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Declaratory Ruling #17
(Cite as 1 D.P.I. Dec. Rul. 35)

October 25, 1977

Superintendent Max E. Redmond
Fort Madison Community School District
Twentieth Street and Avenue M
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

Dear Superintendent Redmond:

Your request for a declaratory ruling was filed in this office on September 15, 1977. In it, you ask the following question:

The teachers of the Fort Madison Community School District have requested that when they are assigned regular teaching duties and also additional duties that they be awarded separate teaching contracts, one for regular duties and the other for the extra-curricular duties. Is this permissible under provisions of Chapter 279, as amended?

While there appears to be no clear legal precedent on this issue, my answer to the question you raise is in the affirmative. I feel that it is discretionary upon a board of directors of a school district offering contracts to teacher to determine whether the contracts offered for extra-curricular services should be made a part of the contract for classroom services or whether they should be separate contracts.

It is my understanding from your request for declaratory ruling that some persons feel that because the language in Sections 279.12 through 279.19, The Code 1977, often uses the singular word "contract," a school district would be prohibited from offering more than one contract for services to a teacher. I do not share that opinion. In construing statutes, Section 4.1, subsection 3, The Code 1977, provides in part that, "[u]nless otherwise specifically provided by law the singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular."

Sincerely yours,

James E. Mitchell
James E. Mitchell
Deputy State Superintendent