

JAN 11 1999
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 24
BY CORBETT, SUKUP, GARMAN,
BODDICKER, HAHN, BRADLEY,
BARRY, DAVIS, LORD, HOLMES,
TYRRELL, BRAUNS, BLODGETT,
ALONS, SUNDERBRUCH, BAUDLER,
JOHNSON, GREINER, and RAYHONS

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act incorporating phonics into the educational standards for
2 kindergarten through grade three.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 24

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 2 and 3, Code 1999,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 2. The kindergarten program shall include experiences
4 designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits and
5 growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well
6 as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and
7 protect and increase physical well-being with attention given
8 to experiences relating to the development of life skills and
9 human growth and development. Language arts and communication
10 skills shall be taught using a systematic, phonics-based
11 approach. A kindergarten teacher shall be licensed to teach
12 in kindergarten. An accredited nonpublic school must meet the
13 requirements of this subsection only if the nonpublic school
14 offers a kindergarten program.

15 3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one
16 through six: English-language arts, social studies,
17 mathematics, science, health, human growth and development,
18 physical education, traffic safety, music, and visual art.
19 English-language arts shall be taught using a systematic,
20 phonics-based approach in grades one through three. The
21 health curriculum shall include the characteristics of
22 communicable diseases including acquired immune deficiency
23 syndrome. The state board as part of accreditation standards
24 shall adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the
25 elementary program.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill mandates a systematic, phonics-based approach to
28 teaching language arts and communications skills in
29 kindergarten, and to teaching English-language arts in grades
30 one through three in all school districts and accredited
31 nonpublic schools. However, an accredited nonpublic school
32 must only meet this educational standard at the kindergarten
33 level if it offers a kindergarten program.

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