

**72-968. Cooperative agreements; requirements and conditions; duration; partial or complete termination; change or modification.** (a) The boards of any two or more school districts within or outside the state may make and enter into agreements providing for cooperative operation and administration in providing special education and related services for exceptional children on a shared-cost basis, subject to the following:

(1) An agreement shall be effective only after approval by the state board, which approval shall be granted if the special education services provided for in such agreement meet standards and criteria set by the state board.

(2) (A) The duration of an agreement shall be perpetual but the agreement may be partially or completely terminated as hereinafter provided.

(B) Partial termination of an agreement made and entered into by the boards of three or more school districts may be accomplished only upon petition for withdrawal from the agreement made by a contracting school district to the other contracting school districts and approval by the state board of written consent to the petition by such other school districts or upon order of the state board after appeal to it by a school district from denial of consent to a petition for withdrawal and hearing thereon conducted by the state board. The state board shall consider all the testimony and evidence brought forth at the hearing and issue an order approving or disapproving withdrawal by the school district from the agreement.

(C) Complete termination of an agreement made and entered into by the boards of two school districts may be accomplished upon approval by the state board of a joint petition made to the state board for termination of the agreement by both of the contracting school districts after adoption of a resolution to that effect by each of the contracting school districts or upon petition for withdrawal from the agreement made by a contracting school district to the other contracting school district and approval by the state board of written consent to the petition by such other school district or upon order of the state board after appeal to it by a school district from denial of consent to a petition for withdrawal and hearing thereon conducted by the state board. The state board shall consider all the testimony and evidence brought forth at the hearing and issue an order approving or disapproving withdrawal by the school district from the agreement.

(D) Complete termination of an agreement made and entered into by the boards of three or more school districts may be accomplished only upon approval by the state board of a joint petition made to the state board for termination of the agreement by not less than 2/3 of the contracting school districts after adoption of a resolution to that effect by each of the contracting school districts seeking termination of the agreement. The state board shall consider the petition and approve or disapprove termination of the agreement.

(E) The state board shall take such action in approving or disapproving the complete or partial termination of an agreement as the state board deems to be in the best interests of the involved school districts and of the state as a whole in the provision of special education services for exceptional children. Whenever the state board has disapproved the complete or partial termination of an agreement, no further action with respect to such agreement shall be considered or taken by the state board for a period of not less than three years.

(3) An agreement shall designate the sponsoring school district and shall provide for a separate fund thereof, to which each contracting district shall pay the moneys due from it under the agreement. Any school district which is a party to an agreement may be designated the sponsoring district.

(4) An agreement shall specify the method or methods to be employed for disposing of property upon partial or complete termination.

(5) Within the limitations provided by law, an agreement may be changed or modified by mutual consent of the contracting school districts.

(6) An agreement shall be subject to change or termination by the legislature.

(b) The provisions of this section apply to every agreement entered into under authority of this section after the effective date of this act and to every agreement entered into under this section prior to the effective date of this act, and extant on the effective date of this act, regardless of any provisions in such agreement to the contrary.

**History:** L. 1974, ch. 290, § 9; L. 1987, ch. 269, § 1; L. 1997, ch. 35, § 1; L. 1999, ch. 116, § 14; July 1.