

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to career education, including middle school  
2 career exploration and industry-recognized credential seals  
3 and certificates for high school students.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 69. *a.* Develop and make available on  
4 the department's internet site a list of industry-recognized  
5 credentials or certifications that are attainable by students  
6 enrolled in grades nine through twelve and that are aligned  
7 with career and technical education service areas.

8 *b.* Develop and distribute to school districts a seal  
9 aligned to the list of industry-recognized credentials or  
10 certifications described in paragraph "a" to be affixed to high  
11 school transcripts or certificates pursuant to section 279.87.

12 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2025, are  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 3. *a.* ~~The~~ All of the following areas shall be taught in  
15 grades one through six:

16 (1) English-language arts,~~social.~~

17 (2) Social studies,~~mathematics, science, health, physical.~~

18 (3) Mathematics.

19 (4) Science.

20 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include the  
21 characteristics of communicable diseases.

22 (6) Physical education,~~traffic.~~

23 (7) Traffic safety,~~music, visual.~~

24 (8) Music.

25 (9) Visual art,~~and, subject.~~

26 (10) Subject to section 279.80, age-appropriate and  
27 research-based human growth and development.

28 (11) In grades five and six, career planning and pathways.

29 The career planning and pathways curriculum shall include  
30 career investigation, career connections, and career intentions  
31 to help such students understand career opportunities in order  
32 to fully utilize the individualized career and academic plan  
33 developed pursuant to section 279.61.

34 *b.* Computer science instruction incorporating the standards  
35 established under section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph

1 "a", subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade  
2 level commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023.  
3 ~~The health curriculum shall include the characteristics of~~  
4 ~~communicable diseases.~~

5 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall  
6 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary  
7 program.

8 4. a. ~~The~~ All of the following shall be taught in grades  
9 seven and eight:

10 (1) English-language arts; ~~social.~~

11 (2) Social studies, including instruction related to  
12 civics; ~~mathematics; science; health; .~~

13 (3) Mathematics.

14 (4) Science.

15 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include  
16 age-appropriate and research-based information regarding the  
17 characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.

18 (6) Age-appropriate and research-based human growth and  
19 development; ~~career.~~

20 (7) Career instruction, exploration, and development;  
21 ~~physical,~~ which shall include career investigation, career  
22 connections, and career intentions.

23 (8) Physical education; ~~music; and visual.~~

24 (9) Music.

25 (10) Visual art.

26 b. Computer science instruction incorporating the standards  
27 established under section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a",  
28 subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade level  
29 commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career  
30 exploration and development shall be designed so that students  
31 are appropriately prepared to create an individual career  
32 and academic plan pursuant to section 279.61, incorporate  
33 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned  
34 with the six career and technical education service areas as  
35 defined in subsection 5, paragraph "h", incorporate relevant

1 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness,  
2 and introduce students to career opportunities within the  
3 local community and across this state. ~~The health curriculum~~  
4 ~~shall include age-appropriate and research-based information~~  
5 ~~regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.~~

6 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall  
7 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the program in  
8 grades seven and eight. ~~However, this~~

9 d. This subsection shall not apply to the teaching of career  
10 instruction, exploration, and development in nonpublic schools.

11 **Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 279.87 Industry-recognized credentials**  
12 **or certifications — recognition.**

13 1. A school district shall report to the department of  
14 education the identity of a student enrolled in the school  
15 district who attains an industry-recognized credential or  
16 certification that is aligned to the student's career and  
17 technical education program of study and that is on the list  
18 described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph "a", and  
19 the specific credential or certification the student attained.  
20 The report shall be confidential and shall not be a public  
21 record subject to disclosure under chapter 22.

22 2. A school district shall recognize high school graduates  
23 who, prior to graduation, have attained an industry-recognized  
24 credential or certification that is aligned to the student's  
25 career and technical education program of study and that is on  
26 the list described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph  
27 "a", by doing one of the following:

28 a. Affixing the seal described in section 256.9, subsection  
29 69, paragraph "b", to the student's high school transcript.

30 b. Providing the student with a certificate to which the  
31 seal described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph "b",  
32 is affixed.

33 **Sec. 4. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED.** In accordance  
34 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
35 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall

1 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
2 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
3 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
4 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of  
5 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding  
6 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act  
7 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school  
8 districts.

9

EXPLANATION

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

12       This bill relates to career education, including middle  
13 school career exploration and industry-recognized credential  
14 seals and certificates for high school students.

15       The bill requires the director of the department of  
16 education (DE) to develop and make available on DE's  
17 internet site a list of industry-recognized credentials  
18 or certifications that are attainable by students enrolled  
19 in grades 9 through 12 and that are aligned with career  
20 and technical education service areas. The director must  
21 also develop and distribute to school districts a seal that  
22 is aligned to the list. The bill establishes that school  
23 districts are to report to DE information related to students  
24 who attain an industry-recognized credential or certification  
25 that is aligned to the student's career and technical education  
26 program of study and that is on the list. School districts  
27 must also recognize high school graduates who, prior to  
28 graduation, have attained an industry-recognized credential  
29 or certification that is aligned to the student's career and  
30 technical education program of study and that is on the list by  
31 either affixing the seal developed by the director of DE to the  
32 student's high school transcript or by providing the student  
33 with a certificate to which the seal is affixed.

34       The bill modifies provisions related to the instruction  
35 provided to students enrolled in grades five and six to require

1 instruction related to career planning and pathways, which  
2 shall include career investigation, career connections, and  
3 career intentions.

4 The bill modifies provisions related to the career  
5 exploration and development curriculum provided to students  
6 enrolled in grades seven and eight by requiring the provision  
7 of a career instruction, exploration, and development  
8 curriculum, which shall include career investigation, career  
9 connections, and career intentions.

10 The bill makes nonsubstantive, stylistic changes to Code  
11 section 256.11(3) and (4), which describe the subjects that  
12 must be taught to students enrolled in grades one through  
13 eight.

14 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
15 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
16 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
17 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
18 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
19 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
20 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
21 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
22 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
23 mandates included in the bill.