

**VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION**

**REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**STATE OF IOWA
1977**

FINAL REPORT
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

JANUARY, 1977

The Vocational-Technical Education Subcommittee of the Standing Committees on Education, which was authorized by House Concurrent Resolution 142, met four times during the 1976 interim. The Resolution charged the Subcommittee with the task of directing a study by the Department of Public Instruction which would review existing funding of vocational education at the secondary school level throughout the state and make specific recommendations for legislative action.

Members of the Subcommittee were:

Senator Joan Orr, Chairperson
Representative Wally E. Horn, Vice Chairperson
Senator Elizabeth Shaw
Senator Earl Willits
Representative Horace Daggett
Representative Charles N. Poncy

The following members of the Department of Public Instruction participated in Subcommittee meetings: Dr. William Baley, Mr. R. J. Ford, Mr. Charles Moench, Mr. Gary Olney, Mr. Ed Ranney, Mr. William Schuermann, Mr. Kenneth Wold, Mr. Robert Yeager.

At the first meeting on August 24, members of the staff of the Department of Public Instruction appeared and reviewed the status of vocational education in the state at the secondary school level (grades seven through twelve) as well as current and projected federal funding provisions for vocational education.

Department representatives explained the departmental policy of providing incentive for new and expanded programs of vocational education by reimbursing 80 percent, 60 percent, and 40 percent of the teacher salary and travel expenses in successive years of the program's operation. After the third year of such funding there is no special reimbursement for exploratory programs (also known as career education programs), while the preparatory programs continue to receive salary-travel reimbursement which for the 1977-1978 school year will be about 17 percent.

At the second Subcommittee meeting on October 4, testimony was presented at the invitation of the Subcommittee by representatives of twenty interested organizations, a list of whom is attached, in response to the following nine questions formulated by the Subcommittee and the Department:

1. What educational experiences should be available to vocational students at the secondary (high school) level in Iowa?
2. Have jointly administered programs met the needs of secondary age students and should these be continued?
3. How should new and expanded programs be stimulated in our secondary schools?
4. What level of state support should be provided in Iowa for secondary schools in vocational education?
5. What additional resources are necessary?
6. What priorities should be established if additional resources are limited?
7. What are the demands in the labor market for vocationally educated graduates from the secondary educational levels?
8. What state support should be available to fund transportation costs and equipment costs incurred for the delivery of vocational education?
9. Are the present area college facilities being used to maximize delivery of vocational education to secondary pupils pursuant to the directive of section 280A.1, subsection 5, of the Iowa Code?

Testimony from the October 4 meeting, presentations by the Department of Public Instruction, and Subcommittee discussion highlighted the following concerns:

1. A very limited number of types of vocational training is available to many of the state's high school students.
2. In a situation of declining enrollments and consequent reduction of state funding, the departmental 80 percent, 60 percent, 40 percent incentive funding may not achieve its desired goals since a district may hesitate to initiate a program knowing that the state support is short term, or may be forced to terminate a program after only two or three years because of lack of alternative resources.
3. Statistics show that the current trend is for more persons to go on the job market with secondary school training only. This situation intensifies the need for greater availability of a wide variety of vocational training experiences.
4. The larger part of state and federal money available for vocational education in this state goes to area schools, which serve a minority of the state's students who are seeking a vocational education. At present there is minimal utilization of

area schools as coordinators or providers of local school districts' joint vocational programs.

At the October 5 meeting, the Subcommittee formulated questions covering the following topics to be answered by the Department of Public Instruction for consideration at the Subcommittee's November 19 meeting:

1. What are the specific costs, both direct and indirect, of various types of vocational education programs now in operation, and what funding procedures support these programs both presently and historically? What is now being spent in the state for vocational education?
2. What are the projected costs involved in mandating that at least four areas of vocational education be available to all high school students?
3. What role should merged areas play in the delivery of vocational education at the secondary school level?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of the following approaches to funding vocational education at the secondary level?
 - a. Increase in allowable growth rate permitted the local district, with consequent increase in revenue which could be raised through local property taxes.
 - b. Flat grants to be disbursed by the School Budget Review Committee.
 - c. Local enrichment a local option funded by local tax money.
 - d. Weighted funding for vocational education students.

At the Subcommittee's fourth meeting on November 19, the Committee accepted the response of the Department of Public Instruction to the questions put by the Subcommittee, and after discussion directed the following actions in the Subcommittee's name:

1. That a proposed bill be drafted to permit local districts to levy funds to be used for new and expanded vocational education programs. A copy of the proposed bill is attached.
2. That a letter be sent to Dr. Robert Benton, Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, requesting the inclusion of vocational-education cost data as part of the accounting system which will be required of local school districts under the uniform accounting system. A copy of the letter is attached.

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VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
STANDING COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

October 4, 1976, Room 22, State House, Des Moines

10:00 a.m. Call to Order, Chairperson Joan Orr
 Approval of Minutes

Public Statements to Committee:

- 10:05 a.m. - Mr. John Kibbee, Iowa Council of Area School Boards
- 10:15 a.m. - Mr. Jack Jones, Superintendent, Malvern Community Schools
- 10:25 a.m. - Mr. Lyle Hillyer, Area School Superintendents Association
- 10:35 a.m. - Dr. Gene Gardner, Association for Life Long Learning
- 10:45 a.m. - Mr. Tom Stevenson, Vocational Guidance Association
- 10:55 a.m. - Mr. Roger Huggins, Adult Education Directors Association
- 11:05 a.m. - Ms. Shirley Muhlenthaler, Iowa Vocational Association
- 11:15 a.m. - Mr. Edwin Myers, Elementary/Secondary Career Education
 Directors Association
- 11:25 a.m. - Dr. Lee Grebner, Superintendent, Davenport Public Schools
- 11:35 a.m. - Dr. Carl M. Whipple, Association of School Administrators
- 11:45 a.m. - Mr. Terry Nelson, Iowa Special Needs Association
- 11:55 a.m. - Mr. Dan W. Roberts, Industrial Education Association
- 12:05 p.m. - LUNCHEON RECESS
- 1:35 p.m. - Mr. Donald W. Mueller, Superintendent, North Fayette Scho
- 1:45 p.m. - Mr. Robert Van Driel, Post Secondary Career Vocational-
 Technical Directors Association
- 1:55 p.m. - Mr. Dale Rickert, Advisory Council for Adult Education
- 2:05 p.m. - Mr. Robert Horsfall, Superintendent, Webster City
 Community Schools
- 2:15 p.m. - Mr. Dave Palmer, Iowa Higher Education Association
- 2:25 p.m. - Ms. Judy Erickson, Job Services of Iowa
- 2:35 p.m. - Mr. Gerald Dockum, Association of Secondary School
 Principals
- 2:45 p.m. - Mr. Ralph Schlenker, Des Moines Chamber of Commerce
- 2:55 p.m. - Mr. Harlan Giese, Career Education Advisory Council

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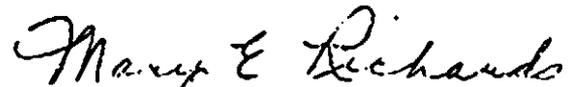
December 23, 1976

Dr. Robert D. Benton
Director
Department of Public Instruction
Grimes Building
L O C A L

Dear Dr. Benton:

At the November 19 meeting of the Vocational-Technical Education Subcommittee of the Standing Committees on Education, a request was expressed by Subcommittee members that directions be included in the Department's accounting manual governing local school systems' accounting practices which would result in information on costs of various kinds of preparatory and exploratory vocational programs. The Subcommittee strongly feels that such cost information is vital to informed and meaningful legislative action in support of the field of vocational education, and asks that you direct Mr. Gayle Obrecht to include appropriate requirements in the accounting manual for the next budget year. The Subcommittee will request that Mr. Obrecht appear before it at a future date to explain the status of the uniform accounting system and its applicability to concerns such as those of this Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



MARY E. RICHARDS
Legal Counsel

MER:dg

cc: Wm. Schuermann
Members of the Subcommittee

SENATE FILE _____

By (Proposed Committee on Education
Bill by Vocational-Technical
Education Subcommittee)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act to provide new and expanded program funds for voca-
2 tional education.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Chapter four hundred forty-two (442), Code
2 1977, is amended by adding the following new section:

3 NEW SECTION. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION EXPANDED PROGRAM FUNDS.

4 For the budget year beginning July 1, 1977 and for each sub-
5 sequent year, the board of directors of a school district
6 may raise additional funds to finance new or expanded
7 vocational education programs subject to the following
8 procedures:

9 1. The proposed plan for a new or expanded vocational
10 education program and the proposed funding for that plan ex-
11 pressed as a percentage of the state cost per pupil, not to
12 exceed three percent of the state cost per pupil for the
13 budget year, both of which have been approved by a majority
14 of the directors on the board, shall be submitted, prior to
15 February fifteenth in the base year, to the department of
16 public instruction for approval.

17 2. The department of public instruction shall review the
18 plans submitted, approve or disapprove the plans prior to
19 March first, and promptly notify the board of directors of
20 the action of approval or disapproval.

21 3. Upon notification by the department of public instruc-
22 tion the board shall certify to the state comptroller that
23 the procedures of subsections one (1) and two (2) of this
24 section have been completed. The board shall also certify
25 both the basic enrollment for the district for the budget
26 year and the percentage of the state cost per pupil to be
27 raised for the budget year under the authority of this section.

28 4. The state comptroller shall compute the uniform prop-
29 erty tax to be levied on the assessed valuation of taxable
30 property within the district. This tax shall be an amount
31 sufficient to equal the certified per cent of the state cost
32 per pupil for the budget year times the basic enrollment for
33 the district in the budget year. The state comptroller shall
34 certify this levy to the county auditor.

35 5. Funds raised under this section shall be used only

1 to establish and maintain new or expanded vocational
2 educational programs.

3 6. Programs approved under this section may be offered,
4 and the supporting funds may be levied, for a period of five
5 years.

6 Sec. 2. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance,
7 shall take effect and be in force from and after its publica-
8 tion in the Grinnell Herald-Register, a newspaper published
9 in Grinnell, Iowa, and in The Montezuma Republican, a news-
10 paper published in Montezuma, Iowa.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The bill provides a mechanism for local boards to levy
13 funds, not in excess of three percent of the state cost per
14 pupil, in support of new or expanded vocational education
15 programs subject to approval by the department of public in-
16 struction.

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