

SENATE BILL No. 246

By Committee on Education

2-6

AN ACT concerning school districts; providing for grants of state moneys for maintenance of school district cooperation plans and education technology plans; amending K.S.A. 72-3703 and 72-3710 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) As used in this section the term “school district cooperation plan” means a plan under which the board of education of a school district aggressively seeks and enters into cooperative or interlocal cooperation agreements with other school districts for the sharing of resources and services, including personnel, buildings and equipment, in order to increase efficiency, effect cost savings, and enhance the availability and quality of educational opportunities for pupils.

(b) Each board that maintains a school district cooperation plan is eligible for a grant of state moneys to explore additional and innovative ways of sharing resources and services and as a reward for maintaining a plan. In order to be eligible for a grant of state moneys, a board shall submit to the state board of education an application for a grant and a description of the plan. Approval by the state board of the plan and the application is prerequisite to the award of a grant. Applications for grants of state moneys and descriptions of school district cooperation plans shall be prepared in such form and manner as the state board of education shall require and shall be submitted at a time to be determined and specified by the state board.

(c) The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations for administration of the school district cooperation grant program and shall:

(1) Establish standards and criteria for reviewing, evaluating and approving school district cooperation plans and applications of school districts for grants;

(2) approve school district cooperation plans for the award of grants of state moneys;

(3) establish funding priorities for determining the amount of grants of state moneys to school districts which the state board determines to be most successful in maintaining plans;

(4) be responsible for awarding grants of state moneys to school dis-

1 tricts; and

2 (5) request of and receive from each school district which is partici-
3 pating in the school district cooperation grant program reports containing
4 information with regard to the overall effectiveness of the plan of the
5 school district.

6 (d) (1) In each school year, to the extent that appropriations are avail-
7 able, each school district which is participating in the school district co-
8 operation grant program through maintenance of an approved school dis-
9 trict cooperation plan shall be eligible to receive a grant of state moneys.
10 The amount of the grant to a school district shall be an amount deter-
11 mined by the state board in accordance with established funding
12 priorities.

13 (2) The state board of education shall prescribe all forms necessary
14 for reporting under this act.

15 (3) Every board which is participating in the school district cooper-
16 ation grant program shall make such periodic and special reports of sta-
17 tistical and financial information to the state board of education as it may
18 request.

19 (4) Moneys received by a school district through the award of a grant
20 of state moneys under this section shall be deposited in any program
21 weighted fund or any categorical fund of the district.

22 (e) The state board of education may provide any board, upon its
23 request therefor, with technical advice and assistance regarding the de-
24 velopment and maintenance of a school district cooperation plan or an
25 application for a grant of state moneys, and may disseminate information
26 regarding resources, procedures and personnel which are or may become
27 available to assist school district participation in the school district co-
28 operation grant program.

29 New Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section, the term “education tech-
30 nology plan” means a plan which is developed and maintained by the
31 board of education of a school district for the purpose of fully integrating
32 technology into teaching and learning to help ensure that all pupils be-
33 come technologically proficient.

34 (b) Each board that develops and maintains an education technology
35 plan may apply for a grant of state moneys to supplement amounts ex-
36 pended by the school district for development and maintenance of the
37 plan. In order to be eligible for a grant of state moneys, a board shall
38 submit to the state board of education an application for a grant and a
39 description of the plan. The plan must include an evaluation procedure
40 designed to measure effectiveness of the plan in improving school cur-
41 riculum and increasing pupil achievement through integration of tech-
42 nology. Approval by the state board of the plan and the application is
43 prerequisite to the award of a grant. Applications for grants of state mon-

1 eys and descriptions of education technology plans shall be prepared in
2 such form and manner as the state board of education shall require and
3 shall be submitted at a time to be determined and specified by the state
4 board.

5 (c) The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations for
6 administration of the education technology grant program and shall:

7 (1) Establish standards and criteria for reviewing, evaluating and ap-
8 proving education technology plans and applications of school districts for
9 grants;

10 (2) approve education technology plans for the award of grants of
11 state moneys;

12 (3) establish funding priorities for determining the amount of grants
13 of state moneys to school districts which the state board determines to
14 be most successful in implementing plans;

15 (4) be responsible for awarding grants of state moneys to school dis-
16 tricts; and

17 (5) request of and receive from each school district which is partici-
18 pating in the education technology grant program reports containing in-
19 formation with regard to the overall effectiveness of the plan of the school
20 district.

21 (d) (1) In each school year, to the extent that appropriations are avail-
22 able, each school district which is participating in the education technol-
23 ogy grant program through maintenance of an approved education technol-
24 ogy plan shall be eligible to receive a grant of state moneys. The
25 amount of the grant to a school district shall be determined by the state
26 board in accordance with established funding priorities.

27 (2) The state board of education shall prescribe all forms necessary
28 for reporting under this act.

29 (3) Every board which is participating in the education technology
30 grant program shall make such periodic and special reports of statistical
31 and financial information to the state board of education as it may request.

32 (4) Moneys received by a school district through the award of a grant
33 of state moneys under this section shall be deposited in the education
34 technology fund of the district. To the extent possible, grants shall be
35 used for applying technology to support school reform, acquiring hard-
36 ware and software to improve pupil learning, acquiring connections to
37 telecommunication networks to obtain access to resources and services,
38 providing ongoing professional development in the integration of tech-
39 nology into improvements of the school curriculum, and providing better
40 educational services for adults and families.

41 (e) The state board of education may provide any board, upon its
42 request therefor, with technical advice and assistance regarding the de-
43 velopment and maintenance of an education technology plan or an ap-

1 plication for a grant of state moneys, and may disseminate information
2 regarding resources, procedures and personnel which are or may become
3 available to assist school district participation in the education technology
4 grant program.

5 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-3703 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-
6 3703. (a) The board of education of any school district may develop,
7 implement and maintain ~~technology~~ education *technology* programs, and
8 may acquire equipment necessary for such programs.

9 (b) (1) There is hereby established in every school district a fund
10 which shall be called the ~~technology~~ education *technology* fund. The ~~tech-~~
11 ~~nology~~ education *technology* fund shall consist of all moneys deposited
12 therein or transferred thereto in accordance with law. Except for an
13 amount to pay a portion of the principal and interest on bonds issued by
14 cities under the authority of K.S.A. 12-1774, and amendments thereto,
15 for the financing of redevelopment projects upon property located within
16 the school district, the proceeds of any tax levied under K.S.A. 72-3702,
17 prior to its repeal ~~by this act~~, shall be paid to the school district making
18 such levy and shall be deposited in the ~~technology~~ education *technology*
19 fund of the school district.

20 (2) Any moneys in the ~~technology~~ education *technology* fund of any
21 school district and any moneys received from issuance of bonds under
22 authority of K.S.A. 72-3704, prior to its repeal ~~by this act~~, may be used
23 for the purpose of developing, implementing or enhancing ~~technology~~
24 education *technology* programs and for acquiring equipment necessary
25 for such programs. The board of education of any school district is hereby
26 authorized to invest any portion of the ~~technology~~ education *technology*
27 fund of the school district which is not currently needed in investments
28 authorized by K.S.A. 12-1675, and amendments thereto, in the manner
29 prescribed therein or may invest the same in direct obligations of the
30 United States government maturing or redeemable at par and accrued
31 interest within three years from date of purchase, the principal and in-
32 terest whereof is guaranteed by the government of the United States. All
33 interest received on any such investment shall upon receipt thereof be
34 credited to the technology education fund.

35 ~~(c) As used in this section and in K.S.A. 72-3710, and amendments~~
36 ~~thereto, the term "technology education program" means a program to~~
37 ~~incorporate electronic computer and communications technologies into~~
38 ~~educational programs of the school district, including improvement and~~
39 ~~integration of on-line information management and communications sys-~~
40 ~~tems in all application areas.~~

41 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 72-3710 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-
42 3710. The boards of education of any two or more school districts are
43 hereby authorized to enter into a school district interlocal agreement in

1 accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 72-8230, and amendments
2 thereto, for the purpose of jointly and cooperatively providing ~~technology~~
3 education *technology* programs in such school districts. Any school district
4 having a ~~technology~~ *an* education *technology* program in operation or
5 having a plan to develop, implement or enhance such program shall, upon
6 request, share information on the research, development and operation
7 of such programs with other school districts.

8 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 72-3703 and 72-3710 are hereby repealed.

9 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
10 publication in the statute book.

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