

**Senate File 2123 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2123

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the Iowa core curriculum and core content  
2 standards for school districts and accredited nonpublic  
3 schools.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,  
2 subparagraphs (2) and (3), Code 2014, are amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 (2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), for the school year  
5 beginning July 1, 2016, and each succeeding school year, the  
6 rules shall provide that all students enrolled in school  
7 districts in grades three through eleven shall be administered  
8 an assessment during the last quarter of the school year  
9 that at a minimum assesses the indicators identified in this  
10 paragraph "b"; ~~is aligned with the Iowa common core standards~~  
11 ~~in both content and rigor~~; accurately describes student  
12 achievement and growth for purposes of the school, the school  
13 district, and state accountability systems; and provides valid,  
14 reliable, and fair measures of student progress toward college  
15 or career readiness.

16 (3) The director shall establish an assessment task force  
17 to review and make recommendations for a statewide assessment  
18 of student progress on the indicators identified pursuant to  
19 this paragraph "b". The task force shall recommend a statewide  
20 assessment that is ~~aligned to the Iowa common core standards~~  
21 ~~and is~~, at a minimum, valid, reliable, tested, and piloted in  
22 Iowa. In addition, in developing recommendations, the task  
23 force shall consider the costs to school districts and the  
24 state in providing and administering such an assessment and  
25 the technical support necessary to implement the assessment.  
26 The task force shall submit its recommendations in a report  
27 to the director, the state board, and the general assembly by  
28 January 1, 2015. The task force shall assist with the final  
29 development and implementation of the assessment administered  
30 pursuant to subparagraph (2). The task force members shall  
31 include but not be limited to teachers, school administrators,  
32 business leaders, representatives of state agencies, and  
33 members of the general public. This subparagraph is repealed  
34 July 1, 2020.

35 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code

1 2014, is amended to read as follows:

2     *c.* A requirement that all school districts and accredited  
3 nonpublic schools annually report to the department and the  
4 local community the district-wide progress made in attaining  
5 student achievement goals on the academic and other core  
6 indicators and the district-wide progress made in attaining  
7 locally established student learning goals. The school  
8 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall demonstrate  
9 the use of multiple assessment measures in determining student  
10 achievement levels. The school districts and accredited  
11 nonpublic schools shall also report the number of students  
12 who graduate; the number of students who drop out of school;  
13 the number of students who are tested and the percentage of  
14 students who are so tested annually; and the percentage of  
15 students who graduated during the prior school year ~~and who~~  
16 ~~completed a core curriculum.~~ The board shall develop and  
17 adopt uniform definitions consistent with the federal No Child  
18 Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 and any federal  
19 regulations adopted pursuant to the federal Act. The school  
20 districts and accredited nonpublic schools may report on other  
21 locally determined factors influencing student achievement.  
22 The school districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall  
23 also report to the local community their results by individual  
24 attendance center.

25     Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,  
26 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2014, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28     Adopt rules that establish ~~a core curriculum~~ and high school  
29 graduation requirements for all students in school districts  
30 and accredited nonpublic schools that include at a minimum  
31 satisfactory completion of four years of English and language  
32 arts, three years of mathematics, three years of science, and  
33 three years of social studies.

34     Sec. 4. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,  
35 subparagraph (3), Code 2014, is amended by striking the

1 subparagraph.

2 Sec. 5. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraphs b and c,  
3 Code 2014, are amended by striking the paragraphs.

4 Sec. 6. Section 256.7, subsection 28, Code 2014, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 28. Adopt a set of ~~core content~~ assessment standards  
7 applicable to all students in kindergarten through grade twelve  
8 in every school district and accredited nonpublic school. For  
9 purposes of this subsection, "~~core content~~ assessment standards"  
10 includes reading, mathematics, and science. The ~~core content~~  
11 assessment standards shall be identical to the ~~core content~~  
12 assessment standards included in Iowa's approved 2006 standards  
13 and assessment system under Tit. I of the federal Elementary  
14 and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et  
15 seq., as amended by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of  
16 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110. School districts and accredited  
17 nonpublic schools shall include, at a minimum, the ~~core content~~  
18 assessment standards adopted pursuant to this subsection in any  
19 set of locally developed content standards. School districts  
20 and accredited nonpublic schools are strongly encouraged to set  
21 higher expectations in local standards. As changes in federal  
22 law or regulation occur, the state board is authorized to amend  
23 the ~~core content~~ assessment standards as appropriate.

24 Sec. 7. Section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph a, Code  
25 2014, is amended to read as follows:

26 a. Develop and distribute, in collaboration with the area  
27 education agencies, ~~core curriculum~~ technical assistance and  
28 implementation strategies that school districts and accredited  
29 nonpublic schools shall utilize, including but not limited to  
30 the development and delivery of formative and end-of-course  
31 model assessments classroom teachers may use to measure student  
32 progress ~~on the core curriculum adopted pursuant to section~~  
33 ~~256.7, subsection 26.~~ The department shall, in collaboration  
34 ~~with the advisory group convened in accordance with paragraph~~  
35 ~~"b" and educational assessment providers, identify and make~~

1 ~~available to school districts end-of-course and additional~~  
2 ~~model end-of-course and additional assessments to align with~~  
3 ~~the expectations included in the Iowa core curriculum.~~ The  
4 model assessments shall be suitable to meet the multiple  
5 assessment measures requirement specified in section 256.7,  
6 subsection 21, paragraph "c".

7 Sec. 8. Section 256.9, subsection 54, Code 2014, is amended  
8 by striking the subsection.

9 Sec. 9. Section 256.40, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code  
10 2014, is amended to read as follows:

11 e. Integrate services provided through the program with  
12 other career exploration-related activities such as the student  
13 ~~core curriculum~~ graduation plan and the career information and  
14 decision-making system developed and administered under section  
15 279.61, where appropriate.

16 Sec. 10. Section 256.42, subsection 6, Code 2014, is amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 6. Coursework offered under the initiative shall be  
19 rigorous and high quality, and the department shall annually  
20 evaluate the quality of the courses and ensure that coursework  
21 is aligned with the ~~state's core curriculum and core content~~  
22 ~~requirements and assessment~~ standards adopted pursuant to  
23 section 256.7, subsection 28, as well as national standards  
24 of quality for online courses issued by an internationally  
25 recognized association for kindergarten through grade twelve  
26 online learning.

27 Sec. 11. Section 257.11, subsection 11, Code 2014, is  
28 amended to read as follows:

29 11. *Shared classes and curriculum standards.* A school  
30 district shall ensure that any course made available to a  
31 student through any sharing agreement between the school  
32 district and a community college or any other entity providing  
33 course programming pursuant to this section to students  
34 enrolled in the school district meets the expectations  
35 contained in ~~the core curriculum adopted pursuant to section~~

1 256.7, subsection 26. The school district shall ensure that  
2 any course that has the capacity to generate college credit  
3 shall be equivalent to college-level work.

4 Sec. 12. Section 258.4, subsection 8, Code 2014, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 8. Establish a minimum set of competencies ~~and core~~  
7 ~~curriculum~~ for approval of a vocational program sequence that  
8 addresses the following: new and emerging technologies;  
9 job-seeking, job-keeping, and other employment skills,  
10 including self-employment and entrepreneurial skills, that  
11 reflect current industry standards, leadership skills,  
12 entrepreneurial, and labor-market needs; and the strengthening  
13 of basic academic skills.

14 Sec. 13. Section 260C.14, subsection 22, paragraph b, Code  
15 2014, is amended to read as follows:

16 b. Collaborate with the state board of regents to meet  
17 the requirements specified in section 262.9, subsection 33,  
18 including but not limited to developing a systematic process  
19 for expanding academic discipline and meetings between the  
20 community college faculty and faculty of the institutions  
21 of higher education governed by the state board of regents,  
22 ~~developing criteria to prioritize core curriculum areas,~~  
23 promoting greater awareness of articulation-related activities,  
24 facilitating additional opportunities for individual  
25 institutions to pursue program articulation agreements for  
26 career and technical educational programs, and developing  
27 and implementing a process to examine a minimum of eight  
28 new associate of applied science degree programs for which  
29 articulation agreements would serve students' continued  
30 academic success in those degree programs.

31 Sec. 14. Section 261E.4, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended  
32 to read as follows:

33 4. A school district shall establish prerequisite  
34 coursework for each advanced placement course offered and shall  
35 describe the prerequisites in the course registration handbook,

1 which shall be provided to every junior high school or middle  
2 school student prior to the development of a ~~core curriculum~~  
3 graduation plan pursuant to section 279.61.

4 Sec. 15. Section 261E.6, subsection 2, Code 2014, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 2. *Notification.* The availability and requirements of this  
7 program shall be included in each school district's student  
8 registration handbook. Information about the program shall be  
9 provided to the student and the student's parent or guardian  
10 prior to the development of the student's ~~core curriculum~~  
11 graduation plan under section 279.61. The school district  
12 shall establish a process by which students may indicate  
13 interest in and apply for enrollment in the program.

14 Sec. 16. Section 261E.8, subsection 1, Code 2014, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 1. A district-to-community college sharing or concurrent  
17 enrollment program is established to be administered by the  
18 department to promote rigorous academic or career and technical  
19 pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to high  
20 school students to enroll part-time in eligible nonsectarian  
21 courses at or through community colleges established under  
22 chapter 260C. The program shall be made available to all  
23 resident students in grades nine through twelve. Notice of  
24 the availability of the program shall be included in a school  
25 district's student registration handbook and the handbook shall  
26 identify which courses, if successfully completed, generate  
27 college credit under the program. A student and the student's  
28 parent or legal guardian shall also be made aware of this  
29 program as a part of the development of the student's ~~core~~  
30 curriculum graduation plan in accordance with section 279.61.

31 Sec. 17. Section 261E.9, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
32 2014, is amended to read as follows:

33 b. A regional academy may include in its curriculum virtual  
34 or internet-based coursework and courses delivered via the Iowa  
35 communications network, career and technical courses, ~~core~~

1 ~~curriculum coursework~~, courses required pursuant to section  
2 256.7, subsection 26, or section 256.11, subsections 4 and 5,  
3 and asynchronous learning networks.

4 Sec. 18. Section 261E.9, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 4. Information regarding regional academies shall be  
7 provided to a student and the student's parent or guardian  
8 prior to the development of the student's ~~core curriculum~~  
9 graduation plan under section 279.61.

10 Sec. 19. Section 261E.10, subsection 4, Code 2014, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 4. Information regarding career academies shall be provided  
13 by the school district to a student and the student's parent  
14 or guardian prior to the development of the student's ~~core~~  
15 curriculum graduation plan under section 279.61.

16 Sec. 20. Section 262.9, subsection 33, paragraph c, Code  
17 2014, is amended by striking the paragraph.

18 Sec. 21. Section 279.61, Code 2014, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 **279.61 Student plan for progress toward university admissions**  
21 **— report.**

22 1. ~~For the school year beginning July 1, 2008, and each~~  
23 ~~succeeding school year, the~~ The board of directors of each  
24 school district shall cooperate with each student enrolled  
25 in grade eight to develop for the student a ~~core curriculum~~  
26 plan to guide the student toward the goal of successfully  
27 completing, at a minimum, the ~~core curriculum developed~~ high  
28 school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of  
29 education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26, by the  
30 time the student graduates from high school. The plan shall  
31 include career options and shall identify the coursework  
32 needed in grades nine through twelve to support the student's  
33 postsecondary education and career options. Additionally, the  
34 plan shall include a timeline for each student to successfully  
35 complete, prior to graduation, all components of the



1 state-designated career information and decision-making system  
2 administered by the department in accordance with section 118  
3 of the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education  
4 Improvement Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-270. The student's  
5 parent or guardian shall sign the ~~core curriculum~~ graduation  
6 plan developed with the student and the signed plan shall be  
7 included in the student's cumulative records.

8 2. ~~For the school year beginning July 1, 2008, and each~~  
9 ~~succeeding school year, the~~ The board of directors of each  
10 school district shall report annually to each student enrolled  
11 in grades nine through twelve in the school district, and, if  
12 the student is under the age of eighteen, to each student's  
13 parent or guardian, the student's progress toward meeting the  
14 goal of successfully completing the ~~core curriculum~~ and high  
15 school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of  
16 education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26.

17 Sec. 22. Section 280.3, subsection 3, Code 2014, is amended  
18 by striking the subsection.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill eliminates requirements and references to the  
23 (Iowa) core curriculum and to core content standards, but  
24 continues to direct the state board of education to adopt high  
25 school graduation requirements and assessment standards.

26 Provisions directing school districts to cooperate with  
27 each eighth grade student on a core curriculum plan to meet  
28 core curriculum requirements are amended to replace "core  
29 curriculum plan" with "graduation plan" and "core curriculum  
30 requirements" with "high school graduation requirements". The  
31 term "core content standards", which was used to describe the  
32 assessment standards adopted by the state board, is replaced  
33 with the term "assessment standards". The assessment standards  
34 will remain applicable to all students in kindergarten through  
35 grade 12 in every school district and accredited nonpublic

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1 school. Corresponding changes are made throughout the Code,  
2 and obsolete language is eliminated.