

**Senate File 376 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 376  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 270)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the health education requirement for grades  
2 nine through twelve under the education standards.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 2019, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and  
4 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;  
5 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human  
6 growth and development; career exploration and development;  
7 physical education; music; and visual art. Career exploration  
8 and development shall be designed so that students are  
9 appropriately prepared to create an individual career  
10 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate  
11 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned  
12 with the six career and technical education service areas  
13 as defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", and incorporate  
14 relevant twenty-first century skills. The health curriculum  
15 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information  
16 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases,  
17 including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV,  
18 and acquired immune deficiency syndrome; and age-appropriate  
19 and research-based information regarding mental health  
20 awareness, coping skills, and suicide prevention. The state  
21 board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum  
22 definitions for implementing the program in grades seven  
23 and eight. However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to the  
24 teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic  
25 schools. For purposes of [this section](#), "age-appropriate",  
26 "HPV", and "research-based" mean the same as defined in section  
27 279.50.

28 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph j,  
29 subparagraph (1), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

30 (1) One unit of health education which shall include  
31 personal health; food and nutrition; environmental health;  
32 safety and survival skills; consumer health; family life;  
33 age-appropriate and research-based human growth and  
34 development; substance abuse and nonuse; emotional and social  
35 health, including mental health awareness, coping skills,

1 and suicide prevention; health resources; and prevention  
2 and control of disease, including age-appropriate and  
3 research-based information regarding sexually transmitted  
4 diseases, including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to  
5 prevent HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 This bill adds mental health awareness, coping skills, and  
10 suicide prevention to the subject matter that must be included  
11 in the unit of health education which school districts and  
12 accredited nonpublic schools must offer and teach in grades  
13 7-12.