



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Operational Function Sharing as amended by HF 472 and SF 452

→ Operational Function Sharing

This document covers the differences between the original operational function sharing language found in Iowa Code 257.11 and language in the enacted [House File 472](#) and [Senate File 452](#) amendment to HF 472.

The opportunity to include shared operational functions for supplementary weighting was and is available up to five years. The original time period was 2007-2008 to 2012-2013. The time period in the updated legislation is 2013-2014 to 2018-2019. While some sharing opportunities existed previously, since this is effectively a new sharing period, all approved sharing opportunities will start over with a fresh five-year period starting in the 2013-14 school year.

The shared operational functions that originally qualified for supplementary weighting were:

- Superintendent Management
- Business Management
- Human Resources Management
- Transportation Management
- Operations and Maintenance Management

HF 472/SF 452 includes the above, as well as:

- Curriculum Director
- School Administration Manager (SAM)
- Social Worker
- School Nurse
- School Counselor
- School Librarian

The original requirement of a 20 percent phase out each year was not included in the new legislation. The original requirement that the sharing partners had to be contiguous was changed to state the districts did not need to be contiguous.

Sharing agreements can occur between any two or more political subdivisions, including school districts, cities, townships, counties, merged areas (community colleges), area education agencies, institutions governed by the State Board of Regents, or any other governmental subdivision.

Districts will request supplementary weighting through the Fall BEDS submission. If districts were sharing under the previous statute, they will receive the last year of funding for those sharing opportunities during the 2013-14 school year. Any requests for sharing under the new statute will be submitted for counts this fall, and the first funding will be received under the new statute in the 2014-15 school year.

The original requirements for demonstration of cost savings and increased student opportunities remain in the amended requirements. The Department will use data collections that are already in place to minimize data burden on districts and AEAs. Testing for cost savings will be done by the department on the Fall BEDS submission. Be sure to file the CAR-COA and the Fall BEDS by their deadlines so that the district or AEA can be eligible for requesting operational function sharing supplementary weighting. If the position code did not exist for

the Fall 2012 BEDS submission, a baseline will be established for the district from data obtained from the Certified Supplementary Weighting application, by testing for similar positions, or by contacting the district.

The requirements of the supplementary weighting of .02 times the certified enrollment; of the resulting FTE being a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 40; of the AEA minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$200,000; and of each district having 20 percent of the normal, full-time contract hours for the position have not changed.

→ Questions and Answers

Q1 – Will districts A and B qualify for supplementary weighting if district A shares part of their counselor with district B, and district B shares part of their counselor with district A?

A – No. This arrangement seems to be an attempt to generate additional funding to cover existing staff members and was not the intent of the legislation.

Q2 – If a district had been sharing a business manager for four years under the old law, under the new law would that district get to receive supplementary weighting for five years or only one more year?

A – The old law ended and was replaced by new language. The district would have the opportunity to continue the sharing for five years.

Q3 – Two districts that didn't have a social worker before entered into an agreement to share a social worker who would be hired by one of the districts. Since this would be an increase in opportunities for students, would this arrangement qualify for supplementary weighting?

A – No. The intent of the law was not to add positions that didn't exist prior to this legislation, but to provide incentives to share that would lead to cost savings that would in turn lead to increased opportunities for students.

Q4 – If a district shares a business manager in year one and in the second year shares a school nurse, will the district qualify for supplementary weighting for six years total, five for the business manager and five for the school nurse?

A – No. Districts may qualify for supplementary weighting for five years total, no matter what positions are shared or when the sharing began. Each sharing agreement is discrete. If a district adds sharing after the first year, the supplementary weighting still ends at five years from the 2013-14 school year.

Q5 – In October 2012, a district put down a sharing arrangement for supplementary weighting and will get funding during 2013-2014. So, is that the district's first of five years of weighting under the new legislation?

A – No. Even though the district will be receiving the funding from the prior legislation, the weighting requested in October 2013 will be the first year of requesting supplementary weighting under a new five years (new statute).

Q6 – If sharing is for five years maximum, is that measured from the first year that the district requested sharing supplementary weighting or is it a total of five years of requesting any supplementary weighting for sharing during the time period of the new legislation?

A – It is for a total of five years of requesting any supplementary weighting for sharing during the time period of the legislation. It is still possible for districts to have a break where they don't share and renew sharing after a gap, as long as they are still within the time period of this legislation.