



[HF 2235](#) – Statewide School Student Assessments (LSB5731HV.1)
Analyst: Jocelyn Gerrietts (515.238.2833) josie.gerrietts@legis.iowa.gov
Fiscal Note Version – As Amended by Senate Amendment H-8262

Description

[House File 2235](#) as amended by the Senate Amendment requires the Department of Education to adopt administrative rules setting the statewide assessment for students as the assessment created by the Iowa Testing Program and administered by the Iowa Testing Program's designee. The Iowa Testing Program is housed in the University of Iowa's College of Education and commonly known as the Iowa Assessment. The Amendment sets out the requirements for the statewide assessment, including:

- Grade and content areas assessed.
- Alignment to the [Iowa Core Academic Standards](#).
- Peer review by a third-party evaluator to ensure alignment.
- Availability of both online and paper/pencil versions of the assessment.
- Providing measures of student growth and proficiency.
- Meeting summative assessment requirements of the federal [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA).

The Bill takes effect upon enactment.

Background

[Senate File 240](#) (FY 2017 Statewide Assessment Act) required the Department of Education to create a request for proposal (RFP) through which a new statewide assessment would be selected. [Senate File 240](#) laid out the following considerations that were allowed to be taken into account in the RFP:

- Feasibility of implementation by school districts.
- Cost to the State and school districts.
- Alignment with the Iowa Core academic standards.
- Compliance with federal law (ESSA).

The RFP process was completed in the fall of 2017; based on the results of the RFP, the Department selected the American Institutes for Research's College and Career Readiness Solution assessment. At that time, NCS Pearson, Inc. and the University of Iowa, which authored one of the competing proposals, launched an appeal through an Administrative Law Judge. Final briefs in the appeal process were submitted in early January 2018. A decision by the judge has not been filed as of February 6, 2018.

Currently, students in Iowa are administered an older version of the Iowa Assessment.

Assumptions

Assumptions include:

- The Iowa Testing Program will partner with Pearson and will offer the assessment at the cost generated in the RFP process. The Bill as amended does not require the Iowa Testing Program to partner with Pearson for the purpose of offering the assessment.
- Students in grades three through eleven will take assessments in reading and math.
- Students in grades five, eight, and ten will take an assessment in science.

- An estimated 360,971 assessments will be taken each year. Over five years, this will generate an estimated 1,805,855 assessments.
- The current cost of the Iowa Assessment is \$4.50 per student.
- The cost of the Assessment will be evenly distributed over the five years of the contract. There may be variance in the per year cost to complete start-up work in year one.

Fiscal Impact

According to documentation from the RFP process, the Iowa Assessment will cost an estimated \$21.7 million for five years of assessment. This is an estimated \$4.4 million per year. **Table 1** below provides more information.

If no appropriation is made at the State level, school districts will be required to purchase the assessment.

Table 1: Estimated Per Year Costs

	<u>Assessments Per Year</u>	<u>RFP Bid Cost (Five Year Total)</u>	<u>Estimated Cost (Per Year)</u>	<u>Estimated Cost Per Student, Per Year</u>
Current Iowa Assessment*	360,971	\$ 8,121,847.50	\$ 1,624,369.50	\$ 4.50
AIIR College and Career Readiness Assessment Proposal	360,971	31,004,151.06	6,200,830.21	17.18
NCS Pearson, Iowa Assessment Proposal	360,971	21,749,839.00	4,349,967.80	12.05

*The current Iowa Assessment was not submitted for the bid process and is only included for purposes of comparison to current practice.

Sources

University of Iowa, Iowa Assessments
 Department of Education
 LSA analysis and calculations

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 14, 2018

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
