

**House File 2186 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2186

BY DONAHUE

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to best practices for student engagement and  
2 expectations for student behavior.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2020, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 60. Provide guidance based on best  
4 practices and offer technical assistance to schools designed to  
5 engage middle or secondary school students in service-learning  
6 projects. Such practices and assistance may include but  
7 are not limited to approaches for a student-led inquiry  
8 process around complex problem solving and engaging tasks and  
9 challenges. Service-learning projects may include but are not  
10 limited to student-led projects by an individual, small group,  
11 or class, and may be completed as part of required coursework.  
12 For purposes of this subsection, "*service learning*" means a  
13 teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful  
14 community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the  
15 learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen  
16 communities.

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 61. Identify or develop, in consultation  
18 with education practitioners involved in school discipline  
19 and classroom behavior, and distribute to school districts  
20 guidance based on best practices for communicating to students  
21 the school district's expectations of student behavior in  
22 accordance with the requirements of section 279.66.

23 Sec. 2. Section 279.66, Code 2020, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **279.66 Discipline and personal conduct standards —**  
26 **expectations for student behavior.**

27 1. The board of directors of a school district shall review  
28 and modify existing policies related to student discipline  
29 and student conduct that are designed to promote responsible  
30 behavior on school property and at school functions in  
31 order that the policy shall govern the conduct of students,  
32 teachers and other school personnel, and visitors; provide  
33 opportunities for students to exercise self-discipline  
34 and practice cooperative classroom behavior; and encourage  
35 students and practitioners to model fairness, equity, and

1 respect. The policy shall specify the responsibilities of  
2 students, parents and guardians, and practitioners in creating  
3 an atmosphere where all individuals feel a sense of respect,  
4 safety, and belonging, and shall set forth the consequences for  
5 unacceptable behavior. The policy shall be published in the  
6 student handbook.

7 2. The board of directors of a school district shall  
8 develop and implement programs to introduce students in grades  
9 one, six, and nine to the school district's expectations  
10 for student behavior. Prior to the beginning the school  
11 year, and as needed at the school principal's discretion,  
12 such students shall be presented with the school district's  
13 expectations for student behavior through a forum and small  
14 group discussion. The expectations for student behavior shall  
15 address personal development, conflict resolution, social and  
16 emotional intelligence, and cultural competency, and must  
17 include messages of encouragement. The school district shall  
18 provide means of support to help all children meet or exceed  
19 the expectations for student behavior. Such programs shall  
20 include professional development for instructional staff that  
21 is aligned to the expectations for student behavior and with  
22 best practices for school discipline, positive behavioral  
23 interventions, and issuing consequences for failure to meet the  
24 expectations for student behavior in the classroom.

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

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EXPLANATION

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

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4 This bill requires the director of the department of  
5 education to provide guidance based on best practices and  
6 to offer technical assistance relating to service-learning  
7 projects to school districts, and establishes requirements for  
8 the director and school districts relating to expectations for  
9 student behavior.

10 The guidance and technical assistance must be designed to  
11 engage middle and secondary school students in service-learning  
12 projects, which may be completed as part of required  
13 coursework. The director must also identify or develop, in  
14 consultation with education practitioners involved in school  
15 discipline and classroom behavior, and distribute to school  
16 districts guidance based on best practices for communicating  
17 to students the school district's expectations of student  
18 behavior.

19 The board of directors of a school district must develop  
20 and implement programs to introduce students in grades one,  
21 six, and nine to the school district's expectations for  
22 student behavior. The programs must be provided prior to  
23 the beginning of the school year and may be provided at the  
24 school principal's discretion. The expectations shall address  
25 personal development, conflict resolution, social and emotional  
26 intelligence, and cultural competency, and include messages  
27 of encouragement. The school district shall provide means of  
28 support to help children meet or exceed the expectations. The  
29 program shall include professional development aligned to the  
30 expectations and also include best practices for comprehensive  
31 school discipline, positive behavioral interventions, and  
32 consequences for failure to meet the expectations for student  
33 behavior in the classroom.

34 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
35 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of

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