01 to 129B.05 as is necessary, shall be made available to the council for this purpose.

**History:** Ex1971 c 31 art 15 s 4; 1976 c 134 s 4; 1977 c 404 s 2

**EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY EDUCATION ACT****129B.06 CITATION.**

Sections 129B.06 to 129B.09 may be cited as "The Early Childhood and Family Education Act".

**History:** 1979 c 334 art 7 s 3

**129B.07 PURPOSE.**

The purposes of sections 129B.06 to 129B.09 are: (a) to strengthen families, (b) to help parents to provide for their children's learning and development, and (c) to help young children to develop their physical, mental and social potentials.

**History:** 1979 c 334 art 7 s 4

**129B.08 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. As used in sections 129B.06 to 129B.09, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Early childhood" means the period of life before kindergarten and before age six.

Subd. 3. "Early childhood and family education programs" may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Educational programs for parents on the physical, mental and emotional development of children and on the development of parenthood skills;

(b) Programs for the parents or guardians of children which are designed to strengthen the family unit and to assist the parents or guardians in providing sound early childhood learning and development;

(c) Libraries of books, toys and other educational materials which may be borrowed for home use;

(d) Activities designed to detect children's physical, mental, emotional or behavioral problems that are causing or might cause learning problems. Should the need for special help be found, the family shall be referred to an appropriate person or agency, but this program shall not pay treatment costs;

(e) Education for parenthood programs in secondary schools to increase the adolescent's awareness of the social, educational and health needs of children and of the role of parents in fostering a child's development;

(f) In-center activities;

(g) Home activity kits; and

(h) Community and resource information and referrals.

**History:** 1979 c 334 art 7 s 5; 1981 c 358 art 6 s 2

**129B.09 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** The school board of any district, however organized, which receives early childhood and family education moneys from the council on quality education shall provide those services in one elementary school attendance area, or an area within the district, if the council deems the area to be appropriate. The council on quality education shall prescribe the form and manner of application for the programs and shall select the grant recipients. These programs shall be as equally distributed as possible among districts in cities of the first class, in suburbs, and outside the seven county metropolitan area.

Subd. 2. **Program accounts.** A district providing early childhood and family education programs shall establish and maintain a separate account for the receipt and disbursement of all funds related to the programs.

Subd. 3. **Participants' fees.** A district may charge reasonable fees for early childhood and family education services; however a district shall waive the charge or fee if any participant is unable to pay it.

Subd. 4. **Additional funding.** A school district providing early childhood and family education programs may receive funds for the programs from other governmental agencies and from private sources, including any state or federal funds available for community education or parent education.

Subd. 5. **Federal grants.** Any district which has submitted a proposal to the council on quality education for an early childhood and family education program and has been denied funding for the program is encouraged to apply to the department of education for a grant for the program pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Title 4C, as amended.

Subd. 6. **Program coordination.** A district providing early childhood and family education services is strongly encouraged to coordinate this programming with related services provided in the district by other governmental agencies and may develop cooperative programs with nonprofit agencies. State government agencies shall cooperate with a school district in these coordination efforts. A district which provides early childhood and family education programs but does not coordinate its efforts with those of other governmental agencies shall submit an explanatory report to the commissioner of education within one year after the implementation of its programs and each year thereafter in which such coordination is not established.

Subd. 7. **Advisory councils.** The school board of a district providing early childhood and family education programs shall appoint an advisory council. Council members shall be selected from the school attendance area in which the programs are provided. A majority of the members shall be parents participating in the local program. The local advisory council shall assist the education board in the development, coordination, supervision and review of early childhood and family education services in the area and shall suggest priorities for child learning and development services in the community. The council shall report to the school board and the district community education advisory council, if that council has been established in the district.

Subd. 8. **Advisory task force on early childhood and family education.** The council on quality education shall appoint an advisory task force on early childhood and family education programs. The advisory task force shall be composed of parents of young children and persons knowledgeable in the fields of health, education and welfare. A majority of the task force shall be parents of young children. The advisory task force shall advise the council in the administration of the early childhood and family education programs. The terms, compensation and removal of members shall be governed by the provisions of section 15.059, subdivision 6. The task force shall expire June 30, 1983.

Subd. 9. **Personnel.** A school board may employ and discharge personnel necessary for its early childhood and family education programs. All professional early childhood and family education personnel shall have the qualifications required by the council on quality education and the employing school district.

Subd. 10. **Voluntary participation.** Participation by parents and children in early childhood and family education programs shall be voluntary and shall not preclude participation in other state or local programs. To the extent possible, each school district providing early childhood and family education programs shall seek the participation of minority and economically disadvantaged persons in the same proportion as these groups are represented in the area served by the program. Upon request, the school districts shall report on the success of these efforts to the council on quality education. No school district shall discriminate in providing early childhood and family education programs on the basis of race,

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religion, sex or ethnic background, and no programs shall be used in whole or in part for religious worship or instruction.

Subd. 11. **State board of education.** The state board of education shall:

- (a) Annually review district early childhood and family education programs;
- (b) Apply for funds which are, or may become, available under federal programs pertaining to early childhood and family education, including funds for administration, demonstration projects, training, technical assistance, planning, and evaluation;
- (c) Encourage cooperation in the delivery of services by districts operating early childhood and family education programs;
- (d) Inform the public about early childhood development services;
- (e) Provide professional and technical assistance to school districts providing early childhood and family education programs.

Subd. 12. **Negotiated grants.** For the 1981-1982 and 1982-1983 school years the council on quality education may fund up to 36 early childhood and family education programs according to the negotiated grants procedure in sections 129B.01 to 129B.05.

**History:** 1979 c 334 art 7 s 6; 1980 c 609 art 4 s 1,2,2; 1981 c 358 art 6 s 3-5