

**House File 204 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 204  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 97)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to open enrollment of students in online  
2 learning programs.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 32, paragraph c, Code  
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. Adopt rules that limit the statewide enrollment of  
4 pupils in educational instruction and course content that are  
5 delivered primarily over the internet to not more than eighteen  
6 one-hundredths of one percent of the statewide enrollment of  
7 all pupils, and that limit the number of pupils participating  
8 in open enrollment for purposes of receiving educational  
9 instruction and course content that are delivered primarily  
10 over the internet to no more than one percent of a sending  
11 district's enrollment. ~~Until June 30, 2015, students~~ Such  
12 limitations shall not apply if the limitations would prevent  
13 siblings from enrolling in the same school district or if a  
14 sending district determines that the educational needs of  
15 a physically or emotionally fragile student would be best  
16 served by educational instruction and course content that are  
17 delivered primarily over the internet. Students who meet  
18 the requirements of section 282.18 may participate in open  
19 enrollment under this paragraph "c" for purposes of enrolling  
20 only in the CAM community school district or the Clayton Ridge  
21 community school district.

22 (1) School districts providing educational instruction  
23 and course content that are delivered primarily over the  
24 internet pursuant to this paragraph "c" shall annually submit  
25 to the department, in the manner prescribed by the department,  
26 data that includes but is not limited to student achievement  
27 and demographic characteristics, retention rates, and the  
28 percentage of enrolled students' active participation in  
29 extracurricular activities.

30 (2) The department shall conduct annually a survey of not  
31 less than ten percent of the total number of students enrolled  
32 as authorized under this paragraph "c" and section 282.18, ~~and~~  
33 ~~not less than one hundred percent of the students in those~~  
34 ~~districts who are enrolled as authorized under this paragraph~~  
35 ~~"c" and section 282.18 and who are eligible for free or reduced~~

1 ~~price meals under the federal National School Lunch Act and the~~  
2 ~~federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §§1751-1785,~~ to  
3 determine whether students are enrolled under this paragraph  
4 "c" and section 282.18 to receive educational instruction and  
5 course content primarily over the internet or are students who  
6 are receiving competent private instruction from a licensed  
7 practitioner provided through a school district pursuant to  
8 chapter 299A.

9 (3) The department shall compile and review the data  
10 collected pursuant to this paragraph "c" and shall submit its  
11 findings and recommendations for the continued delivery of  
12 instruction and course content by school districts pursuant  
13 to this paragraph "c", in a report to the general assembly by  
14 January 15 annually.

15 (4) ~~This paragraph "c" is repealed July 1, 2015.~~  
16 School districts providing educational instruction and  
17 course content that are delivered primarily over the internet  
18 pursuant to this paragraph "c" shall comply with the following  
19 requirements relating to such instruction and content:

20 (a) Monitoring and verifying full-time student enrollment,  
21 timely completion of graduation requirements, course credit  
22 accrual, and course completion.

23 (b) Monitoring and verifying student progress and  
24 performance in each course through a school-based assessment  
25 plan that includes submission of coursework and security and  
26 validity of testing.

27 (c) Conducting parent-teacher conferences.

28 (d) Administering assessments required by the state to all  
29 students in a proctored setting and pursuant to state law.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 Current law requires the state board of education to adopt  
34 rules for online learning, including rules prohibiting the  
35 open enrollment of students whose educational instruction and

1 course content are delivered primarily over the internet. An  
2 exception to that prohibition requires the board to adopt rules  
3 allowing such enrollment, with limitations on how many students  
4 may be enrolled statewide and per school district. The  
5 exception also limits such open enrollment to the CAM community  
6 school district or the Clayton Ridge community school district  
7 until June 30, 2015. This exception to the prohibition of open  
8 enrollment in online learning is repealed by its own terms July  
9 1, 2015.

10 This bill strikes the repeal, allowing the exception to  
11 remain in effect. The bill strikes the expiration of the  
12 limitation of open enrollment to the CAM community school  
13 district or the Clayton Ridge community school district,  
14 allowing the limitation to remain in place.

15 The bill also provides that the limitations on how many  
16 students may be enrolled statewide or per district shall not  
17 apply if the limitations would prevent siblings from enrolling  
18 in the same school district or if a sending district determines  
19 that the educational needs of a physically or emotionally  
20 fragile student would be best served by educational instruction  
21 and course content that are delivered primarily over the  
22 internet.

23 The bill provides requirements for school districts  
24 providing educational instruction and course content that are  
25 delivered primarily over the internet, including monitoring  
26 and verifying student enrollment and student progress and  
27 performance, conducting parent-teacher conferences, and  
28 administering state-required assessments.

29 The bill strikes a requirement that the department of  
30 education conduct a survey of students who participate in open  
31 enrollment who are eligible for free or reduced price school  
32 meals under federal law.