

Iowa Core Curriculum

Senate File 2216

Iowa Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

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State Board of Education

State of Iowa

Department of Education

Grimes State Office Building
400 E 14th Street
Des Moines IA 50319-0146

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INTRODUCTION

Section 159. 2008 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2216, is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 6. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION = CORE CURRICULUM STUDY. The department of education shall conduct a study of the measures necessary for the successful adoption by the state's school districts and accredited nonpublic schools of core curriculums and core content standards established by rule pursuant to section 256.7, subsections 26 and 28. The study shall include an examination of the possible future expansion of the core curriculum to include content areas not currently included under section 256.7, subsection 26, including but not limited to fine arts, applied arts, humanities, and world languages. The department shall submit its findings and recommendations, including recommendations for statutory and administrative rule changes necessary, to the general assembly by November 14, 2008.

Measures Necessary for Successful Adoption.

As part of the Iowa Department of Education's (Department) study, an advisory group was formed to provide input and guidance about the successful implementation of the core curriculum. Membership on the group included representation from local schools, area education agencies (AEAs), educator preparation programs, and key stakeholder groups (Iowa Association of School Boards, Iowa State Education Association, and School Administrators of Iowa) Additionally, the Department and chief administrators of the area education agencies collaborated to create a statewide system of support around the core curriculum for local schools. Based on the input from these groups, the following measures were identified as critical to successful implementation of the core curriculum by the local schools:

1. a clear statement of mission with guiding principles;
2. the development of processes, protocols, tools and resources that promote and support local school engagement with content, instruction, and assessment as well as the alignment of content, instruction, and assessment for successful implementation of the core curriculum;
3. the preparation and deployment of a statewide cadre of educational personnel to support local schools with the implementation of the core curriculum;
4. the preparation of local school leadership (administrators and teachers) on the substance of the core curriculum, necessary leadership actions, and specific strategies, tools and resources;
5. the development and use of a system for noting progress in implementing the core curriculum and assessing the impact on student achievement and school staff;

6. the inclusion of school leaders, administrators and teachers in the development of resources and procedures that support implementation;
7. the development of a communication strategy specific to the core curriculum and its implementation by local schools;
8. integration of the requirements of the core curriculum with other required plans and actions placed on local schools, including the analysis of current state school policy, including legislation and administrative rules;
9. the development of a strategy that maintains the focus on implementing and resourcing the core curriculum across time at all levels of government and school administration, all school personnel, and communities; and
10. involvement of practitioner preparation programs from both public and private universities in all training related to the Iowa Core Curriculum so new graduates in the field of education are prepared to teach in Iowa schools.
11. Long-term, sustained policy and funding continuity from the Iowa Legislature and the Governor.

Creation of Advisory Group for Assessment.

An assessment advisory group has been convened and will meet beginning in January 2009. They will give input to the Department regarding assessments that align with the expectations in the Iowa Core Curriculum.

Expansion of Core Curriculum.

The core curriculum could be expanded to include other content areas, specifically the fine arts, applied arts, humanities and world languages provided the resources are made available to the Department to accomplish the work in the same manner as the current core curriculum content areas of literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and 21st century skills. Specifically, resources would be needed to support the work of development teams with educators representing different parts of the K-12 education system as well as higher education for each of the content areas being added. Additionally, resources would be needed to continue the leadership role of the Project Lead Team in the development process.

Statutory and Administrative Rule Changes.

The Department is continuing its review of Iowa Code, especially Chapters 256 and 280 as well as relevant administrative rules, specifically Education Department[281] Chapter 12. The purpose of the review is multifaceted: identify inconsistencies or conflicts in the Code or rules with the recent statutory requirements for the core curriculum and identify specific changes in administrative rules. The Department will complete its review and provide specific recommendations for the General Assembly on or before November 15, 2009.