

CHAPTER 123

SCHOOL DISTRICTS; POWERS AND DUTIES; ECSUS

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123.12 BOARDS OF COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. The board shall submit to the annual meeting an estimate of the expenses of the district for the coming year for a school term as determined by the board and for such other specified purposes as the board may deem proper. If such meeting shall fail to vote a sufficient tax to maintain the district for such time, the board shall levy such tax pursuant to and within the limitations of sections 124.226, 124.2716, 124.91, 124.912, 124.914, 124.916, and 124.918; but no board shall expend any money or incur any liability for any purpose beyond the sum appropriated by vote of the district for such purpose, or levied by the board pursuant to this subdivision, or on hand and applicable thereto.

[For text of subs 9 and 14, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 212 art 4 s 64

123.33 BOARDS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2a. **School board member training.** A member must receive training in school finance and management developed in consultation with the Minnesota school boards association and consistent with section 121.919. The school boards association shall make available to each newly elected school board member training in school finance and management consistent with section 121.919 within 180 days of that member taking office. The program shall be developed in consultation with the department of children, families, and learning and appropriate representatives of higher education.

[For text of subs 3 to 12, see M.S.1994]

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13

123.34 OFFICERS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

[For text of subs 1 to 8, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 9. **Superintendent.** All districts maintaining a classified secondary school shall employ a superintendent who shall be an ex officio nonvoting member of the school board. The authority for selection and employment of a superintendent shall be vested in the school board in all cases. An individual employed by a school board as a superintendent shall have an initial employment contract for a period of time no longer than three years from the date of

employment. Any subsequent employment contract must not exceed a period of three years. A school board, at its discretion, may or may not renew an employment contract. A school board shall not, by action or inaction, extend the duration of an existing employment contract. Beginning 365 days prior to the expiration date of an existing employment contract, a school board may negotiate and enter into a subsequent employment contract to take effect upon the expiration of the existing contract. A subsequent contract shall be contingent upon the employee completing the terms of an existing contract. If a contract between a school board and a superintendent is terminated prior to the date specified in the contract, the school board may not enter into another superintendent contract with that same individual that has a term that extends beyond the date specified in the terminated contract. A school board may terminate a superintendent during the term of an employment contract for any of the grounds specified in section 125.12, subdivision 6 or 8. A superintendent shall not rely upon an employment contract with a school board to assert any other continuing contract rights in the position of superintendent under section 125.12. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 122.532, 122.541, 125.12, subdivision 6a or 6b, or any other law to the contrary, no individual shall have a right to employment as a superintendent based on order of employment in any district. If two or more school districts enter into an agreement for the purchase or sharing of the services of a superintendent, the contracting districts have the absolute right to select one of the individuals employed to serve as superintendent in one of the contracting districts and no individual has a right to employment as the superintendent to provide all or part of the services based on order of employment in a contracting district. The superintendent of a district shall perform the following:

- (1) visit and supervise the schools in the district, report and make recommendations about their condition when advisable or on request by the board;
- (2) recommend to the board employment and dismissal of teachers;
- (3) superintend school grading practices and examinations for promotions;
- (4) make reports required by the commissioner of children, families, and learning; and
- (5) perform other duties prescribed by the board.

Subd. 9a. Disclose past buyouts or contract is void. (a) For the purposes of paragraph (b), a "buyout agreement" is any agreement under which a person employed as a superintendent left the position before the term of the contract was over and received a sum of money, something else of value, or the right to something of value for some purpose other than performing the services of a superintendent.

(b) Before a person may enter into a superintendent's contract with a school board, the candidate shall disclose in writing the existence and terms of any previous buyout agreement, including amounts and the purpose for the payments, relating to a superintendent's contract with another school board. A disclosure made under this paragraph is public data.

(c) The superintendent's contract of a person who fails to make a timely disclosure under paragraph (b) is void.

[For text of subd 10, see M.S.1994]

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 19; art 16 s 13*

NOTE: Subdivision 9a, as added by Laws 1995, First Special Session chapter 3, article 9, section 19, applies to contracts to take effect on or after July 1, 1995. See Laws 1995, First Special Session chapter 3, article 9, section 43.

123.35 GENERAL POWERS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

[For text of subs 1 to 8c, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 9. The board may establish and maintain one or more kindergartens for the instruction of children and after July 1, 1974, shall provide kindergarten instruction for all eligible children, either in the district or in another district. All children to be eligible for kindergarten must be at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences. In addition all children selected under an early admissions policy established by the school board may be admitted. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school district from establishing head start, prekindergarten, or nursery school classes for children below kindergarten age. Any school board with evidence that providing kindergar-

ten will cause an extraordinary hardship on the school district may apply to the commissioner of children, families, and learning for an exception.

[For text of subs 9a to 19a, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 19b. Withdrawing from cooperative. If a school district withdraws from a cooperative unit defined in paragraph (d), the distribution of assets and assignment of liabilities to the withdrawing district shall be determined according to this subdivision.

(a) The withdrawing district remains responsible for its share of debt incurred by the cooperative unit according to subdivision 19a. The school district and cooperative unit may mutually agree, through a board resolution by each, to terms and conditions of the distribution of assets and the assignment of liabilities.

(b) If the cooperative unit and the school district cannot agree on the terms and conditions, the commissioner of children, families, and learning shall resolve the dispute by determining the district's proportionate share of assets and liabilities based on the district's enrollment, financial contribution, usage, or other factor or combination of factors determined appropriate by the commissioner. The assets shall be disbursed to the withdrawing district in a manner that minimizes financial disruption to the cooperative unit.

(c) Assets related to an insurance pool shall not be disbursed to a member district under paragraph (b).

(d) For the purposes of this section, a cooperative unit is:

- (1) an education district organized under sections 122.91 to 122.95;
- (2) a cooperative vocational center organized under section 123.351;
- (3) an intermediate district organized under chapter 136D;
- (4) a service cooperative organized under section 123.582; or
- (5) a regional management information center organized under section 121.935 or as a joint powers district according to section 471.59.

[For text of subd 20, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 21. Appeal to commissioner. If a cooperative unit as defined in subdivision 19b, paragraph (d), denies membership in the unit to a school district, the school district may appeal to the commissioner of children, families, and learning. The commissioner may require the cooperative unit to grant the district membership.

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 20; art 16 s 13

123.351 COOPERATIVE CENTERS FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. Establishment. Two or more independent school districts may enter into an agreement to establish a cooperative center to provide for vocational education and other educational services upon the vote of a majority of the full membership of each of the boards of the districts entering into the agreement. The agreement may also provide for membership by cities, counties, and other governmental units as defined in section 471.59. When a resolution approving this action has been adopted by the board of a district, the resolution shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. If a petition for referendum on the question of the district entering into the agreement, containing signatures of qualified voters of the district equal to five percent of the number of voters at the last school district general election, is filed with the clerk of the board within 60 days after publication of the resolution, the board shall not enter into the agreement until the question has been submitted to the voters of the district at a special election. This election shall be conducted and canvassed in the same manner as school district general elections. If a majority of the total number of votes cast on the question within the district is in favor of the proposition, the board may enter into an agreement to establish the center for purposes described in this section.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 3. Governing board. (a) The center shall be operated by a center board of not less than five members which shall consist of members from school boards of each of the partici-

pating school districts within the center and member cities, counties, and other governmental units, appointed by their respective boards. Each participating school district shall have at least one member on the board. The board shall choose an administrative officer to administer board policy and directives who shall serve as an ex officio member of the board but shall not have a vote.

(b) The terms of office of the first members of the board shall be determined by lot as follows: one-third of the members for one year, one-third for two years, and the remainder for three years, all terms to expire on June 30 of the appropriate year; provided that if the number of members is not evenly divisible by three, the membership will be as evenly distributed as possible among one, two and three year terms with the remaining members serving the three year term. Thereafter the terms shall be for three years commencing on July 1 of each year. If a vacancy occurs on the center board, it shall be filled by the appropriate school board within 90 days. A person appointed to the center board shall qualify as a board member by filing with the chair a written certificate of appointment from the appointing school board.

(c) The first meeting of a center board shall be at a time mutually agreed upon by board members. At this meeting, the center board shall choose its officers and conduct any other necessary organizational business. Thereafter the center board shall meet on the first of July of each year or as soon thereafter as practicable pursuant to notice sent to all center board members by the chief executive officer of the center.

(d) The officers of the center board shall be a chair, vice-chair, clerk and treasurer, no two of whom when possible shall be from the same school district. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the center board except in the chair's absence the vice-chair shall preside. The clerk shall keep a complete record of the minutes of each meeting and the treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the center. Insofar as applicable, sections 123.33 and 123.34, shall apply to the board and officers of the center.

(e) Each participating school district shall have equal voting power with at least one vote. A majority of the center board shall be a quorum. Any motion other than adjournment shall pass only upon receiving a majority of the votes of the entire center board.

Subd. 4. Powers and duties. (a) The center board shall have the general charge of the business of the center and the ownership of facilities. Where applicable, section 123.36, shall apply. The center board may not issue bonds in its behalf. Each participating district may issue its bonds for the purpose of acquisition and betterment of center facilities in the amount certified by the center board to such participating district in accordance with chapter 475.

(b) The center board (1) may furnish vocational offerings to any eligible person residing in any participating district; (2) may provide special education for the handicapped and disadvantaged; and (3) may provide any other educational programs or services defined in section 123.582, subdivisions 7 and 8, agreed upon by the participating members. Academic offerings shall be provided only under the direction of properly licensed academic supervisory personnel.

(c) In accordance with subdivision 5, clause (b), the center board shall certify to each participating district the amount of funds assessed to the district as its proportionate share required for the conduct of the educational programs, payment of indebtedness, and all other proper expenses of the center.

(d) The center board shall employ and contract with necessary qualified teachers and administrators and may discharge the same for cause pursuant to section 125.12. The authority for selection and employment of a director shall be vested in the center board. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 125.12, subdivision 6a or 6b, no individual shall have a right to employment as a director based on seniority or order of employment by the center. The board may employ and discharge other necessary employees and may contract for other services deemed necessary.

(e) The center board may provide an educational program for secondary and adult vocational phases of instruction. The high school phase of its educational program shall be offered as a component of the comprehensive curriculum offered by each of the participating school districts. Graduation shall be from the student's resident high school district. Insofar as applicable, sections 123.35 to 123.40, shall apply.

(f) The center board may prescribe rates of tuition for attendance in its programs by adults and nonmember district secondary students.

Subd. 5. Financing. (a) Any center board established pursuant to this section is a public corporation and agency and may receive and disburse federal, state, and local funds made available to it. No participating school district or member shall have any additional individual liability for the debts or obligations of the center except that assessment which has been certified as its proportionate share in accordance with subdivision 5, clause (b) and subdivision 4, clauses (a) and (c). A member of the center board shall have such liability as is applicable to a member of an independent school district board. Any property, real or personal, acquired or owned by the center board for its purposes shall be exempt from taxation by the state or any of its political subdivisions.

(b) The center board may, in each year, for the purpose of paying any administrative, planning, operating, or capital expenses incurred or to be incurred, assess and certify to each participating school district its proportionate share of any and all expenses. This share shall be based upon an equitable distribution formula agreed upon by the participating districts. Each participating district shall remit its assessment to the center board within 30 days after receipt. The assessments shall be paid within the maximum levy limitations of each participating district.

[For text of subs 6 to 10, see M.S.1994]

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 21-24*

123.3514 POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS ACT.

[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 4. Authorization; notification. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, an 11th or 12th grade pupil enrolled in a public school or an American Indian-controlled tribal contract or grant school eligible for aid under section 124.86, except a foreign exchange pupil enrolled in a district under a cultural exchange program, may apply to an eligible institution, as defined in subdivision 3, to enroll in nonsectarian courses offered by that post-secondary institution. If an institution accepts a secondary pupil for enrollment under this section, the institution shall send written notice to the pupil, the pupil's school district, and the commissioner of children, families, and learning within ten days of acceptance. The notice shall indicate the course and hours of enrollment of that pupil. If the pupil enrolls in a course for post-secondary credit, the institution shall notify the pupil about payment in the customary manner used by the institution.

Subd. 4a. Counseling. To the extent possible, the school district shall provide counseling services to pupils and their parents or guardian before the pupils enroll in courses under this section to ensure that the pupils and their parents or guardian are fully aware of the risks and possible consequences of enrolling in post-secondary courses. The district shall provide information on the program including who may enroll, what institutions and courses are eligible for participation, the decision-making process for granting academic credits, financial arrangements for tuition, books and materials, eligibility criteria for transportation aid, available support services, the need to arrange an appropriate schedule, consequences of failing or not completing a course in which the pupil enrolls, the effect of enrolling in this program on the pupil's ability to complete the required high school graduation requirements, and the academic and social responsibilities that must be assumed by the pupils and their parents or guardian. The person providing counseling shall encourage pupils and their parents or guardian to also use available counseling services at the post-secondary institutions before the quarter or semester of enrollment to ensure that anticipated plans are appropriate.

Prior to enrolling in a course, the pupil and the pupil's parents or guardian must sign a form that must be provided by the district and may be obtained from a post-secondary institution stating that they have received the information specified in this subdivision and that they understand the responsibilities that must be assumed in enrolling in this program. The department of children, families, and learning shall, upon request, provide technical assistance to a district in developing appropriate forms and counseling guidelines.

[For text of subs 4b and 4c, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 4d. **Enrollment priority.** A post-secondary institution shall give priority to its post-secondary students when enrolling 11th and 12th grade pupils in its courses. A post-secondary institution may provide information about its programs to a secondary school or to a pupil or parent, but it may not advertise or otherwise recruit or solicit the participation on financial grounds, secondary pupils to enroll in its programs. An institution shall not enroll secondary pupils, for post-secondary enrollment options purposes, in remedial, developmental, or other courses that are not college level. Once a pupil has been enrolled in a post-secondary course under this section, the pupil shall not be displaced by another student.

[For text of subs 4e and 5, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 6. **Financial arrangements.** For a pupil enrolled in a course under this section, the department of children, families, and learning shall make payments according to this subdivision for courses that were taken for secondary credit.

The department shall not make payments to a school district or post-secondary institution for a course taken for post-secondary credit only. The department shall not make payments to a post-secondary institution for a course from which a student officially withdraws during the first 14 days of the quarter or semester.

A post-secondary institution shall receive the following:

(1) for an institution granting quarter credit, the reimbursement per credit hour shall be an amount equal to 88 percent of the product of the formula allowance, multiplied by 1.3, and divided by 45; or

(2) for an institution granting semester credit, the reimbursement per credit hour shall be an amount equal to 88 percent of the product of the general revenue formula allowance, multiplied by 1.3, and divided by 30.

The department of children, families, and learning shall pay to each post-secondary institution 100 percent of the amount in clause (1) or (2) within 30 days of receiving initial enrollment information each quarter or semester. If changes in enrollment occur during a quarter or semester, the change shall be reported by the post-secondary institution at the time the enrollment information for the succeeding quarter or semester is submitted. At any time the department of children, families, and learning notifies a post-secondary institution that an overpayment has been made, the institution shall promptly remit the amount due.

[For text of subd 6a, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 6b. **Financial arrangements, pupils age 21 or over.** For a pupil enrolled in a course according to this section, the department of children, families, and learning shall make payments according to this subdivision for courses taken to fulfill high school graduation requirements by pupils eligible for adult high school graduation aid.

The department must not make payments to a school district or post-secondary institution for a course taken for post-secondary credit only. The department shall not make payments to a post-secondary institution for a course from which a student officially withdraws during the first 14 days of the quarter or semester.

A post-secondary institution shall receive the following:

(1) for an institution granting quarter credit, the reimbursement per credit hour shall be an amount equal to 88 percent of the product of the formula allowance, multiplied by 1.3, and divided by 45; or

(2) for an institution granting semester credit, the reimbursement per credit hour shall be an amount equal to 88 percent of the product of the general revenue formula allowance multiplied by 1.3, and divided by 30.

The department of children, families, and learning shall pay to each post-secondary institution 100 percent of the amount in clause (1) or (2) within 30 days of receiving initial enrollment information each quarter or semester. If changes in enrollment occur during a quarter or semester, the change shall be reported by the post-secondary institution at the time the enrollment information for the succeeding quarter or semester is submitted. At any time the department of children, families, and learning notifies a post-secondary institution that an overpayment has been made, the institution shall promptly remit the amount due.

A school district shall receive:

(1) for a pupil who is not enrolled in classes at a secondary program, 12 percent of the general education formula allowance times .65, times 1.3; or

(2) for a pupil who attends classes at a secondary program part time, the general education formula allowance times .65, times 1.3, times the ratio of the total number of hours the pupil is in membership for courses taken by the pupil for credit to 1020 hours.

Subd. 6c. Financial arrangements for courses provided according to agreements.

(a) The agreement between a school board and the governing body of a public post-secondary system or private post-secondary institution shall set forth the payment amounts and arrangements, if any, from the school board to the post-secondary institution. No payments shall be made by the department of children, families, and learning according to subdivision 6 or 6b. For the purpose of computing state aids for a school district, a pupil enrolled according to subdivision 4e shall be counted in the average daily membership of the school district as though the pupil were enrolled in a secondary course that is not offered in connection with an agreement. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit a public post-secondary system or private post-secondary institution from receiving additional state funding that may be available under any other law.

(b) If a course is provided under subdivision 4e, offered at a secondary school, and taught by a secondary teacher, the post-secondary system or institution must not require a payment from the school board that exceeds the cost to the post-secondary institution that is directly attributable to providing that course.

Subd. 7. Fees; textbooks; materials. A post-secondary institution that receives reimbursement for a pupil under subdivision 6 may not charge that pupil for fees, textbooks, materials, support services as defined in section 135A.16, or other necessary costs of the course or program in which the pupil is enrolled if the charge would be prohibited under section 120.74, except for equipment purchased by the pupil that becomes the property of the pupil. An institution may require the pupil to pay for fees, textbooks, and materials for a course taken for post-secondary credit.

[For text of subd 7a, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 7b. Support services. The post-secondary institution shall inform the pupil of the support services available at that institution. If the student has an individual education plan that provides general education support and accommodations, the post-secondary institution shall provide the support services as described in the student's IEP and the post-secondary institution and the district shall negotiate an agreement on the rate to be charged for the services. Nothing in this section shall prevent the student from enrolling while the agreement is being developed. If the parties cannot agree on the services, on application of either party, the commissioner shall resolve the dispute in the same manner the commissioner fixes tuition rates under section 120.17, subdivision 4. The commissioner's decision is binding on both parties.

Subd. 8. Transportation. A parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in a course for secondary credit may apply to the pupil's district of residence for reimbursement for transporting the pupil between the secondary school in which the pupil is enrolled or the pupil's home and the post-secondary institution that the pupil attends. The commissioner shall establish guidelines for providing state aid to districts to reimburse the parent or guardian for the necessary transportation costs, which shall be based on financial need. The reimbursement may not exceed the pupil's actual cost of transportation or 15 cents per mile traveled, whichever is less. Reimbursement may not be paid for more than 250 miles per week. However, if the nearest post-secondary institution is more than 25 miles from the pupil's resident secondary school, the weekly reimbursement may not exceed the reimbursement rate per mile times the actual distance between the secondary school or the pupil's home and the nearest post-secondary institution times ten. The state shall pay aid to the district according to the guidelines established under this subdivision. Chapter 14 does not apply to the guidelines.

[For text of subs 9 to 11a, see M.S.1994]

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 2 s 2; art 3 s 5,6; art 7 s 2; art 16 s 13

123.36 SCHOOLHOUSES AND SITES; ACCESS FOR NONCURRICULAR PURPOSES.

[For text of subs 1 to 11, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 13. **Proceeds of sale or exchange.** Proceeds of the sale or exchange of school buildings or real property of the school district shall be used as provided in this subdivision.

(a) In districts with outstanding bonds, the proceeds of the sale or exchange shall first be deposited in the debt retirement fund of the district in an amount sufficient to meet when due that percentage of the principal and interest payments for outstanding bonds which is ascribable to the payment of expenses necessary and incidental to the construction or purchase of the particular building or property which is sold.

(b) After satisfying the requirements of paragraph (a), a district with outstanding bonds may deposit proceeds of the sale or exchange in its capital expenditure fund if the amount deposited is used for the following:

(1) for expenditures for the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls, if the method for cleanup is approved by the department of children, families, and learning;

(2) for capital expenditures for the betterment, as defined in section 475.51, subdivision 8, of district-owned school buildings; or

(3) to replace the building or property sold.

(c) In a district with outstanding bonds, the amount of the proceeds of the sale or exchange remaining after the application of paragraphs (a) and (b), which is sufficient to meet when due that percentage of the principal and interest payments for the district's outstanding bonds which is not governed by paragraph (a), shall be deposited in the debt retirement fund.

(d) Any proceeds of the sale or exchange remaining in districts with outstanding bonds after the application of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), and all proceeds of the sale or exchange in districts without outstanding bonds shall be deposited in the capital expenditure fund of the district.

(e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c), a district with outstanding bonds may deposit in its capital expenditure fund and use for any lawful capital expenditure without the reduction of any levy limitation the same percentage of the proceeds of the sale or exchange of a building or property as the percentage of the initial cost of purchasing or constructing the building or property which was paid using revenue from the capital expenditure fund.

[For text of subs 14 and 15, see M.S.1994]

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*

123.39 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TRANSPORTATION.

Subdivision 1. The board may provide for the transportation of pupils to and from school and for any other purpose. The board may also provide for the transportation of pupils to schools in other districts for grades and departments not maintained in the district, including high school, at the expense of the district, when funds are available therefor and if agreeable to the district to which it is proposed to transport the pupils, for the whole or a part of the school year, as it may deem advisable, and subject to its rules. In any school district, the board shall arrange for the attendance of all pupils living two miles or more from the school, except pupils whose transportation privileges have been revoked under section 123.805, subdivision 1, clause (6), or 123.7991, paragraph (b), through suitable provision for transportation or through the boarding and rooming of the pupils who may be more economically and conveniently provided for by that means. The board shall provide transportation to and from the home of a child with a disability not yet enrolled in kindergarten when special instruction and services under sections 120.17 and 120.1701 are provided in a location other than in the child's home. When transportation is provided, scheduling of routes, establishment of the location of bus stops, manner and method of transportation, control and discipline of school children and any other matter relating thereto shall be within the sole discretion, control, and management of the school board. The district may provide for the transportation of pupils or expend a reasonable amount for room and board of pupils whose attendance at school can more economically and conveniently be provided for by that means or who attend school in a building rented or leased by a district within the confines of an adjacent district.

Subd. 2. The board may contract for the furnishing of authorized transportation under rules established by the commissioner of children, families, and learning, and may purchase gasoline and furnish same to a contract carrier for use in the performance of a contract with the school district for transportation of school children to and from school.

[For text of subds 4 and 5, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 6. For the purposes of this subdivision, a "nonresident pupil" is a pupil who resides in one district, defined as the "resident district" and attends school in another district, defined as the "nonresident district."

A nonresident district may transport a nonresident pupil within its borders. A nonresident district may not transport a nonresident pupil on a school district owned or contractor operated school bus within the pupil's resident district without the approval of the resident district under section 120.062.

The parent or guardian of a nonresident pupil attending a nonresident district under section 120.062 may submit a written request to the resident district asking that the resident district allow the nonresident district to provide transportation for the pupil within the pupil's resident district. The resident district must approve or disapprove the request, in writing, within 30 days. The parent or guardian may appeal the refusal of the resident district to the commissioner of children, families, and learning. The commissioner must act on the appeal within 30 days.

[For text of subds 7 to 12, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 13. The board shall contract with any licensed developmental achievement center attended by a resident handicapped person who fulfills the eligibility requirements of section 252.23, subdivision 1, to transport the resident handicapped person to the developmental achievement center in return for payment by the center of the cost of the transportation, if transportation by the board is in the best interest of the handicapped person and is not unreasonably burdensome to the district and if a less expensive, reasonable, alternative means of transporting the handicapped person does not exist. If the board and the developmental achievement center are unable to agree to a contract, either the board or the center may appeal to the commissioner of children, families, and learning to resolve the conflict. All decisions of the commissioner shall be final and binding upon the board and the center.

[For text of subds 14 to 16, see M.S.1994]

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 2 s 3; art 16 s 13

123.58 [Repealed, 1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 42]

123.582 SERVICE COOPERATIVES.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment of service cooperatives.** (a) Ten service cooperatives, hereafter designated as SCs, are established. Geographical boundaries for each SC shall coincide with those identified in governor's executive orders 8, dated September 1, 1971, and 59, dated May 29, 1973, issued pursuant to the regional development act of 1969, Minnesota Statutes, sections 462.381 to 462.397, with the following exceptions:

(1) development regions one and two shall be combined to form a single SC;

(2) development regions six east and six west shall be combined to form a single SC;

and

(3) development regions seven east and seven west shall be combined to form a single SC.

(b) The SC shall cooperate with the regional development commission for the region with which its boundaries coincide but shall not be responsible to nor governed by that regional development commission.

(c) Two or more identified SCs may, upon approval by a majority of the members in each affected SC, be combined and administered as a single SC.

Subd. 2. **Purpose of SC.** The primary purposes of designation as a SC shall be to perform planning on a regional basis and to assist in meeting specific needs of clients in partici-

pating governmental units which could be better provided by a SC than by the members themselves. The SC shall provide those programs and services which are determined, pursuant to subdivision 7, to be priority needs of the particular region and shall assist in meeting special needs which arise from fundamental constraints upon individual members.

Subd. 3. Membership and participation. Full membership in a SC shall be limited to public school districts, cities, counties, and other governmental units as defined in section 471.59, but nonvoting memberships shall be available to nonpublic school administrative units and other partnership agencies or organizations within the SC. A school district, city, county, or other governmental unit or nonprofit organization may belong to one or more SCs. Participation in programs and services provided by the SC shall be discretionary. No school district, city, county, or other governmental unit shall be compelled to participate in these services under authority of this section. Nonpublic school students and personnel are encouraged to participate in programs and services to the extent allowed by law.

Subd. 4. Governing board. (a) The care, management, and control of a SC shall be vested in a board of directors composed of not less than six nor more than 15 members. A majority of the members of the SC board of directors shall be current members of school boards of participating public school districts. Election of the school board members to the SC board of directors shall be by vote of all current school board members of participating public school districts with each school board member having one vote. The remaining board members may be representatives at large appointed by the board members or elected as representatives by other participating agencies, such as cities, counties, or other governmental units.

(b) The election timeline shall be compatible with those for school board members and shall be addressed within the bylaws of each SC.

(c) A vacancy on the SC board which results in an unexpired term may be filled by appointment by the SC board of directors until such vacancy can be filled at the next board election.

(d) At the organizational meeting, the SC board shall choose its officers and conduct any other necessary organizational business. The SC board may, at its discretion, appoint up to three members at large to the SC board as ex officio, nonvoting members of the board and shall encourage the advisory participation of a cross-section of school and agency personnel within the SC to the extent allowed by law.

(e) The officers of the SC board shall be a chair, vice-chair, clerk, and treasurer, no two of whom when possible shall be from the same agency.

(f) A member of the SC board shall have the same liability applicable to a member of an independent school board or other elected governmental officials.

Subd. 5. Duties and powers of SC board of directors. The board of directors shall have authority to maintain and operate a SC. Subject to the availability of necessary resources, the powers and duties of this board shall include the following:

(a) The board of directors shall submit, by June 1 of each year to each participating member, an annual plan which describes the objectives and procedures to be implemented in assisting in resolution of the needs of the SC.

(b) The SC board of directors shall provide adequate office, service center, and administrative facilities by lease, purchase, gift, or otherwise.

(c) The SC board of directors shall employ a central administrative staff and other personnel as necessary to provide and support the agreed upon programs and services. The board may discharge staff and personnel pursuant to applicable provisions of law. SC staff and personnel may participate in retirement programs and any other programs available to public school staff and personnel.

(d) The SC board of directors may appoint special advisory committees composed of superintendents, central office personnel, building principals, teachers, parents, lay persons, and representatives from cities, counties, and other governmental units.

(e) The SC board of directors may employ service area personnel pursuant to licensure and certification standards developed by the appropriate state agency such as the state board and the state board of teaching.

(f) The SC board of directors may enter into contracts with school boards of local districts including school districts outside the SC area.

(g) The SC board of directors may enter into contracts with other public and private agencies and institutions to provide administrative staff and other personnel as necessary to furnish and support the agreed upon programs and services.

(h) The SC board of directors shall exercise all powers and carry out all duties delegated to it by members under provisions of the SC bylaws. The SC board of directors shall be governed, when not otherwise provided, by applicable laws of the state.

(i) The SC board of directors shall submit an annual evaluation report of the effectiveness of programs and services to the members by September 1 of each year following the previous June 30 in which the programs and services were provided.

(j) The SC board is encouraged to establish cooperative, working relationships and partnerships with post-secondary educational institutions, other public agencies, business, and industry.

Subd. 6. Appointment of an advisory council. There may be advisory councils selected to give advice and counsel to the SC board of directors. The councils may be composed of representatives from public and nonpublic schools, cities, counties, and other governmental units.

Subd. 7. Educational programs and services. The board of directors of each SC shall submit annually a plan to the members. The plan shall identify the programs and services which are suggested for implementation by the SC during the following year and shall contain components of long-range planning determined by the SC. These programs and services may include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- (1) administrative services;
- (2) curriculum development;
- (3) data processing;
- (4) distance learning and other telecommunication services;
- (5) evaluation and research;
- (6) staff development;
- (7) media and technology centers;
- (8) publication and dissemination of materials;
- (9) pupil personnel services;
- (10) planning;
- (11) secondary, post-secondary, community, adult, and adult vocational education;
- (12) teaching and learning services, including services for students with special talents and special needs;
- (13) employee personnel services;
- (14) vocational rehabilitation;
- (15) health, diagnostic, and child development services and centers;
- (16) leadership or direction in early childhood and family education;
- (17) community services;
- (18) shared time programs;
- (19) fiscal services and risk management programs;
- (20) technology planning, training, and support services;
- (21) health and safety services;
- (22) student academic challenges; and
- (23) cooperative purchasing services.

Subd. 8. Technical assistance. Service cooperatives shall, to the extent possible, make technical assistance for long-range planning available to school districts upon request and shall establish a common database for local and regional decision making.

Subd. 9. Financial support for the service cooperatives. (a) Financial support for SC programs and services shall be provided by participating members with private, state, and

federal financial support supplementing as available. The SC board of directors may, in each year, for the purpose of paying any administrative, planning, operating, or capital expenses incurred or to be incurred, assess and certify to each participating school district, nonpublic school administrative unit, city, county, and other governmental unit its proportionate share of all expenses. This share shall be based upon the extent of participation by each school district, nonpublic school administrative unit, city, county, or other governmental unit and shall be in the form of a service fee. Each participating school district, nonpublic school administrative unit, city, county, or other governmental unit shall remit its assessment to the SC board as provided in the SC bylaws. The assessments shall be paid within the maximum levy limitations of each participating member. No participating member shall have any additional liability for the debts or obligations of the SC except that assessment which has been certified as its proportionate share and any other liability the member assumes under section 123.35, subdivision 19b.

(b) Any property acquired by the SC board is public property to be used for essential public and governmental purposes which shall be exempt from all taxes and special assessments levied by a city, county, state, or political subdivision thereof. If the SC is dissolved, its property must be distributed to the members at the time of the dissolution.

(c) A member may elect to withdraw participation in the SC by a majority vote of its full board membership and upon compliance with the applicable withdrawal provisions of the SC organizational agreement. The withdrawal shall be effective on the June 30 following receipt by the board of directors of written notification of the withdrawal by February 1 of the same year. Notwithstanding the withdrawal, the proportionate share of any expenses already certified to the withdrawing member for the SC shall be paid to the SC board.

(d) The SC is a public corporation and agency and its board of directors may make application for, accept, and expend private, state, and federal funds that are available for programs of the members.

(e) The SC is a public corporation and agency and as such, no earnings or interests of the SC may inure to the benefit of an individual or private entity.

Subd. 10. **Annual meeting.** Each SC shall conduct a meeting at least annually for its members.

Subd. 11. **Joint powers act.** Nothing in this section shall restrict the authority granted to school district boards of education by section 471.59.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 25*

123.70 HEALTH STANDARDS; IMMUNIZATIONS; SCHOOL CHILDREN.

[For text of subs 1 to 7, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 8. The administrator or other person having general control and supervision of the elementary or secondary school shall file a report with the commissioner of children, families, and learning on all persons enrolled in the school, except that the superintendent of each school district shall file a report with the commissioner of children, families, and learning for all persons within the district receiving instruction in a home school in compliance with sections 120.101 and 120.102. The parent of persons receiving instruction in a home school shall submit the statements as required by subdivisions 1, 2, 3, and 4 to the superintendent of the school district in which the person resides by October 1 of each school year. The school report shall be prepared on forms developed jointly by the commissioner of health and the commissioner of children, families, and learning and be distributed to the local school districts by the commissioner of health and shall state the number of persons attending the school, the number of persons who have not been immunized according to subdivision 1 or 2, and the number of persons who received an exemption under subdivision 3, clause (c) or (d). The school report shall be filed with the commissioner of children, families, and learning within 60 days of the commencement of each new school term. Upon request, a district shall be given a 60-day extension for filing the school report. The commissioner of children, families, and learning shall forward the report, or a copy thereof, to the commissioner of health who shall provide summary reports to boards of health as defined in section 145A.02, subdivision 2. The administrator or other person having general control and supervision of the

child care facility shall file a report with the commissioner of human services on all persons enrolled in the child care facility. The child care facility report must be prepared on forms developed jointly by the commissioner of health and the commissioner of human services and be distributed to child care facilities by the commissioner of health and must state the number of persons enrolled in the facility, the number of persons with no immunizations, the number of persons who received an exemption under subdivision 3, clause (c) or (d), and the number of persons with partial or full immunization histories. The child care facility report shall be filed with the commissioner of human services by November 1 of each year. The commissioner of human services shall forward the report, or a copy thereof, to the commissioner of health who shall provide summary reports to boards of health as defined in section 145A.02, subdivision 2. The report required by this subdivision is not required of a family child care or group family child care facility, for prekindergarten children enrolled in any elementary or secondary school provided services according to section 120.17, subdivision 2, nor for child care facilities in which at least 75 percent of children in the facility participate on a one-time only or occasional basis to a maximum of 45 hours per child, per month.

[For text of subs 9 to 11, see M.S.1994]

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 26; art 16 s 13

123.71 PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. It shall also publish at the same time a summary of bonds outstanding, paid, and sold; a summary of orders not paid for want of funds; certificates of indebtedness for the year ending June 30; the statutory operating debt of the district as defined and certified pursuant to section 121.914; and the balance amount of the reserved fund balance reserve account for purposes of statutory operating debt reduction established pursuant to sections 124.226, 124.2716, 124.91, 124.912, 124.914, 124.916, and 124.918.

[For text of subs 3 and 4, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 212 art 4 s 64

123.77 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. The following words and terms in sections 123.76 to 123.805 shall have the following meanings ascribed to them.

[For text of subs 2 to 5, see M.S.1994]

History: 1995 c 186 s 119

123.78 EQUAL TREATMENT.

Subdivision 1. **General provisions.** A district shall provide equal transportation within the district for all school children to any school when transportation is deemed necessary by the school board because of distance or traffic condition in like manner and form as provided in sections 123.39 and 124.223, when applicable.

[For text of subs 1a to 3, see M.S.1994]

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 2 s 4

123.79 FUNDS AND AIDS.

Subdivision 1. Such state aids as are made available or appropriated shall be for the equal benefit of all school children, and be disbursed in such manner as determined by the board.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1994]

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 2 s 5

123.799 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. Reporting. Districts shall annually report expenditures from the student transportation safety reserved revenue to the commissioner of children, families, and learning, who shall provide the information to the school bus safety advisory committee.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*

123.7991 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TRAINING.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. Student training. (a) Each school district shall provide public school pupils enrolled in grades kindergarten through 10 with age-appropriate school bus safety training. The training shall be results-oriented and shall consist of both classroom instruction and practical training using a school bus. Upon completing the training, a student shall be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of at least the following competencies and concepts:

- (1) transportation by school bus is a privilege and not a right;
- (2) district policies for student conduct and school bus safety;
- (3) appropriate conduct while on the school bus;
- (4) the danger zones surrounding a school bus;
- (5) procedures for safely boarding and leaving a school bus;
- (6) procedures for safe street or road crossing; and
- (7) school bus evacuation and other emergency procedures.

(b) Each nonpublic school located within the district shall provide all nonpublic school pupils enrolled in grades kindergarten through 10 who are transported by school bus at public expense and attend school within the district's boundaries with training as required in paragraph (a). The school district shall make a bus available for the practical training if the district transports the nonpublic students. Each nonpublic school shall provide the instruction.

(c) Student school bus safety training shall commence during school bus safety week. All students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 3 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must demonstrate achievement of the school bus safety training competencies by the end of the third week of school. All students enrolled in grades 4 through 10 who are transported by school bus and are enrolled during the first or second week of school must demonstrate achievement of the competencies by the end of the sixth week of school. Students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 10 who enroll in a school after the second week of school and are transported by school bus shall undergo school bus safety training and demonstrate achievement of the school bus safety competencies within four weeks of the first day of attendance. The pupil transportation safety director in each district must certify to the commissioner of children, families, and learning annually that all students transported by school bus within the district have satisfactorily demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the school bus safety competencies according to this section or provide an explanation for a student's failure to demonstrate the competencies. The principal or other chief administrator of each nonpublic school must certify annually to the public transportation safety director of the district in which the school is located that all of the school's students transported by school bus at public expense have received training. A school district may deny transportation to a student who fails to demonstrate the competencies, unless the student is unable to achieve the competencies due to a disability, or to a student who attends a nonpublic school that fails to provide training as required by this subdivision.

(d) A school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must, to the extent possible, provide kindergarten pupils with bus safety training before the first day of school.

(e) A school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must also provide student safety education for bicycling and pedestrian safety.

(f) A school district and a nonpublic school with students transported by school bus at public expense must make reasonable accommodations for the school bus, bicycle, and pedestrian safety training of pupils known to speak English as a second language and pupils with disabilities.

Subd. 3. Model training program. The commissioner of children, families, and learning shall develop a comprehensive model school bus safety training program for pupils who ride the bus that includes bus safety curriculum for both classroom and practical instruction, methods for assessing attainment of school bus safety competencies, and age-appropriate instructional materials. The program must be adaptable for use by students with disabilities.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 2 s 6,7; art 16 s 13*

123.805 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES.

Subdivision 1. Comprehensive policy. Each school district shall develop and implement a comprehensive, written policy governing pupil transportation safety, including transportation of nonpublic school students, when applicable. The policy shall, at minimum, contain:

- (1) provisions for appropriate student bus safety training under section 123.7991;
- (2) rules governing student conduct on school buses and in school bus loading and unloading areas;
- (3) a statement of parent or guardian responsibilities relating to school bus safety;
- (4) provisions for notifying students and parents or guardians of their responsibilities and the rules;
- (5) an intradistrict system for reporting school bus accidents or misconduct, a system for dealing with local law enforcement officials in cases of criminal conduct on a school bus, and a system for reporting accidents, crimes, incidents of misconduct, and bus driver dismissals to the department of public safety under section 169.452;
- (6) a discipline policy to address violations of school bus safety rules, including procedures for revoking a student's bus riding privileges in cases of serious or repeated misconduct;
- (7) a system for integrating school bus misconduct records with other discipline records;
- (8) a statement of bus driver duties;
- (9) planned expenditures for safety activities under section 123.799 and, where applicable, provisions governing bus monitor qualifications, training, and duties;
- (10) rules governing the use and maintenance of type III vehicles, drivers of type III vehicles, qualifications to drive a type III vehicle, qualifications for a type III vehicle and the circumstances under which a student may be transported in a type III vehicle;
- (11) operating rules and procedures;
- (12) provisions for annual bus driver in-service training and evaluation;
- (13) emergency procedures;
- (14) a system for maintaining and inspecting equipment;
- (15) requirements of the school district, if any, that exceed state law minimum requirements for school bus operations; and
- (16) requirements for basic first aid training, which shall include the Heimlich maneuver and procedures for dealing with obstructed airways, shock, bleeding, and seizures.

School districts are encouraged to use the model policy developed by the Minnesota school boards association, the department of public safety, and the department of children, families, and learning, as well as the current edition of the "National Standards for School Buses and Operations" published by the National Safety Council, in developing safety policies. Each district shall submit a copy of its policy under this subdivision to the school bus safety advisory committee no later than August 1, 1994. Each district shall review its policy annually and make appropriate amendments, which must be submitted to the school bus safety advisory committee within one month of approval by the school board.

Subd. 2. School transportation safety director. Each school board shall designate a school transportation safety director to oversee and implement pupil transportation safety

policies. The director shall have day-to-day responsibility for pupil transportation safety within the district, including transportation of nonpublic school children when provided by the district.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 2 s 8,9; art 16 s 13*

123.932 DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 1a. As used in sections 123.931 to 123.947, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings ascribed to them.

[For text of subs 1b to 11, see M.S.1994]

History: *1995 c 186 s 119*

123.933 TEXTBOOKS, INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION MATERIAL, STANDARD TESTS.

[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 3. **Cost of textbooks; limitation.** (a) The cost per pupil of the textbooks, individualized instructional materials and standardized tests provided for in this section for each school year shall not exceed the statewide average expenditure per pupil, adjusted pursuant to clause (b), by the Minnesota public elementary and secondary schools for textbooks, individualized instructional materials and standardized tests as computed and established by the department of children, families, and learning by March 1 of the preceding school year from the most recent public school year data then available.

(b) The cost computed in clause (a) shall be increased by an inflation adjustment equal to the percent of increase in the formula allowance, pursuant to section 124A.22, subdivision 2, from the second preceding school year to the current school year.

(c) The commissioner shall allot to the school districts or intermediary service areas the total cost for each school year of providing or loaning the textbooks, individualized instructional materials and standardized tests for the pupils in each nonpublic school. The allotment shall not exceed the product of the statewide average expenditure per pupil, adjusted pursuant to clause (b), multiplied by the number of nonpublic school pupils who make requests pursuant to this section and who are enrolled as of September 15 of the current school year.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*

123.935 PROVISION OF PUPIL SUPPORT SERVICES.

[For text of subs 1 to 5, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 6. For purposes of computing maximum allotments for each school year pursuant to this section, the average public school expenditure per pupil for health services and the average public school expenditure per secondary pupil for guidance and counseling services shall be computed and established by the department of children, families, and learning by March 1 of the preceding school year from the most recent public school year data then available.

[For text of subd 7, see M.S.1994]

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*

123.9361 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

Each year, a school district or intermediary service area may claim and receive from the department of children, families, and learning an additional sum for the administration of sections 123.933 and 123.935, equal to five percent of the district's or area's allocation for that year pursuant to those sections.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*

123.9362 NOTICE TO DISTRICTS; PRORATION.

In the event the appropriation for nonpublic educational aid under sections 123.931 to 123.947 is not sufficient to meet the required payments in any fiscal year, the department of

children, families, and learning must notify the school districts at the earliest possible date of the need to prorate the appropriation among the districts.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*