

# House File 159 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY FORD

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a statewide educational  
2 standards and accountability task force.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 2058HH 82  
5 kh/es/88

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1 1 Section 1. STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND  
1 2 ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE.  
1 3 1. The department of education shall convene a task force  
1 4 to study the establishment of statewide content and  
1 5 performance standards.  
1 6 a. The task force shall review the current educational  
1 7 program standards school districts and accredited nonpublic  
1 8 schools are required to provide pursuant to section 256.11.  
1 9 b. The task force shall study strategies for establishing  
1 10 academic standards for student knowledge in the core  
1 11 curriculum areas of reading, language arts, mathematics,  
1 12 social studies, and science for kindergarten through grade  
1 13 twelve, and the effect such focus has on advancing or  
1 14 inhibiting critical and creative thinking and in drawing  
1 15 attention from other worthwhile subjects, aligning assessments  
1 16 to those standards, implementing accountability measures, and  
1 17 providing supports to improve student achievement.  
1 18 c. The study shall include a review of the educational  
1 19 content and performance standards in neighboring states, and  
1 20 in states recognized as successfully narrowing achievement  
1 21 gaps and increasing overall student achievement in  
1 22 kindergarten through grade twelve.  
1 23 d. The task force shall consider the use of innovative  
1 24 delivery systems, including technology.  
1 25 e. The task force shall consider a potential timeline and  
1 26 implementation strategy for statewide standards, resources  
1 27 needed, and the use of systematic and frequent data to inform  
1 28 teachers and students about how well students are learning  
1 29 material and about strategies students are expected to learn.  
1 30 2. The task force shall consist of the director of the  
1 31 department of education or the director's designee,  
1 32 administrators and teachers representing large, medium, and  
1 33 small school districts who have worked closely with the  
1 34 development of local content standards, representatives from  
1 35 area education agencies who have worked closely with the  
2 1 development of local content standards, and parents or  
2 2 guardians, and community leaders.  
2 3 3. The department shall submit a progress report to the  
2 4 general assembly by December 15, 2007.  
2 5 4. The department shall submit a report summarizing the  
2 6 results of the study and making recommendations to the general  
2 7 assembly by December 15, 2008.

### EXPLANATION

2 8 This bill directs the department of education to convene a  
2 9 task force to study the establishment of statewide content and  
2 10 performance standards.  
2 11 The task force is directed to review the current  
2 12 educational program school districts and accredited nonpublic  
2 13 schools are required to provide pursuant to Code section  
2 14 256.11; study strategies for establishing academic standards  
2 15 in the core curriculum areas for kindergarten through grade 12  
2 16 and the effect such focus has on advancing or inhibiting  
2 17 critical and creative thinking and drawing attention from  
2 18 other worthwhile subjects, aligning assessments to those  
2 19 standards, implementing accountability measures, and providing  
2 20

2 21 supports to improve student achievement; review the  
2 22 educational content and performance standards in neighboring  
2 23 states, and in states recognized as successfully narrowing  
2 24 achievement gaps and generally increasing student achievement  
2 25 in kindergarten through grade 12; study the use of innovative  
2 26 delivery systems; and consider a potential timeline and  
2 27 implementation strategy for state standards, resources, and  
2 28 the use of systematic and frequent data to inform teachers and  
2 29 students about how well students are learning material and  
2 30 about strategies they are expected to learn.

2 31 The department must submit a progress report to the general  
2 32 assembly by December 15, 2007, and a final report summarizing  
2 33 the results of the study and making recommendations to the  
2 34 general assembly by December 15, 2008.

2 35 LSB 2058HH 82

3 1 kh:nh/es/88