

**House Study Bill 576 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON DOLECHECK)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to supplementary weighting for  
2 limited-English-proficient students and including effective  
3 date and applicability provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 280.4, subsection 1, Code 2020, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. The medium of instruction in all secular subjects  
4 taught in both public and nonpublic schools shall be the  
5 English language, except when the use of a world language is  
6 deemed appropriate in the teaching of any subject or when the  
7 student is limited English proficient. When the student is  
8 limited English proficient, both public and nonpublic schools  
9 shall provide special instruction, which shall include but  
10 need not be limited to either instruction in English as a  
11 second language or transitional bilingual instruction until  
12 the student is fully English proficient or demonstrates a  
13 functional ability to speak, read, write, and understand the  
14 English language.

15 b. As used in this section, ~~“limited English proficient”~~  
16 ~~means a student’s language background is in a language other~~  
17 ~~than English, and the student’s proficiency in English is~~  
18 ~~such that the probability of the student’s academic success~~  
19 ~~in an English-only classroom is below that of an academically~~  
20 ~~successful peer with an English language background.:~~

21 (1) “Emerging student” means a limited-English-proficient  
22 student that has not yet attained a level of English-language  
23 skill necessary to produce, interpret, and collaborate on  
24 grade-level content-related academic tasks in English.

25 (2) “Fully English proficient” means a student who is able  
26 to read, understand, write, and speak the English language  
27 and to use English to ask questions, to understand teachers  
28 and reading materials, to test ideas, and to challenge what  
29 is being asked in the classroom has attained a level of  
30 English-language skill necessary to independently produce,  
31 interpret, collaborate on, and succeed in grade-level  
32 content-related academic tasks in English.

33 (3) “Limited English proficient” means a student’s language  
34 background is in a language other than English, and the  
35 student’s proficiency in English is such that the probability

1 of the student's academic success in an English-only classroom  
2 is below that of an academically successful peer with an  
3 English language background.

4 (a) "Progressing student" means a limited-English-proficient  
5 student that, with support, approaches a level of  
6 English-language skill necessary to produce, interpret, and  
7 collaborate on grade-level content-related academic tasks in  
8 English.

9 Sec. 2. Section 280.4, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code 2020,  
10 is amended to read as follows:

11 a. In order to provide funds for the excess costs of  
12 instruction of limited English proficient students specified  
13 in paragraph "b" above the costs of instruction of pupils in a  
14 regular curriculum, ~~students~~ each limited-English-proficient  
15 student identified as limited-English-proficient an emerging  
16 student shall be assigned an additional weighting of ~~twenty-two~~  
17 ~~hundredths~~ three-tenths, each limited-English-proficient  
18 student identified as a progressing student shall be assigned  
19 an additional weighting of twenty-five hundredths, and that  
20 the applicable weighting shall be included in the weighted  
21 enrollment of the school district of residence for a period not  
22 exceeding five years as provided in paragraph "b". However, the  
23 school budget review committee may grant supplemental aid or a  
24 modified supplemental amount to a school district to continue  
25 funding a program for students after the expiration of the  
26 five-year period.

27 Sec. 3. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget  
28 years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

29 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
30 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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 In order to provide funds for the excess costs of instruction  
35 of limited-English-proficient students above the costs of

1 instruction of pupils in a regular curriculum, Code section  
2 280.4 assigns students identified as limited-English-proficient  
3 an additional weighting of 0.22 for up to five years.

4 This bill divides limited-English-proficient students  
5 into two categories based on proficiency: emerging students  
6 and progressing students. "Emerging student" means a  
7 limited-English-proficient student that has not yet attained  
8 a level of English-language skill necessary to produce,  
9 interpret, and collaborate on grade-level content-related  
10 academic tasks in English. "Progressing student" means  
11 a limited-English-proficient student that, with support,  
12 approaches a level of English-language skill necessary  
13 to produce, interpret, and collaborate on grade-level  
14 content-related academic tasks in English. Under the bill,  
15 each emerging student shall be assigned an additional weighting  
16 of 0.3 and each progressing student shall be assigned an  
17 additional weighting of 0.25. The bill also modifies the  
18 definition of "fully English proficient" to correlate with the  
19 terminology used to define "emerging student" and "progressing  
20 student".

21 The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies to school  
22 budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.