

Senate Amendment to  
House File 2545

H-8334

1 Amend House File 2545, as amended, passed, and reprinted by  
2 the House, as follows:

3 1. By striking everything after the enacting clause and  
4 inserting:

5 <DIVISION I

6 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL  
7 STANDARDS

8 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW  
9 OF IOWA EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS — RECOMMENDED REVISIONS.

10 1. The director of the department of education shall  
11 conduct a comprehensive review of the high school graduation  
12 requirements and core curriculum established pursuant to  
13 section 256.7, subsection 26, the core content standards  
14 established pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 28, and  
15 the educational standards established in section 256.11.  
16 The comprehensive review shall be designed to generate  
17 recommendations for policy changes to be included in the  
18 reports required under subsection 4. The recommendations for  
19 policy changes shall include all of the following:

20 a. A plan to regularly review and revise the core content  
21 standards focused on English language arts, mathematics,  
22 science, and social studies, with a focus on United States  
23 history, western civilization, and civics.

24 b. A plan to make Iowa's educational standards the best in  
25 the nation.

26 c. Input from relevant stakeholders, including parents and  
27 teachers.

28 d. A plan to increase the quality of the instructional  
29 curriculum.

30 e. A plan to maximize local flexibility in graduation  
31 requirements and course offerings while maintaining a goal that  
32 all high school graduates have necessary skills at graduation.

33 f. Identification of opportunities to equip high school  
34 graduates with sufficient knowledge of civics and United States  
35 history, including the principles reflected in the Constitution

1 of the United States, so that high school graduates are capable  
2 of discharging the responsibilities associated with United  
3 States citizenship.

4 g. A statewide literacy plan to increase student  
5 proficiency using systematic and sequential approaches to  
6 teaching phonetic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency,  
7 and text comprehension. The statewide literacy plan shall  
8 address standards for practitioner preparation programs  
9 established under section 256.16 that promote evidence-based  
10 reading instruction and practical application that are  
11 direct, systematic, explicit, responsive, and that consist of  
12 phonetic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text  
13 comprehension. Such standards shall not include instruction or  
14 practical application that is designed to teach students using  
15 the instructional model commonly known as the three-cueing  
16 system.

17 2. The director of the department of education shall ensure  
18 that the core curriculum established pursuant to section 256.7,  
19 subsection 26, the core content standards established pursuant  
20 to section 256.7, subsection 28, and the educational standards  
21 established in section 256.11, comply with section 279.74.

22 3. The comprehensive review described in subsection 1 shall  
23 include all of the following:

24 a. Providing the opportunity for the public and interested  
25 stakeholders to provide comments related to the comprehensive  
26 review, including comments related to each graduation  
27 requirement, core content standard, and educational requirement  
28 by grade level, at each committee meeting convened pursuant to  
29 this subsection.

30 b. Collecting and considering the comments provided  
31 pursuant to paragraph "a".

32 c. (1) Convening committees to assist in the comprehensive  
33 review and provide recommendations related to the subject areas  
34 in the educational standards established in section 256.11.

35 (2) The director of the department of education shall

1 determine the membership of each committee; provided, however,  
2 that each committee shall include four members of the general  
3 assembly with one member designated by each of the following:  
4 the president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate,  
5 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the minority  
6 leader of the house of representatives. A legislative member  
7 serves in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity.

8 4. a. The director of the department of education shall  
9 submit an initial report, including initial findings and  
10 recommendations for policy changes, to the governor and the  
11 general assembly on or before December 31, 2024.

12 b. The director of the department of education shall submit  
13 a final report, including findings and recommendations for  
14 policy changes, to the governor and the general assembly on or  
15 before July 1, 2025.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being  
17 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

18 DIVISION II

19 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — CORE CURRICULUM

20 Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,  
21 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
22 follows:

23 Adopt ~~rules that establish~~ a core curriculum and adopt rules  
24 that establish high school graduation requirements for all  
25 students in school districts and accredited nonpublic schools  
26 that include at a minimum satisfactory completion of four years  
27 of English and language arts, three years of mathematics, three  
28 years of science, and three years of social studies.

29 Sec. 4. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,  
30 subparagraph (3), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

31 (3) The ~~rules establishing~~ a core curriculum shall address  
32 the core content standards in **subsection 28** and the skills and  
33 knowledge students need to be successful in the twenty-first  
34 century. The core curriculum shall include social studies  
35 and twenty-first century learning skills which include but

1 are not limited to civic literacy, health literacy, financial  
2 literacy, family life and consumer sciences, and employability  
3 skills; and shall address the curricular needs of students in  
4 kindergarten through grade twelve in those areas. The state  
5 board shall further define the twenty-first century learning  
6 skills components by rule.

7 Sec. 5. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — RULES ESTABLISHING A  
8 CORE CURRICULUM. Rules adopted by the state board of education  
9 on or before the effective date of this division of this  
10 Act relating to the core curriculum shall remain effective  
11 until modified or rescinded by action of the state board of  
12 education.

13 DIVISION III

14 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

15 Sec. 6. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — REVIEW AND REVISION OF  
16 SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS.

17 1. The state board of education shall complete a review  
18 and revision of the state social studies standards contained  
19 in the core content standards established pursuant to section  
20 256.7, subsection 28, with a focus on United States history,  
21 government, founding philosophies and principles, important  
22 historical figures, western civilization, and civics. At a  
23 minimum, the revised social studies standards shall include  
24 instruction related to all of the following topics in grade  
25 one through grade twelve, in such a manner that is both  
26 relevant and appropriate for the age of the student receiving  
27 instruction:

28 a. The United States federal and republican form of  
29 government, including the branches and structure of the  
30 United States federal government, the division of power  
31 between branches of government and between federal and state  
32 governments, a comparison to alternative forms of government,  
33 and the crimes against humanity that have occurred under  
34 communist regimes since 1917.

35 b. The rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United

1 States and the state of Iowa, including civic virtues displayed  
2 in the lives of exemplary Americans.

3 c. The history of the United States and the state of Iowa,  
4 including all of the following:

5 (1) The political, diplomatic, and military history of the  
6 United States, including exemplary Americans important to such  
7 events, beginning with the discovery of the western hemisphere  
8 through the present, including but not limited to the founding  
9 fathers, the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the  
10 Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the  
11 Korean War, and the War on Terrorism, including the attacks on  
12 September 11, 2001.

13 (2) The founding of Iowa, and famous Iowans and their  
14 involvement in important events in history.

15 (3) The secular and religious ideals and institutions of  
16 liberty, including political, religious, economic, social, and  
17 cultural liberty, in western civilization, the United States,  
18 and the state of Iowa.

19 d. Exemplary figures and important events in western  
20 civilization, the United States, and the state of Iowa,  
21 including but not limited to the history of ancient Israel, the  
22 free Greek city-states, the Roman Republic, the Roman Empire,  
23 medieval Europe, Columbus and the Age of Discovery, World War  
24 I, World War II and instruction related to the Holocaust, and  
25 the Cold War.

26 e. Important historical and founding documents to the  
27 United States and the state of Iowa, including but not limited  
28 to the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence,  
29 the Constitution of the United States and the amendments to  
30 the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the Emancipation  
31 Proclamation.

32 2. The director of the department of education, or the  
33 director's designee, shall present the revised social studies  
34 standards to the state board of education for adoption on or  
35 before December 31, 2025.

1 DIVISION IV

2 EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT

3 Sec. 7. Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and  
6 eight: English-language arts; social studies, including  
7 instruction related to civics; mathematics; science;  
8 health; age-appropriate and research-based human growth and  
9 development; career exploration and development; physical  
10 education; music; and visual art. Computer science instruction  
11 incorporating the standards established under section 256.7,  
12 subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), shall be  
13 offered in at least one grade level commencing with the  
14 school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration  
15 and development shall be designed so that students are  
16 appropriately prepared to create an individual career  
17 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate  
18 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned  
19 with the six career and technical education service areas as  
20 defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", incorporate relevant  
21 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness,  
22 and introduce students to career opportunities within the  
23 local community and across this state. The health curriculum  
24 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information  
25 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.  
26 The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt  
27 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades  
28 seven and eight. However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to  
29 the teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic  
30 schools.>

31 2. Title page, by striking lines 1 through 5 and inserting  
32 <An Act relating to education, including by requiring the  
33 director of the department of education to review the state's  
34 high school graduation requirements, core curriculum, core  
35 content standards, and educational standards, requiring the

1 state board of education to review and revise the state's  
2 social studies standards, requiring that the social studies  
3 instruction provided to students enrolled in school districts  
4 and accredited nonpublic schools in grades seven and eight  
5 include instruction related to civics, and including effective  
6 date provisions.>