

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

GOVERNANCE OF THE AREA SCHOOLS

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GOVERNOR'S EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION

GOVERNANCE OF THE AREA SCHOOLS

The Governor's Educational Advisory Committee is aware of the fact that considerable concern has been expressed in regard to the governance of the Area Community Colleges and Vocational/Technical Schools. Specifically, there has been some sentiment expressed that the Area Schools should be removed from the State Board of Public Instruction control and that a separate board and staff should govern these institutions. The Committee has studied both sides of this issue and has arrived at the following conclusion:

1. The Department of Public Instruction should continue to govern the Area Community Colleges and Vocational/Technical Schools.

The Committee feels that there are a number of obvious reasons that justify this conclusion. The Committee's study of education in Iowa has indicated a definite need for increased planning and coordination between the different educational levels. The establishment of a new board would only lead to further fragmentation, something that must be avoided.

There are also a number of practical reasons that this separation should be discouraged. The establishment of any new board will obviously be more costly than the present operation. The Area School Branch of the Department of Public Instruction is presently able to make use of existing agency resources and personnel and thereby avoids the duplications that would result from separate structures. Federal laws require that there be one agency to

receive vocational fundings. Separate boards would complicate this process and probably lead to the slighting of vocational programs at one of the levels of education. The present structure goes a long way toward insuring cooperation between high school and area school vocational programs, something that the Committee sees as essential.

2. The Committee recommends that the Schools Committees of the Legislature review the statutes and the Department of Public Instruction Administrative Rules and change them to permit area school boards to effect economies in staffing and operations of the area school system.

The Committee is particularly concerned with the duplication of administrative staff at the administrative and attendance centers.