Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 281—Chapter 12
"General Accreditation Standards"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 279.50 as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

November 18, 2025 8 to 9 a.m.	Room B50 Grimes State Office Building Via videoconference: meet.google.com/nea-roez-asx

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Education no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319
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Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking implements 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175, which adds additional content to human growth and development instruction in grades 5 through 12 and defines the permissible source of the materials used in such instruction.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

- **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

There are no costs noted for this proposed rulemaking.

- **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

Schools will benefit from the clarity on grade ranges in which this instruction must be offered.

2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

There is no known quantitative impact.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

There is no known qualitative impact.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

There are no known costs.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

Any effect on State revenues will be negligible.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

Rulemaking is required to conform to the terms of the statute.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

There are no less costly alternatives. Rulemaking is required to conform to the terms of the statute.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

There are no plausible alternatives to rulemaking.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Rulemaking is required to conform to the terms of the statute.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

There is no impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Amend rule **281—12.2(256)**, definition of "Age-appropriate," as follows:

"Age-appropriate," with the exception of the human growth and development, means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group. ~~"Age-appropriate" does not include any material with descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act. A reference or mention of a sex act in a way that does not describe or visually depict a sex act as defined in these rules is not included in the previous sentence. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, "age-appropriate" means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.~~

1. "Age-appropriate" does not include any material with descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act. A reference or mention of a sex act in a way that does not describe or visually depict a sex act as defined in these rules is not included in the previous sentence.

2. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, "age-appropriate" means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages

or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

3. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, in grades 5 through 12, "age-appropriate" also includes the video required by Iowa Code section 279.50(2)*"b"*(1) and 279.50(3)*"b"*(1) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

4. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, "age-appropriate" does not include any book, article, outline, handout, video, or other educational material described in Iowa Code section 279.50(2)*"b"*(2) and 279.50(3)*"b"*(2) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **12.5(3)"e"** as follows:

e. Health. Health instruction is as referenced in Iowa Code sections 256.7(26)*"a"*(3) and 279.50. At least once during either fifth or sixth grade, health instruction will include the video described in Iowa Code section 279.50(2) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **12.5(4)"e"** as follows:

e. Health. Health instruction is as referenced in Iowa Code sections 256.7(26)*"a"*(3) and 279.50. At least once during either seventh or eighth grade, health instruction will include the video described in Iowa Code section 279.50(3) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.