

Senate File 174 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 174

BY MCKINLEY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to certain reporting requirements required
2 of school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and
3 community colleges.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code
2 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. A requirement that all school districts and accredited
4 nonpublic schools annually report to the department and the
5 local community the district-wide progress made in attaining
6 student achievement goals on the academic and other core
7 indicators and the district-wide progress made in attaining
8 locally established student learning goals. The school
9 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall demonstrate
10 the use of multiple assessment measures in determining student
11 achievement levels. The school districts and accredited
12 nonpublic schools shall also report the number of students who
13 graduate, utilizing the definition of graduation rate specified
14 by the national governors association; the number of students
15 who drop out of school; the number of students pursuing a high
16 school equivalency diploma pursuant to chapter 259A; the number
17 of students who were enrolled in the district within the past
18 five years and who received a high school equivalency diploma;
19 the percentage of students who received a high school diploma
20 and who were not proficient in reading, mathematics, and
21 science in grade eleven; the number of students in the prior
22 year who were enrolled as high school juniors and were within
23 four units of meeting the district's graduation requirements
24 when so enrolled; the number of students who are tested and
25 the percentage of students who are so tested annually; and the
26 percentage of students who graduated during the prior school
27 year and who completed a core curriculum. The board shall
28 develop and adopt uniform definitions consistent with the
29 federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110
30 and any federal regulations adopted pursuant to the federal
31 Act. The school districts and accredited nonpublic schools may
32 report on other locally determined factors influencing student
33 achievement. The school districts and accredited nonpublic
34 schools shall also report to the local community their results
35 by individual attendance center.

1 Sec. 2. Section 256D.1, subsection 1, paragraph b,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) A school district shall at a minimum biannually
4 inform parents of their individual child's performance on the
5 diagnostic assessments in kindergarten through grade three.
6 If intervention is appropriate, the school district shall
7 inform the parents of the actions the school district intends
8 to take to improve the child's reading skills and provide the
9 parents with strategies to enable the parents to improve their
10 child's skills. If the diagnostic assessments administered
11 in accordance with this subsection indicate that a child is
12 reading below grade level, the school district shall submit
13 a report of the assessment results to the parent, which the
14 parent shall sign and return to the school district. If the
15 parent does not sign or return the report, the school district
16 shall note the parent's inaction in the student's record. The
17 board of directors of each school district shall adopt a policy
18 indicating the methods the school district will use to inform
19 parents of their individual child's performance.

20 Sec. 3. Section 260C.14, Code 2011, is amended by adding the
21 following new subsection:

22 NEW SUBSECTION. 23. Request that a student pursuing
23 or receiving a high school equivalency diploma inform the
24 community college of the student's school district of residence
25 and the last year in which the student was enrolled in the
26 school district of residence. The community college shall
27 annually report to the school district of residence the number
28 of students from the school district who are pursuing or
29 receiving a high school equivalency diploma at the community
30 college.

31 EXPLANATION

32 This bill reestablishes certain paperwork and reporting
33 requirements for school districts, accredited nonpublic
34 schools, and community colleges that were eliminated by
35 legislation enacted in 2009.

1 The bill requires school districts and accredited nonpublic
2 schools, when reporting the number of students who graduate,
3 to utilize the definition of graduation rate specified by the
4 national governors association. The bill also requires school
5 districts and accredited nonpublic schools to report the number
6 of students pursuing and receiving a high school equivalency
7 diploma, the percentage of students receiving a high school
8 diploma who were not proficient in core areas by grade 11, and
9 the number of high school juniors who, for the prior year, were
10 within four units of meeting graduation requirements.

11 If a child's performance on diagnostic assessments in
12 kindergarten through grade three indicates the child is reading
13 below grade level, the bill requires a school district to
14 submit a report to the child's parent or guardian and requires
15 the parent or guardian to sign and return the report. If the
16 parent or guardian does not sign and return the report, the
17 inaction is to be noted in the student's record.

18 The bill also requires that the board of directors of a
19 community college request students pursuing or receiving a
20 high school equivalency diploma at the community college to
21 identify their school districts of residence and the last
22 year in which they were enrolled in the school district. The
23 community college is required to report to the affected school
24 districts the number of students from the school district who
25 are pursuing or receiving a high school equivalency diploma at
26 the community college.