

House File 273 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 273

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to academic and assessment standards for school
2 districts and accredited nonpublic schools.
3 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 2015, 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 that
9 at a minimum assesses the core academic indicators identified
10 in this paragraph "b"; is aligned with the Iowa ~~common-core~~
11 content standards in both content and rigor; accurately
12 describes student achievement and growth for purposes of the
13 school, the school district, and state accountability systems;
14 and provides valid, reliable, and fair measures of student
15 progress toward college or career readiness.

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 This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2020.

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

1 2015, 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 Iowa content standards. The
17 board shall develop and adopt uniform definitions consistent
18 with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No.
19 107-110 and any federal regulations adopted pursuant to the
20 federal Act. The school districts and accredited nonpublic
21 schools may report on other locally determined factors
22 influencing student achievement. The school districts and
23 accredited nonpublic schools shall also report to the local
24 community their results by individual attendance center.

25 Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,
26 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2015, is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 Adopt rules that establish ~~a core curriculum and~~ the Iowa
29 content standards, which school districts and accredited
30 nonpublic schools may elect to use, in whole or in part, at the
31 discretion of the school district or school. The state board
32 shall also adopt high school graduation requirements for all
33 students in school districts and accredited nonpublic schools
34 that include at a minimum satisfactory completion of four years
35 of English and language arts, three years of mathematics, three

1 years of science, and three years of social studies.

2 Sec. 4. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,
3 subparagraph (3), Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

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

16 Sec. 5. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph b, Code
17 2015, is amended by striking the paragraph.

18 Sec. 6. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph c, Code
19 2015, is amended to read as follows:

20 c. Neither the state board nor the department shall require
21 school districts or accredited nonpublic schools to adopt a
22 specific textbook, textbook series, or specific instructional
23 methodology, or acquire specific textbooks, curriculum
24 materials, or educational products from a specific vendor
25 in order to meet the ~~core curriculum~~ requirements of this
26 subsection or the ~~core-content~~ assessment standards adopted
27 pursuant to subsection 28.

28 Sec. 7. Section 256.7, subsection 28, Code 2015, is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 28. Adopt a set of ~~core-content~~ assessment standards
31 applicable to all students in kindergarten through grade twelve
32 in every school district and accredited nonpublic school.
33 For purposes of this subsection, "~~core-content~~ assessment
34 standards" includes reading, mathematics, and science. The ~~core~~
35 ~~content~~ assessment standards shall be identical to the ~~core~~

1 ~~content~~ assessment standards included in Iowa's approved 2006
2 standards and assessment system under Tit. I of the federal
3 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §6301
4 et seq., as amended by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of
5 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110. School districts and accredited
6 nonpublic schools shall include, at a minimum, the ~~core-content~~
7 assessment standards adopted pursuant to this subsection in any
8 set of locally developed content standards. School districts
9 and accredited nonpublic schools are strongly encouraged to set
10 higher expectations in local standards. ~~As changes in federal~~
11 ~~law or regulation occur, the state board is authorized to amend~~
12 ~~the core content standards as appropriate.~~

13 Sec. 8. Section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph a, Code
14 2015, is amended to read as follows:

15 a. Develop and distribute, in collaboration with the area
16 education agencies, ~~core-curriculum~~ Iowa content standards
17 technical assistance and implementation strategies that school
18 districts and accredited nonpublic schools ~~shall~~ may utilize,
19 including but not limited to the development and delivery
20 of formative and end-of-course model assessments classroom
21 teachers may use to measure student progress on the ~~core~~
22 ~~curriculum~~ content standards adopted pursuant to section
23 256.7, subsection 26. The department shall, in collaboration
24 with the advisory group convened in accordance with paragraph
25 "b" and educational assessment providers, identify and make
26 available to school districts end-of-course and additional
27 model end-of-course and additional assessments to align with
28 the expectations included in the Iowa ~~core-curriculum~~ content
29 standards. The model assessments shall be suitable to meet the
30 multiple assessment measures requirement specified in section
31 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "c".

32 Sec. 9. Section 256.9, subsection 54, Code 2015, is amended
33 to read as follows:

34 54. Submit an annual report to the general assembly by
35 January 1 regarding activities, findings, and student progress

1 under the ~~core curriculum~~ Iowa content standards established
2 pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26. The annual report
3 shall include the state board's findings and recommendations.

4 Sec. 10. Section 256.40, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code
5 2015, is amended to read as follows:

6 e. Integrate services provided through the program with
7 other career exploration-related activities such as the student
8 ~~core curriculum~~ graduation plan and the career information and
9 decision-making system developed and administered under section
10 279.61, where appropriate.

11 Sec. 11. Section 256.42, subsection 6, Code 2015, is amended
12 to read as follows:

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

21 Sec. 12. Section 257.11, subsection 9, Code 2015, is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 9. *Shared classes and curriculum standards.* A school
24 district shall ensure that any course made available to a
25 student through any sharing agreement between the school
26 district and a community college or any other entity providing
27 course programming pursuant to this section to students
28 enrolled in the school district meets the expectations
29 contained in ~~the core curriculum adopted pursuant to~~ section
30 256.7, subsection 26. The school district shall ensure that
31 any course that has the capacity to generate college credit
32 shall be equivalent to college-level work.

33 Sec. 13. Section 258.4, subsection 8, Code 2015, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 8. Establish a minimum set of competencies and ~~core~~

1 ~~curriculum~~ content standards for approval of a vocational
2 program sequence that addresses the following: new and
3 emerging technologies; job-seeking, job-keeping, and
4 other employment skills, including self-employment and
5 entrepreneurial skills, that reflect current industry
6 standards, leadership skills, entrepreneurial, and labor-market
7 needs; and the strengthening of basic academic skills.

8 Sec. 14. Section 260C.14, subsection 22, paragraph b, Code
9 2015, is amended to read as follows:

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

25 Sec. 15. Section 261E.4, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
26 to read as follows:

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

33 Sec. 16. Section 261E.6, subsection 2, Code 2015, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 2. *Notification.* The availability and requirements of this

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

8 Sec. 17. Section 261E.8, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended
9 to read as follows:

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

25 Sec. 18. Section 261E.9, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
26 2015, 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 Iowa
29 communications network, career and technical courses, ~~core~~
30 curriculum Iowa content standards coursework, courses required
31 pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26, or section 256.11,
32 subsections 4 and 5, and asynchronous learning networks.

33 Sec. 19. Section 261E.9, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended
34 to read as follows:

35 4. Information regarding regional academies shall be

1 provided to a student and the student's parent or guardian
2 prior to the development of the student's ~~core curriculum~~
3 graduation plan under section 279.61.

4 Sec. 20. Section 261E.10, subsection 4, Code 2015, is
5 amended to read as follows:

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

10 Sec. 21. Section 262.9, subsection 33, paragraph c, Code
11 2015, is amended to read as follows:

12 c. Develop criteria to prioritize ~~core curriculum areas~~ the
13 Iowa content standards and create or review transition guides
14 for the ~~core curriculum areas~~ Iowa content standards.

15 Sec. 22. Section 279.61, Code 2015, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 **279.61 Student plan for progress toward university admissions**
18 **— report.**

19 1. ~~For the school year beginning July 1, 2008, and each~~
20 ~~succeeding school year, the~~ The board of directors of each
21 school district shall cooperate with each student enrolled
22 in grade eight to develop for the student a ~~core curriculum~~
23 plan to guide the student toward the goal of successfully
24 completing, at a minimum, the ~~core curriculum developed~~ high
25 school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of
26 education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26, by the
27 time the student graduates from high school. The plan shall
28 include career options and shall identify the coursework
29 needed in grades nine through twelve to support the student's
30 postsecondary education and career options. Additionally, the
31 plan shall include a timeline for each student to successfully
32 complete, prior to graduation, all components of the
33 state-designated career information and decision-making system
34 administered by the department in accordance with section 118
35 of the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education

1 Improvement Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-270. The student's
2 parent or guardian shall sign the ~~core curriculum~~ graduation
3 plan developed with the student and the signed plan shall be
4 included in the student's cumulative records.

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

14 Sec. 23. Section 280.3, subsection 3, Code 2015, is amended
15 by striking the subsection.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill continues to direct the state board of education
20 to adopt sets of academic and assessment standards, but amends
21 the terms used to describe the standards and makes use of the
22 academic standards by school districts and accredited nonpublic
23 schools voluntary. The bill also strikes language that
24 authorizes the state board to amend the core content standards
25 as changes in federal law or regulation occur.

26 The bill replaces the terms "core curriculum", "Iowa
27 core curriculum", and "Iowa common core", which were used to
28 describe the academic standards adopted by the state board,
29 with the term "Iowa content standards". Also, provisions
30 directing school districts to cooperate with each eighth grade
31 student on a core curriculum plan to meet core curriculum
32 requirements are amended to replace "core curriculum plan"
33 with "graduation plan" and "core curriculum requirements"
34 with "high school graduation requirements". The term "core
35 content standards", which was used to describe the assessment

H.F. 273

1 standards adopted by the state board, is replaced with the
2 term "assessment standards". The assessment standards will
3 remain applicable to all students in kindergarten through
4 grade 12 in every school district and accredited nonpublic
5 school. Corresponding changes are made throughout the Code,
6 and obsolete language is eliminated.