

**Senate File 2181 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2181

BY ERNST

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the academic and assessment standards  
2 requirements for students enrolled in school districts and  
3 accredited nonpublic 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  
10 this paragraph "b"; is aligned with the Iowa ~~common-core~~  
11 ~~standards~~ excellence academic standard in both content and  
12 rigor; accurately describes student achievement and growth  
13 for purposes of the school, the school district, and state  
14 accountability systems; and provides valid, reliable, and  
15 fair measures of student progress toward college or career  
16 readiness.

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 This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2020.

1     Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code  
2 2014, 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  
13 who graduate; the number of students who drop out of school;  
14 the number of students who are tested and the percentage  
15 of students who are so tested annually; and the percentage  
16 of students who graduated during the prior school year  
17 and who completed ~~a core curriculum~~ the Iowa excellence  
18 academic standard. The board shall develop and adopt uniform  
19 definitions consistent with the federal No Child Left Behind  
20 Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 and any federal regulations  
21 adopted pursuant to the federal Act. The school districts  
22 and accredited nonpublic schools may report on other locally  
23 determined factors influencing student achievement. The school  
24 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall also report  
25 to the local community their results by individual attendance  
26 center.

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

30     Adopt rules that establish ~~a core curriculum and~~ the Iowa  
31 excellence academic standard. The state board shall also adopt  
32 high school graduation requirements for all students in school  
33 districts and accredited nonpublic schools that include at a  
34 minimum satisfactory completion of four years of English and  
35 language arts, three years of mathematics, three years of

1 science, and three years of social studies.

2 Sec. 4. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,  
3 subparagraph (3), Code 2014, is amended to read as follows:

4 (3) The rules establishing a ~~core curriculum~~ the Iowa  
5 excellence academic standard shall address the ~~core content~~  
6 assessment standards in subsection 28 and the skills and  
7 knowledge students need to be successful in the twenty-first  
8 century. The ~~core curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic standard  
9 shall include social studies and twenty-first century learning  
10 skills which include but are not limited to civic literacy,  
11 health literacy, technology literacy, financial literacy, and  
12 employability skills; and shall address the curricular needs of  
13 students in kindergarten through grade twelve in those areas.  
14 The department shall further define the twenty-first century  
15 learning skills components by rule.

16 Sec. 5. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a, Code  
17 2014, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

18 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (4) In developing or modifying the Iowa  
19 excellence academic standard, the state board shall seek and  
20 review and consider public comment as well as comment from  
21 school district practitioners and board members; shall review  
22 other nationally and internationally recognized academic  
23 standards; and shall consider the impact the proposed standards  
24 will have on student achievement.

25 Sec. 6. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph b, Code  
26 2014, is amended by striking the paragraph.

27 Sec. 7. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph c, Code  
28 2014, is amended to read as follows:

29 c. Neither the state board nor the department shall require  
30 school districts or accredited nonpublic schools to adopt a  
31 specific textbook, textbook series, or specific instructional  
32 methodology, or acquire specific textbooks, curriculum  
33 materials, or educational products from a specific vendor in  
34 order to meet the ~~core curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic  
35 standard requirements of this subsection or the ~~core content~~

1 assessment standards adopted pursuant to subsection 28. Each  
2 school district and accredited nonpublic school is encouraged  
3 to develop local methods and materials to assist students in  
4 reaching the requirements set forth under the Iowa excellence  
5 academic standard.

6 Sec. 8. Section 256.7, subsection 28, Code 2014, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

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

26 Sec. 9. Section 256.7, Code 2014, is amended by adding the  
27 following new subsection:

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 33. Adopt rules prohibiting the department  
29 from entering into a contract or a memorandum of understanding  
30 with another state or national organization for the development  
31 or implementation of statewide content or assessment standards  
32 unless the state board submits the contract or memorandum  
33 of understanding to the general assembly while the general  
34 assembly is in session or the director appears before the  
35 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives

1 having jurisdiction over education to report on the proposed  
2 contract or memorandum of understanding. The rules may only  
3 allow the department to adopt and implement the Iowa excellence  
4 academic standard content and assessment standards identified  
5 or developed by Iowa educators.

6 Sec. 10. Section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph a, Code  
7 2014, is amended to read as follows:

8 a. Develop and distribute, in collaboration with the area  
9 education agencies, ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic  
10 standard technical assistance and implementation strategies  
11 that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools ~~shall~~  
12 may utilize, including but not limited to the development and  
13 delivery of formative and end-of-course model assessments  
14 classroom teachers may use to measure student progress on the  
15 ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic standard adopted  
16 pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26. The department  
17 shall, in collaboration with the advisory group convened in  
18 accordance with paragraph "b" and educational assessment  
19 providers, identify and make available to school districts  
20 end-of-course and additional model end-of-course and additional  
21 assessments to align with the expectations included in the Iowa  
22 ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic standard. The model  
23 assessments shall be suitable to meet the multiple assessment  
24 measures requirement specified in section 256.7, subsection 21,  
25 paragraph "c".

26 Sec. 11. Section 256.9, subsection 54, Code 2014, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 54. Submit an annual report to the general assembly by  
29 January 1 regarding activities, findings, and student progress  
30 under the ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic standard  
31 established pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26. The  
32 annual report shall include the state board's findings and  
33 recommendations.

34 Sec. 12. Section 256.40, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code  
35 2014, is amended to read as follows:

1 e. Integrate services provided through the program with  
2 other career exploration-related activities such as the student  
3 ~~core-curriculum~~ plan to complete the Iowa excellence academic  
4 standard and the career information and decision-making  
5 system developed and administered under section 279.61, where  
6 appropriate.

7 Sec. 13. Section 256.42, subsection 6, Code 2014, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 6. Coursework offered under the initiative shall be  
10 rigorous and high quality, and the department shall annually  
11 evaluate the quality of the courses and ensure that coursework  
12 is aligned with the ~~state's core curriculum and core content~~  
13 ~~requirements~~ Iowa excellence academic standard and the  
14 assessment standards, as well as national standards of quality  
15 for online courses issued by an internationally recognized  
16 association for kindergarten through grade twelve online  
17 learning.

18 Sec. 14. Section 257.11, subsection 11, Code 2014, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 11. *Shared classes and curriculum standards.* A school  
21 district shall ensure that any course made available to a  
22 student through any sharing agreement between the school  
23 district and a community college or any other entity providing  
24 course programming pursuant to this section to students  
25 enrolled in the school district meets the expectations  
26 contained in ~~the core curriculum adopted pursuant to~~ section  
27 256.7, subsection 26. The school district shall ensure that  
28 any course that has the capacity to generate college credit  
29 shall be equivalent to college-level work.

30 Sec. 15. Section 258.4, subsection 8, Code 2014, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 8. Establish a minimum set of competencies and ~~core~~  
33 ~~curriculum~~ standards, in accordance with section 256.7,  
34 subsection 26, for approval of a vocational program sequence  
35 that addresses the following: new and emerging technologies;

1 job-seeking, job-keeping, and other employment skills,  
2 including self-employment and entrepreneurial skills, that  
3 reflect current industry standards, leadership skills,  
4 entrepreneurial, and labor-market needs; and the strengthening  
5 of basic academic skills.

6 Sec. 16. Section 260C.14, subsection 22, paragraph b, Code  
7 2014, is amended to read as follows:

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

23 Sec. 17. Section 261E.4, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 4. A school district shall establish prerequisite  
26 coursework for each advanced placement course offered and shall  
27 describe the prerequisites in the course registration handbook,  
28 which shall be provided to every junior high school or middle  
29 school student prior to the development of a ~~core curriculum~~  
30 an Iowa excellence academic standard plan pursuant to section  
31 279.61.

32 Sec. 18. Section 261E.6, subsection 2, Code 2014, is amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 2. *Notification.* The availability and requirements of this  
35 program shall be included in each school district's student



1 registration handbook. Information about the program shall be  
2 provided to the student and the student's parent or guardian  
3 prior to the development of the student's ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa  
4 excellence academic standard plan under section 279.61. The  
5 school district shall establish a process by which students may  
6 indicate interest in and apply for enrollment in the program.

7 Sec. 19. Section 261E.8, subsection 1, Code 2014, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

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

25 Sec. 20. Section 261E.9, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
26 2014, is amended to read as follows:

27 b. A regional academy may include in its curriculum virtual  
28 or internet-based coursework and courses delivered via the  
29 Iowa communications network, career and technical courses,  
30 ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic standard coursework,  
31 courses required pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26, or  
32 section 256.11, subsections 4 and 5, and asynchronous learning  
33 networks.

34 Sec. 21. Section 261E.9, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended  
35 to read as follows:

1 4. Information regarding regional academies shall be  
2 provided to a student and the student's parent or guardian  
3 prior to the development of the student's ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa  
4 excellence academic standard plan under section 279.61.

5 Sec. 22. Section 261E.10, subsection 4, Code 2014, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 4. Information regarding career academies shall be provided  
8 by the school district to a student and the student's parent  
9 or guardian prior to the development of the student's ~~core~~  
10 ~~curriculum~~ Iowa excellence academic standard plan under section  
11 279.61.

12 Sec. 23. Section 262.9, subsection 33, paragraph c, Code  
13 2014, is amended to read as follows:

14 c. Develop criteria to prioritize ~~core-curriculum areas~~  
15 the Iowa excellence academic standard and create or review  
16 transition guides for the ~~core-curriculum areas~~ Iowa excellence  
17 academic standard.

18 Sec. 24. 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~~ 2014, and  
23 each succeeding school year, 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~~ Iowa  
28 excellence academic standard and graduation requirements  
29 adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section  
30 256.7, subsection 26, by the time the student graduates from  
31 high school. The plan shall include career options and shall  
32 identify the coursework needed in grades nine through twelve  
33 to support the student's postsecondary education and career  
34 options. Additionally, the plan shall include a timeline for  
35 each student to successfully complete, prior to graduation,

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

8 2. For the school year beginning July 1, ~~2008~~ 2015, and each  
9 succeeding school year, the board of directors of each school  
10 district shall report annually to each student enrolled in  
11 grades nine through twelve in the school district, and, if the  
12 student is under the age of eighteen, to each student's parent  
13 or guardian, the student's progress toward meeting the goal of  
14 successfully completing the ~~core-curriculum~~ and Iowa excellence  
15 academic standard and high school graduation requirements  
16 adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section  
17 256.7, subsection 26.

18 Sec. 25. Section 280.3, subsection 3, Code 2014, is amended  
19 by striking the subsection.

20 Sec. 26. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
21 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
22 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
23 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
24 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
25 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
26 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of  
27 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding  
28 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act  
29 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school  
30 districts.

31 EXPLANATION

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

34 This bill continues to direct the state board of education  
35 to adopt sets of academic and assessment standards, but amends

1 the terms used to describe the standards for use by school  
2 districts and accredited nonpublic schools. The bill directs  
3 the state board to adopt rules to prohibit the department from  
4 entering into a contract or memorandums of understanding with  
5 another state or national organization for the development or  
6 implementation of statewide content or assessment standards  
7 unless the contract or memorandum is presented before the  
8 general assembly. The bill provides that the rules may only  
9 allow the department to adopt and implement the Iowa excellence  
10 academic standard and assessment standards identified or  
11 developed by Iowa educators.

12 Each school district and accredited nonpublic school is  
13 encouraged to develop local methods and materials to assist  
14 students in reaching the standards set forth under the Iowa  
15 excellence academic standard.

16 The bill replaces the terms "core curriculum", "Iowa  
17 core curriculum", and "Iowa common core", which were used to  
18 describe the academic standards adopted by the state board,  
19 with the term "Iowa excellence academic standard". Also,  
20 provisions directing school districts to cooperate with each  
21 eighth grade student on a core curriculum plan to meet core  
22 curriculum requirements are amended to replace "core curriculum  
23 plan" with "Iowa excellence academic standard plan" and "core  
24 curriculum requirements" with "the Iowa excellence academic  
25 standard". The term "core content standards", which was used  
26 to describe the assessment standards adopted by the state  
27 board, is replaced with the term "assessment standards". The  
28 assessment standards will remain applicable to all students  
29 in kindergarten through grade 12 in every school district and  
30 accredited nonpublic school. Corresponding changes are made  
31 throughout the Code, and obsolete language is eliminated.

32 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
33 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
34 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
35 district from state school foundation aid received by the

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1 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
2 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
3 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
4 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
5 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
6 mandates included in the bill.