

**House File 428 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 428

BY SALMON, GASSMAN, SHIPLEY,  
WHEELER, GUSTAFSON,  
OSMUNDSON, FISHER, and HOLT

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the core curriculum and twenty-first century  
2 learning skills adopted or defined by the state board of  
3 education.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a, Code  
2 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Adopt rules that establish a the following:

4 (1) A core curriculum and high. However, neither the state  
5 board nor the department shall require school districts or  
6 accredited nonpublic schools to adopt the core curriculum,  
7 or require a specific textbook, textbook series, or specific  
8 instructional methodology, or acquire specific textbooks,  
9 curriculum materials, or educational products from a specific  
10 vendor.

11 (a) The state board shall not adopt, and the department  
12 shall not authorize or require, statewide core social studies  
13 standards for kindergarten through grade twelve. This  
14 prohibition shall not be construed to limit the state board's  
15 or the department's authority relating to the accreditation of  
16 school districts and nonpublic schools under section 256.11.

17 (b) The core curriculum science standards shall be the  
18 science standards utilized by school districts in this state  
19 during the 2014-2015 school year. The state board shall submit  
20 future revisions to the core curriculum science standards to  
21 the general assembly for approval, modification, or rejection,  
22 and the state board shall not adopt such revisions unless  
23 specifically authorized by a constitutional majority of each  
24 house of the general assembly and approved by the governor.

25 (2) High school graduation requirements for all students in  
26 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that include  
27 at a minimum satisfactory completion of four years of English  
28 and language arts, three years of mathematics, three years of  
29 science, and three years of social studies. The rules

30 ~~(1) The rules establishing high school graduation~~  
31 ~~requirements shall provide~~ do all of the following:

32 (a) Provide that any student, at any grade level,  
33 who satisfactorily completes a high school-level unit of  
34 instruction at a school accredited under [section 256.11](#) has  
35 satisfactorily completed a unit of the high school graduation

1 requirements for that area of instruction and the school  
2 district or accredited nonpublic school of enrollment shall  
3 issue high school credit for the unit to the student unless  
4 the student is unable to demonstrate proficiency or the  
5 school district or accredited nonpublic school determines that  
6 the course unit completed by the student does not meet the  
7 school district's or accredited nonpublic school's standards,  
8 as appropriate. If a student is denied credit under this  
9 subparagraph division, the school district or accredited  
10 nonpublic school denying credit shall provide to the student's  
11 parent or guardian in writing the reason for the denial.

12 ~~(2) (b) The rules shall allow~~ Authorize a school district  
13 or accredited nonpublic school to award high school credit  
14 to an enrolled student upon the demonstration of required  
15 competencies for a course or content area, as approved by a  
16 teacher licensed under [chapter 272](#). The school district or  
17 accredited nonpublic school shall determine the assessment  
18 methods by which a student demonstrates sufficient evidence of  
19 the required competencies.

20 ~~(3) The rules establishing a~~ A core curriculum shall  
21 ~~address~~ addressing the core content standards in [subsection 28](#)  
22 and the skills and knowledge students need to be successful  
23 in the twenty-first century. The core curriculum shall  
24 include ~~social studies and~~ twenty-first century learning  
25 skills ~~which include,~~ including but are not limited to civic  
26 literacy, health literacy, technology literacy, financial  
27 literacy, family life and consumer sciences, and employability  
28 skills; and shall address the curricular needs of students in  
29 kindergarten through grade twelve in those areas. The state  
30 board shall further define the twenty-first century learning  
31 skills components by rule.

32 ~~(4) The rules shall provide for the establishment of~~  
33 ~~high-quality~~ High-quality standards for computer science  
34 education taught by elementary, middle, and high schools,  
35 in accordance with the goal established under section

1 284.6A, subsection 1, setting a foundation for personal and  
2 professional success in a high-technology, knowledge-based  
3 Iowa economy. Such rules shall be applicable only to school  
4 districts and accredited nonpublic schools receiving moneys  
5 from the computer science professional development incentive  
6 fund under [section 284.6A](#), or from other funds administered by  
7 the department for the same purposes as specified in section  
8 284.6A, subsection 2.

9 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph c, Code  
10 2019, is amended by striking the paragraph.

11 Sec. 3. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph a, Code  
12 2019, is amended to read as follows:

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

27 Sec. 4. Section 257.11, subsection 9, Code 2019, is amended  
28 to read as follows:

29 9. *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 is encouraged to ensure that  
35 the course programming meets the expectations contained in the

1 core curriculum ~~adopted~~ established pursuant to section 256.7,  
2 subsection 26. The school district shall ensure that any  
3 course that has the capacity to generate college credit shall  
4 be equivalent to college-level work.

5 Sec. 5. Section 279.61, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
6 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended by striking the  
7 subparagraph.

8 Sec. 6. Section 279.61, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 2. The board of directors of each school district shall  
11 report annually to each student enrolled in grades nine through  
12 twelve in the school district, and, if the student is under  
13 the age of eighteen, to each student's parent or guardian, the  
14 student's progress toward meeting the goal of successfully  
15 completing the ~~core curriculum~~ and high school graduation  
16 requirements adopted by the state board of education pursuant  
17 to [section 256.7, subsection 26](#), and toward achieving the goals  
18 of the student's career and academic plan.

19 Sec. 7. Section 280.3, subsection 3, Code 2019, is amended  
20 by striking the subsection.

21 EXPLANATION

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

24 This bill modifies Code provisions relating to the core  
25 curriculum to eliminate language that requires school districts  
26 and accredited nonpublic schools to utilize statewide core  
27 curriculum standards adopted by the state board of education  
28 and instead authorizes the state board to establish a core  
29 curriculum that school districts and accredited nonpublic  
30 schools may voluntarily utilize.

31 The bill prohibits the state board of education from  
32 adopting, and the department of education from authorizing  
33 or requiring, statewide core social studies standards for  
34 kindergarten through grade 12.

35 The core curriculum science standards shall be the

1 kindergarten through grade 12 science standards utilized by  
2 school districts in this state during the 2014-2015 school  
3 year. Further, the bill prohibits the state board from  
4 adopting any future revision to the core curriculum science  
5 standards unless specifically authorized by a constitutional  
6 majority of each house of the general assembly and approved by  
7 the governor.

8 Language requiring school districts to develop an  
9 individualized career and academic plan to prepare a student  
10 for successful completion of the core curriculum is stricken,  
11 as is language requiring school districts to adopt plans to  
12 fully implement the core curriculum.