

House File 2496 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2496

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act modifying provisions related to the responsibilities of
2 nonpublic schools.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 31, paragraph a, Code
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Adopt by rule guidelines for school district and
4 accredited nonpublic school implementation of section
5 279.68, including but not limited to basic levels of reading
6 proficiency on approved locally determined or statewide
7 assessments and identification of tools that school districts
8 and accredited nonpublic schools may use in evaluating and
9 reevaluating any student who may not be or who is determined
10 not to be reading proficiently and is persistently at risk in
11 reading, including but not limited to initial assessments and
12 subsequent assessments, alternative assessments, and portfolio
13 reviews. The state board shall adopt standards that provide
14 a reasonable expectation that a student's progress toward
15 reading proficiency under [section 279.68](#) is sufficient to
16 master appropriate grade four level reading skills prior to the
17 student's promotion to grade four.

18 Sec. 2. Section 256.9, subsection 69, Code 2024, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 69. Develop and distribute to school districts, accredited
21 nonpublic schools, and charter schools model policies that, if
22 adopted by a school district, accredited nonpublic school, or
23 charter school, would satisfy the school district's, accredited
24 nonpublic school's, or charter school's responsibilities under
25 section 279.65A relating to the discipline of a student for
26 making a threat of violence or causing an incident of violence
27 that results in injury or property damage or assault.

28 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended
29 to read as follows:

30 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and
31 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;
32 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human
33 growth and development; career exploration and development;
34 physical education; music; and visual art. Computer science
35 instruction incorporating the standards established under

1 section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4),
2 shall be offered in at least one grade level commencing with
3 the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration
4 and development shall be designed so that students are
5 appropriately prepared to create an individual career
6 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate
7 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned
8 with the six career and technical education service areas as
9 defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", incorporate relevant
10 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness,
11 and introduce students to career opportunities within the
12 local community and across this state. The health curriculum
13 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information
14 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.
15 The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt
16 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades
17 seven and eight. ~~However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to~~
18 ~~the teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic~~
19 ~~schools.~~

20 Sec. 4. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph h,
21 subparagraph (4), Code 2024, is amended by striking the
22 subparagraph.

23 Sec. 5. Section 256B.2, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
24 2024, is amended to read as follows:

25 a. It is the policy of this state to require school
26 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and state-operated
27 educational programs to provide or make provision, as an
28 integral part of public education, for a free and appropriate
29 public education sufficient to meet the needs of all children
30 requiring special education. [This chapter](#) is not to be
31 construed as encouraging separate facilities or segregated
32 programs designed to meet the needs of children requiring
33 special education when the children can benefit from all or
34 part of the education program as offered by the local school
35 district or accredited nonpublic school. Children requiring

1 special education shall, consistent with the least restrictive
2 environment requirements under the federal Individuals with
3 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., attend
4 regular classes and shall be educated with children who do not
5 require special education.

6 Sec. 6. Section 256B.3, subsection 8, Code 2024, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 8. To cooperate with school districts, accredited nonpublic
9 schools, or area education agency boards in arranging for
10 any child requiring special education to attend school in a
11 district other than the one in which the child resides, or
12 in a different accredited nonpublic school, when there is
13 no available special school, class, or instruction in the
14 districts in which the child resides or in the accredited
15 nonpublic school in which the child is enrolled.

16 Sec. 7. Section 256B.4, Code 2024, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **256B.4 Powers of board of directors and authorities in charge**
19 **of accredited nonpublic schools**.

20 1. The board of directors of a school district or area
21 education agency, or the authorities in charge of an accredited
22 nonpublic school, with the approval of the director of the
23 department of education, may provide special education programs
24 and services as defined in [this chapter](#). If services are
25 provided by the area education agency, the board of directors
26 of the area education agency with the cooperation of the local
27 school districts within its jurisdiction may:

28 a. Establish and operate special education programs and
29 classes for the education of children requiring special
30 education.

31 b. Acquire, maintain, and construct facilities in which to
32 provide education, corrective services, and supportive services
33 for children requiring special education.

34 c. Make arrangements with participating school districts
35 and accredited nonpublic schools for the provision of special

1 education, corrective, and supportive services to the children
2 requiring special education residing in the school districts.

3 *d.* Employ special education teachers and personnel required
4 to furnish corrective or supportive services to children
5 requiring special education services.

6 *e.* Provide transportation for children requiring special
7 education services that are in need of transportation in
8 connection with any programs, classes, or services.

9 *f.* Receive, administer, and expend funds appropriated for
10 its use.

11 *g.* Receive, administer, and expend the proceeds of any issue
12 of school bonds or other bonds intended wholly or partly for
13 its benefit.

14 *h.* Apply for, accept, and utilize grants, gifts, or other
15 assistance.

16 *i.* Participate in, and make its employees eligible to
17 participate in, any retirement system, group insurance system,
18 or other program of employee benefits, on the same terms as
19 govern school districts or accredited nonpublic schools and
20 their employees.

21 *j.* Do such other things as are necessary and incidental to
22 the execution of any of its powers.

23 2. The board of directors of the local district, the
24 authorities in charge of the accredited nonpublic school, or
25 the area education agency shall employ qualified teachers
26 certified by the authority provided by law as teachers for
27 children requiring such special education. The maximum number
28 of pupils per teacher shall be determined by the board of
29 directors of the local district, the authorities in charge of
30 the accredited nonpublic school, or the area education agency
31 board in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state
32 board of education.

33 3. The board of directors of the local district, the
34 authorities in charge of the accredited nonpublic school, or
35 the area education agency may establish and operate one or more

1 special education centers to provide diagnostic, therapeutic,
 2 corrective, and other services, on a more comprehensive,
 3 expert, economical, and efficient basis than can be reasonably
 4 provided by a single school district or accredited nonpublic
 5 school. The services, if offered by the area education agency
 6 board, may be provided in the regular schools using personnel
 7 and equipment of the area education agency or, if it is
 8 impractical or inefficient to provide them on the premises of a
 9 regular school, the area education agency may provide services
 10 in its own facilities. To the maximum extent feasible,
 11 centers shall be established at and in conjunction with, or
 12 in close proximity to, one or more elementary and secondary
 13 schools. Local districts, accredited nonpublic schools, or the
 14 area education agencies may accept diagnostic and evaluation
 15 studies conducted by other individuals, hospitals, or centers,
 16 if determined to be competent. Children requiring special
 17 education services may be identified in any way that the
 18 department of education determines to be reliable. Centers
 19 established pursuant to [this section](#) may contain classrooms
 20 and other educational facilities and equipment to supplement
 21 instruction and other services to children with disabilities
 22 in the regular schools, and to provide separate instruction to
 23 children whose degree or type of educational disability makes
 24 it impractical or inappropriate for them to participate in
 25 classes with normal children.

26 Sec. 8. Section 256B.6, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
 27 to read as follows:

28 1. When the school district, accredited nonpublic school,
 29 or area education agency has provided special education
 30 services and programs as provided in [this chapter](#) for any child
 31 requiring special education, either by admission to a special
 32 class or by supportive services, it shall be the duty of the
 33 parent or guardian to enroll the child for instruction in such
 34 special classes or supportive services as may be established,
 35 except in the event a doctor's certificate is filed with the

1 secretary of the school district or accredited nonpublic
2 school showing that it is inadvisable for medical reasons
3 for the child requiring special education to receive the
4 special education provided; all the provisions and conditions
5 of **chapter 299** shall be applicable to **this section**, and any
6 violations shall be punishable as provided in **chapter 299**.

7 Sec. 9. Section 256B.6, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph
8 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

9 A child, or the parent or guardian of the child, or the
10 school district in which the child resides, or the accredited
11 nonpublic school in which the child is enrolled, may obtain a
12 review of an action or omission of local authorities pursuant
13 to the procedures established by the state board of education
14 on the ground that the child has been or is about to be:

15 Sec. 10. Section 279.9, Code 2024, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 **279.9 Use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or controlled**
18 **substances.**

19 1. The rules adopted under **section 279.8** shall include
20 rules prohibiting the use of tobacco and the use or possession
21 of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer or any controlled substance
22 as defined in **section 124.101, subsection 5**, by any student of
23 the schools. The board may suspend or expel a student for a
24 violation of a rule described under **this section subsection**.

25 2. Each accredited nonpublic school shall adopt rules
26 prohibiting the use of tobacco and the use or possession of
27 alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer or any controlled substance as
28 defined in section 124.101, subsection 5, by any student of the
29 accredited nonpublic school. The authorities in charge of an
30 accredited nonpublic school may suspend or expel a student for
31 a violation of a rule described in this subsection.

32 Sec. 11. Section 279.9B, Code 2024, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 **279.9B Reports to juvenile authorities.**

35 1. The rules adopted under **section 279.8** shall require, once

1 school officials have been notified by a juvenile court officer
2 that a student attending the school is under supervision or has
3 been placed on probation, that school officials shall notify
4 the juvenile court of each unexcused absence or suspension or
5 expulsion of the student.

6 2. Each accredited nonpublic school shall adopt rules
7 requiring that, once school officials have been notified by a
8 juvenile court officer that a student attending the accredited
9 nonpublic school is under supervision or has been placed on
10 probation, school officials are required to notify the juvenile
11 court of each unexcused absence or suspension or expulsion of
12 the student.

13 Sec. 12. Section 279.14B, Code 2024, is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 **279.14B Retaliation prohibition.**

16 The board of directors of a school district and the
17 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school
18 shall not take any disciplinary action against an employee or
19 contractor of the school district for disclosing information
20 to any public official or law enforcement agency, including
21 a disclosure to the ombudsman pursuant to section 2C.9,
22 subsection 3, if the employee or contractor reasonably
23 believes the information evidences a violation of law or
24 rule, mismanagement, a gross abuse of funds, an abuse of
25 authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public
26 health or safety. For purposes of **this section**, "*disciplinary*
27 *action*" includes termination of employment or the contractual
28 relationship, suspension from employment, demotion, financial
29 penalties, failing to take action regarding an employee's
30 or contractor's promotion or proposed promotion, failing
31 to provide an advantage in employment or the contractual
32 relationship, and written or verbal reprimands.

33 Sec. 13. Section 279.19B, subsection 1, paragraph a,
34 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
35 follows:

1 The board of directors of a school district or the
2 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school
3 may employ for head coach of any interscholastic athletic
4 activities or for assistant coach of any interscholastic
5 athletic activity, an individual who possesses a coaching
6 authorization issued by the board of educational examiners
7 or possesses a teaching license with a coaching endorsement
8 issued pursuant to [chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3](#).

9 However, a board of directors of a school district or the
10 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall
11 consider applicants with qualifications described below, in the
12 following order of priority:

13 Sec. 14. Section 279.21, Code 2024, is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 **279.21 Principals.**

16 1. The authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic
17 school may employ principals, and the board of directors of a
18 school district may employ principals, under the provisions
19 of [section 279.23](#). A principal employed by the board of
20 directors of a school district or the authorities in charge
21 of an accredited nonpublic school shall hold a current valid
22 principal's certificate. Notwithstanding the provisions of
23 section 279.23, after serving at least nine months, a principal
24 may be employed for a term of not to exceed two years.

25 2. *a.* The principal, under the supervision of the
26 superintendent of the school district and pursuant to rules
27 and policies of the board of directors of the school district,
28 or under the supervision of the authorities in charge of
29 an accredited nonpublic school, as applicable, shall be
30 responsible for administration and operation of the attendance
31 center to which the principal is assigned.

32 *b.* The principal shall, pursuant to the policies adopted
33 by the board of directors of the school district or the
34 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school, be
35 responsible for the planning, management, operation, and

1 evaluation of the educational program offered at the attendance
2 center to which the principal is assigned and shall submit
3 recommendations to the superintendent or the authorities
4 in charge of an accredited nonpublic school regarding the
5 appointment, assignment, promotion, transfer, and dismissal of
6 all personnel assigned to the attendance center. The principal
7 shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the
8 superintendent or the authorities in charge of an accredited
9 nonpublic school.

10 c. For purposes of [this section](#) and [sections 279.23](#),
11 [279.23A](#), [279.24](#), and [279.25](#), the term "principal" includes
12 school principals, associate principals, and assistant
13 principals.

14 Sec. 15. Section 279.40, Code 2024, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 **279.40 Sick leave.**

17 1. a. Public school employees and employees of accredited
18 nonpublic schools are granted leave of absence for medically
19 related disability with full pay in the following minimum
20 amounts:

- 21 (1) The first year of employment.....10 days.
- 22 (2) The second year of employment.....11 days.
- 23 (3) The third year of employment.....12 days.
- 24 (4) The fourth year of employment.....13 days.
- 25 (5) The fifth year of employment.....14 days.
- 26 (6) The sixth and subsequent years of employment..15 days.

27 b. The above amounts shall apply only to consecutive
28 years of employment in the same school district or accredited
29 nonpublic school and unused portions shall be cumulative to at
30 least a total of ninety days. The school board or authorities
31 in charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall, in each
32 instance, require such reasonable evidence as it may desire
33 confirming the necessity for such leave of absence.

34 2. Nothing in [this section](#) shall be construed as limiting
35 the right of a school board or the authorities in charge of an

1 accredited nonpublic school to grant more time than the days
2 herein specified.

3 3. Cumulation of sick leave under [this section](#) shall not be
4 affected or terminated due to the organization or dissolution
5 of a community school district or districts which include all
6 or the portion of the district which employed the particular
7 public school employee for the school year previous to the
8 organization or dissolution, if the employee is employed by one
9 of the community school districts for the first school year
10 following its organization or dissolution.

11 4. Any amounts due an employee under [this section](#) shall be
12 reduced by benefits payable under [sections 85.33](#) and [85.34](#),
13 subsection 1, if applicable.

14 Sec. 16. Section 279.50, subsections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and
15 7, Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

16 1. Subject to [section 279.80](#), each school board and
17 accredited nonpublic school shall provide instruction in
18 kindergarten which gives attention to experiences relating to
19 life skills and human growth and development as required in
20 section 256.11. School districts and accredited nonpublic
21 schools shall use research provided in section 256.9,
22 subsection 46, paragraph "b", to evaluate and upgrade their
23 instructional materials and teaching strategies for human
24 growth and development.

25 2. Subject to [section 279.80](#), each school board and
26 accredited nonpublic school shall provide age-appropriate and
27 research-based instruction in human growth and development
28 including instruction regarding self-esteem, stress management,
29 interpersonal relationships, and domestic abuse in grades one
30 through six.

31 3. Each school board and accredited nonpublic school shall
32 provide age-appropriate and research-based instruction in
33 human growth and development including instruction regarding
34 human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal
35 relationships, domestic abuse, and the prevention and control

1 of disease, including sexually transmitted diseases as required
2 in [section 256.11](#), in grades seven through twelve.

3 4. Each school board and accredited nonpublic school
4 shall annually provide to a parent or guardian of any pupil
5 enrolled in the school district or accredited nonpublic
6 school, information about the human growth and development
7 curriculum used in the pupil's grade level and the procedure
8 for inspecting the instructional materials prior to their use
9 in the classroom.

10 5. Each school district and accredited nonpublic school
11 shall, upon request by any agency or organization, provide
12 information about the human growth and development curriculum
13 used in each grade level and the procedure for inspecting and
14 updating the instructional materials.

15 6. A pupil shall not be required to take instruction in
16 human growth and development if the pupil's parent or guardian
17 files with the appropriate principal a written request that
18 the pupil be excused from the instruction. Notification that
19 the written request may be made shall be included in the
20 information provided by the school district or accredited
21 nonpublic school.

22 7. Each school board, accredited nonpublic school, or
23 community college which offers general adult education classes
24 or courses shall periodically offer an instructional program
25 in parenting skills and in human growth and development
26 for parents, guardians, prospective biological and adoptive
27 parents, and foster parents.

28 Sec. 17. Section 279.65A, Code 2024, is amended to read as
29 follows:

30 **279.65A Discipline of students who make threats of violence**
31 **or cause incidents of violence.**

32 The board of directors of each school district and the
33 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
34 shall adopt, in collaboration with teachers and administrative
35 staff employed by the school district or accredited nonpublic

1 school, policies for different grade levels that describe how a
2 school district or accredited nonpublic school may discipline a
3 student for making a threat of violence or causing an incident
4 of violence that results in injury or property damage or
5 assault. All of the following shall apply to the policies:

6 1. The policies must incorporate strategies that are
7 designed to correct the student's behavior.

8 2. The policies must provide for parent or guardian
9 conferences, counseling sessions, or mental health counseling
10 sessions, when appropriate. The policies must provide that the
11 school district or accredited nonpublic school must receive
12 the prior written consent of the student's parent or guardian
13 before requiring the student to participate in a counseling
14 session or a mental health counseling session.

15 3. The policies must be consistent with the provisions of
16 chapter 256B, the administrative rules adopted by the state
17 board for purposes of [chapter 256B](#), the federal Individuals
18 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq., and
19 the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and codified
20 in 29 U.S.C. §701 et seq.

21 4. The policies must provide for escalating levels of
22 discipline each time the student makes a threat of violence
23 or causes an incident of violence that results in injury or
24 property damage or assault.

25 5. The policies must allow for the school district or
26 accredited nonpublic school to select the level of discipline
27 that the school district or accredited nonpublic school
28 determines corresponds to the severity of the threat of
29 violence or incident of violence.

30 6. The policies must allow the school district or accredited
31 nonpublic school to suspend the student, permanently remove the
32 student from a particular class, expel the student, or place
33 the student in an alternative learning environment, including a
34 therapeutic classroom, when appropriate.

35 7. The policies must require an individualized education

1 program meeting if the student who made the threat of violence
2 or caused the incident of violence that resulted in injury or
3 property damage or assault has an individualized education
4 program.

5 8. The policies must be published on the school district's
6 or accredited nonpublic school's internet site and in
7 applicable student handbooks.

8 Sec. 18. Section 279.68, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
9 2024, is amended to read as follows:

10 a. A Each school district and accredited nonpublic school
11 shall assess all students enrolled in kindergarten through
12 grade three at the beginning of each school year for their
13 level of reading or reading readiness on locally determined
14 or statewide assessments, as provided in section 256.7,
15 subsection 31. If a student is not reading proficiently and
16 is persistently at risk in reading, based upon the assessments
17 administered in accordance with this paragraph, the school
18 district or accredited nonpublic school shall provide intensive
19 reading instruction to the student. The student's reading
20 proficiency shall be periodically reassessed by locally
21 determined or statewide assessments including periodic
22 universal screening and annual standard-based assessments. The
23 student shall continue to be provided with intensive reading
24 instruction, at grade levels beyond grade three if necessary,
25 until the student is reading at grade level, as determined by
26 the student's consistently proficient performance on valid
27 and reliable measures of reading ability. For purposes of
28 this section, "*persistently at risk*" means the student has not
29 met the grade-level benchmark on two consecutive screening
30 assessments administered under this paragraph.

31 Sec. 19. Section 279.68, subsection 1, paragraph b,
32 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

33 (2) A description of the proposed supplemental
34 instructional services and supports that the school district or
35 accredited nonpublic school will provide to the student that

1 are designed to remediate the identified areas in which the
2 student is persistently at risk in reading.

3 Sec. 20. Section 279.68, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph
4 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

5 If funds are appropriated by the general assembly for
6 purposes of implementing [this subsection](#), a school district or
7 accredited nonpublic school shall do all of the following:

8 Sec. 21. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph a,
9 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 Provide students who are persistently at risk in reading
12 with intensive instructional services and supports, free of
13 charge, to remediate the identified areas in which students
14 are not proficient in reading, including a minimum of ninety
15 minutes daily of scientific, research-based reading instruction
16 and other strategies prescribed by the school district or
17 accredited nonpublic school which may include but are not
18 limited to the following:

19 Sec. 22. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code
20 2024, is amended to read as follows:

21 e. Report to the department of education the specific
22 intensive reading interventions and supports implemented by
23 the school district or accredited nonpublic school pursuant
24 to [this section](#). The department shall annually prescribe the
25 components of required or requested reports.

26 Sec. 23. Section 279.68, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended
27 to read as follows:

28 3. *Ensuring continuous improvement in reading proficiency.*

29 a. To ensure all children are reading proficiently by
30 the end of third grade, each school district and accredited
31 nonpublic school shall address reading proficiency, drawing
32 upon information about students from assessments and
33 reassessments conducted pursuant to [subsection 1](#) and the
34 prevalence of areas in which students are persistently at
35 risk in reading identified by classroom, elementary school,

1 and other student characteristics. Each school district
2 and accredited nonpublic school shall review chronic early
3 elementary absenteeism for its impact on literacy development.
4 If more than fifteen percent of an attendance center's students
5 are not reading proficiently and are persistently at risk
6 in reading by the end of third grade, the school district
7 or accredited nonpublic school shall develop and implement
8 strategies to reduce that percentage, including school and
9 community strategies to raise the percentage of students who
10 are reading at grade level.

11 *b.* Each school district and accredited nonpublic school,
12 subject to an appropriation of funds by the general assembly,
13 shall provide professional development services to enhance
14 the skills of elementary teachers in responding to children's
15 unique reading issues and needs and to increase the use of
16 evidence-based strategies.

17 Sec. 24. Section 279.70, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024, are
18 amended to read as follows:

19 2. ~~By July 1, 2019, the~~ The board of directors of a school
20 district and the authorities in charge of an accredited
21 nonpublic school shall require annual, evidence-based
22 training at least one hour in length on suicide prevention
23 and postvention for all school personnel who hold a license,
24 certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition issued
25 by the board of educational examiners and who have regular
26 contact with students in kindergarten through grade twelve.
27 The content of the training shall be based on nationally
28 recognized best practices.

29 3. ~~By July 1, 2019, the~~ The board of directors of a school
30 district and the authorities in charge of an accredited
31 nonpublic school shall require annual, evidence-based,
32 evidence-supported training on the identification of adverse
33 childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic
34 stress response for all school personnel who hold a license,
35 certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition issued

1 by the board of educational examiners and who have regular
2 contact with students in kindergarten through grade twelve.
3 The content of the training shall be based on nationally
4 recognized best practices.

5 Sec. 25. Section 279.70A, Code 2024, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **279.70A Student identification cards — suicide prevention**
8 **information.**

9 A ~~public school~~ school district or accredited nonpublic
10 school that issues identification cards to students in grades
11 seven through twelve shall include on either side of the
12 identification card the crisis hotline telephone and text
13 numbers and the internet address for your life Iowa or the your
14 life Iowa successor program. A ~~public school~~ school district
15 or accredited nonpublic school that issues identification cards
16 to students in grades five and six may include on either side
17 of the identification card the crisis hotline telephone and
18 text numbers and the internet address for your life Iowa or the
19 your life Iowa successor program.

20 Sec. 26. Section 279.71, subsection 1, paragraphs a, d, and
21 f, Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

22 *a.* “*Attendance center*” means a school district or accredited
23 nonpublic school building that contains classrooms used for
24 instructional purposes for elementary, middle, or secondary
25 school students.

26 *d.* “*Kindergarten through grade twelve school purposes*” means
27 purposes that are directed by or that customarily take place at
28 the direction of a kindergarten through grade twelve attendance
29 center, school district, accredited nonpublic school, or a
30 practitioner employed by a school district or accredited
31 nonpublic school, in the administration of school activities,
32 including but not limited to instruction in the classroom or
33 at home, administrative activities, and collaboration between
34 students, school district, accredited nonpublic school, or
35 attendance center personnel, or parents, or are otherwise

1 for the use and benefit of the school district , accredited
2 nonpublic school, or attendance center.

3 *f.* ~~"School district"~~ "School" means a all of the following:

4 (1) A public school district described in chapter 274.

5 (2) A nonpublic school that is accredited under section
6 256.11.

7 Sec. 27. Section 279.71, subsection 1, paragraph b,
8 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

9 (2) Created by or provided to an operator by an employee
10 or agent of a school district, accredited nonpublic school, or
11 attendance center for kindergarten through grade twelve school
12 purposes.

13 Sec. 28. Section 279.71, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
14 2024, is amended to read as follows:

15 *b.* Delete as soon as reasonably practicable, a student's
16 covered information if the school ~~district~~ or attendance center
17 requests deletion of covered information under the control of
18 the school ~~district~~ or attendance center, unless a student or
19 parent or guardian consents to the maintenance of the covered
20 information.

21 Sec. 29. Section 279.72, Code 2024, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 **279.72 Training on dyslexia.**

24 By July 1, 2024, the board of directors of a school
25 district shall require all persons employed by the school
26 district who hold a teaching license with an endorsement
27 for prekindergarten, prekindergarten or elementary special
28 education, or prekindergarten through grade three levels issued
29 under chapter 256, subchapter VII, part 3, all practitioners
30 and paraprofessionals assigned as Title I teachers and Title
31 I paraprofessionals under the federal Every Student Succeeds
32 Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, and all practitioners endorsed
33 to teach English as a second language to complete the Iowa
34 reading research center dyslexia overview module. Such persons
35 employed by the a school district or accredited nonpublic

1 school after July 1, 2024, shall complete the module within one
2 year of the employee's initial date of hire.

3 Sec. 30. Section 279.73, Code 2024, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **279.73 Intellectual freedom — protection — complaints.**

6 1. The board of directors of each school district and the
7 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall
8 protect the intellectual freedom of the school district's or
9 the accredited nonpublic school's students and practitioners
10 and shall establish and publicize policies that protect
11 students and faculty from discrimination based on speech.
12 A person shall not retaliate against a person who files a
13 complaint for a violation of [this section](#). If the person
14 who files a complaint for a violation of [this section](#) is an
15 employee of the school district, the provisions of section
16 70A.29 shall apply.

17 2. If the board of directors of the school district, the
18 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school, or
19 a court finds that an employee of the school district or
20 accredited nonpublic school who holds a license, certificate,
21 statement of recognition, or authorization issued by the
22 board of educational examiners under chapter 256, subchapter
23 VII, part 3, discriminated against a student or employee
24 in violation of [this section](#), the employee found to be in
25 violation under [this section](#) shall be subject to a hearing
26 conducted by the board of educational examiners pursuant
27 to [section 256.146, subsection 13](#), which may result in
28 disciplinary action and the employee's employment may be
29 terminated.

30 Sec. 31. Section 279.74, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024, are
31 amended to read as follows:

32 2. Each school district and accredited nonpublic school
33 may continue training that fosters a workplace and learning
34 environment that is respectful of all employees and students.
35 However, the superintendent of each school district and the

1 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
2 shall ensure that any curriculum or mandatory staff or student
3 training provided by an employee of the school district or
4 accredited nonpublic school, or by a contractor hired by the
5 school district or accredited nonpublic school, does not teach,
6 advocate, encourage, promote, or act upon specific stereotyping
7 and scapegoating toward others on the basis of demographic
8 group membership or identity. **This subsection** shall not
9 be construed as preventing an employee or contractor who
10 teaches any curriculum or who provides mandatory training from
11 responding to questions regarding specific defined concepts
12 raised by participants in the training.

13 3. School district and accredited nonpublic school
14 diversity and inclusion efforts shall discourage students
15 of the school district or accredited nonpublic school from
16 discriminating against another by political ideology or any
17 characteristic protected under the federal Civil Rights Act of
18 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352, as amended, and applicable state law.
19 Each school district and accredited nonpublic school shall
20 prohibit its employees from discriminating against students or
21 employees by political ideology or any characteristic protected
22 under the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352,
23 as amended, and applicable state law.

24 Sec. 32. Section 279.76, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024, are
25 amended to read as follows:

26 1. a. Each school district and accredited nonpublic school
27 is prohibited from administering or conducting an invasive
28 physical examination of a student, a student health screening
29 that is not required by state or federal law, or a formal
30 examination or survey of a student that is designed to assess
31 the student's mental, emotional, or physical health that is
32 not required by state or federal law, without first acquiring
33 the written consent of the student's parent or guardian. This
34 section applies only to a minor child in the direct care of a
35 parent or guardian, and does not apply to an emancipated minor

1 or a minor who is not residing with the parent or guardian.

2 *b.* Each school district and accredited nonpublic school
3 shall give written notice to a student's parent or guardian of
4 an examination or survey of the student required by state or
5 federal law that is designed to assess the student's mental,
6 emotional, or physical health not less than seven days prior to
7 the examination or survey. The notice shall include a copy of
8 the examination or survey or a link to an internet site where
9 the parent or guardian may access the examination or survey.

10 *c.* **This subsection** shall not apply to a hearing or vision
11 examination.

12 2. **This section** shall not be construed to prohibit a school
13 district or accredited nonpublic school from conducting health
14 screenings or invasive physical examinations in emergent care
15 situations or from cooperating in a child abuse assessment
16 commenced in accordance with **section 232.71B**.

17 Sec. 33. Section 279.77, Code 2024, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 **279.77 Transparency — publication of school district and**
20 **accredited nonpublic school information.**

21 1. Each school district and accredited nonpublic school
22 shall publish all of the following information related to the
23 current school year on the school district's or accredited
24 nonpublic school's internet site:

25 *a.* A detailed explanation of the procedures or policies
26 in effect for the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in
27 the school district or accredited nonpublic school to request
28 the removal of a book, article, outline, handout, video, or
29 other educational material that is available to students in
30 the classroom or in a library operated by the school district
31 or accredited nonpublic school. Each school district and
32 accredited nonpublic school shall prominently display the
33 detailed explanation on the school district's or accredited
34 nonpublic school's internet site.

35 *b.* A detailed explanation of the procedures or policies in

1 effect to request the review of decisions made by the board of
2 directors of the school district or the authorities in charge
3 of the accredited nonpublic school, including the petition
4 process established pursuant to [section 279.8B](#).

5 2. The board of directors of each school district and the
6 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
7 shall adopt a policy describing the procedures for the parent
8 or guardian of a student enrolled in the school district or
9 accredited nonpublic school, or a resident of the school
10 district, to review the instructional materials used in
11 classrooms in the school district or accredited nonpublic
12 school. The policy shall include a process for a student's
13 parent or guardian to request that the student not be provided
14 with certain instructional materials. The policy shall be
15 prominently displayed on the school district's or accredited
16 nonpublic school's internet site and the board of directors
17 of the school district or the authorities in charge of the
18 accredited nonpublic school shall, at least annually, provide
19 a written or electronic copy of the policy to the parent or
20 guardian of each student enrolled in the school district or
21 accredited nonpublic school. For purposes of [this section](#),
22 "*instructional materials*" means either printed or electronic
23 textbooks and related core materials that are written and
24 published primarily for use in elementary school and secondary
25 school instruction and are required by a state educational
26 agency or local educational agency for use by students in the
27 student's classes by the teacher of record. "*Instructional*
28 *materials*" does not include lesson plans.

29 3. Each school district and accredited nonpublic school
30 shall make available on the school district's or accredited
31 nonpublic school's internet site a comprehensive list of all
32 books available to students in libraries operated by the school
33 district or accredited nonpublic school. However, for school
34 years beginning prior to July 1, 2025, if the school district
35 or accredited nonpublic school does not use an electronic

1 catalog, the school district or accredited nonpublic school may
2 request a waiver from this requirement from the department of
3 education.

4 4. The identity of a parent or guardian who requests the
5 removal of a book, article, outline, handout, video, or other
6 educational material that is available to students in the
7 classroom or in a library operated by the school district or
8 accredited nonpublic school pursuant to [subsection 1](#), paragraph
9 "a", shall be confidential and shall not be a public record
10 subject to disclosure under [chapter 22](#).

11 5. [This section](#) shall not be construed to require a school
12 district or accredited nonpublic school to do any of the
13 following:

14 a. Reproduce educational materials that were not created
15 by a person employed by the board of directors of the school
16 district or the authorities in charge of the accredited
17 nonpublic school.

18 b. Distribute any educational materials in a manner that
19 would infringe on the intellectual property rights of any
20 person.

21 Sec. 34. Section 279.78, subsections 2, 3, and 4, Code 2024,
22 are amended to read as follows:

23 2. A school district or accredited nonpublic school
24 shall not knowingly give false or misleading information to
25 the parent or guardian of a student regarding the student's
26 gender identity or intention to transition to a gender that
27 is different than the sex listed on a student's official
28 birth certificate or certificate issued upon adoption if the
29 certificate was issued at or near the time of the student's
30 birth.

31 3. If a student enrolled in a school district or accredited
32 nonpublic school requests an accommodation that is intended
33 to affirm the student's gender identity from a licensed
34 practitioner employed by the school district or accredited
35 nonpublic school, including a request that the licensed

1 practitioner address the student using a name or pronoun that
2 is different than the name or pronoun assigned to the student
3 in the school district's or accredited nonpublic school's
4 registration forms or records, the licensed practitioner shall
5 report the student's request to an administrator employed
6 by the school district or accredited nonpublic school, and
7 the administrator shall report the student's request to the
8 student's parent or guardian.

9 4. If, after investigation, the department of education
10 determines that a school district or an accredited nonpublic
11 school, or an employee of a school district or an accredited
12 nonpublic school, has violated [this section](#), the school
13 district, accredited nonpublic school, or employee of the
14 school district or accredited nonpublic school, as applicable,
15 shall be subject to the following:

16 a. For the first violation of [this section](#), the department
17 of education shall issue a written warning to the board of
18 directors of the school district, the authorities in charge
19 of the accredited nonpublic school, or the employee, as
20 applicable.

21 b. (1) For a second or subsequent violation of this
22 section, if the department of education finds that a school
23 district or accredited nonpublic school knowingly violated
24 this section, the superintendent of the school district or the
25 authorities in charge of the accredited nonpublic school shall
26 be subject to a hearing conducted by the board of educational
27 examiners pursuant to [section 256.146, subsection 13](#), which may
28 result in disciplinary action.

29 (2) For a second or subsequent violation of [this section](#),
30 if the department of education finds that an employee of
31 the school district or accredited nonpublic school who
32 holds a license, certificate, authorization, or statement
33 of recognition issued by the board of educational examiners
34 knowingly violated [this section](#), the employee shall be subject
35 to a hearing conducted by the board of educational examiners

1 pursuant to [section 256.146, subsection 13](#), which may result
2 in disciplinary action.

3 Sec. 35. Section 279.79, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph
4 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

5 The board of directors of a school district and the
6 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school must
7 receive the prior written consent of a student's parent or
8 guardian before requiring a student to take part in any survey,
9 analysis, activity, or evaluation that reveals information
10 concerning any of the following about the student or the
11 student's family, whether the information is personally
12 identifiable or not:

13 Sec. 36. Section 279.79, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024, are
14 amended to read as follows:

15 2. An employee of a school district or an accredited
16 nonpublic school, or a contractor engaged by a school district
17 or an accredited nonpublic school, shall not answer any
18 question pertaining to any particular student enrolled in the
19 school district or accredited nonpublic school in any survey
20 related to the social or emotional abilities, competencies, or
21 characteristics of the student, unless the board of directors
22 of the school district or the authorities in charge of the
23 accredited nonpublic school satisfies all of the following
24 requirements:

25 a. The board of directors of the school district or the
26 authorities in charge of the accredited nonpublic school
27 provides to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in
28 the school district or accredited nonpublic school detailed
29 information related to the survey, including the person
30 who created the survey, the person who sponsors the survey,
31 how information generated by the survey is used, and how
32 information generated by the survey is stored.

33 b. The board of directors of the school district or the
34 authorities in charge of the accredited nonpublic school
35 receives the written consent from a student's parent or

1 guardian authorizing the employee or contractor to answer
2 questions in the survey pertaining to the student.

3 3. **Subsection 2** shall not be construed to prohibit an
4 employee of a school district or accredited nonpublic school,
5 or a contractor engaged by a school district or accredited
6 nonpublic school, from answering questions pertaining to
7 any particular student enrolled in the school district
8 or accredited nonpublic school as part of the process of
9 developing or implementing an individualized education program
10 for such student.

11 Sec. 37. Section 279.80, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. A school district or an accredited nonpublic school
14 shall not provide any program, curriculum, test, survey,
15 questionnaire, promotion, or instruction relating to gender
16 identity or sexual orientation to students in kindergarten
17 through grade six.

18 Sec. 38. Section 280.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 **280.6 Religious books.**

21 Religious books such as the Bible, the Torah, and the Koran
22 shall not be excluded from any public school, nonpublic school,
23 or institution in the state, nor shall any child be required to
24 read such religious books contrary to the wishes of the child's
25 parent or guardian.

26 Sec. 39. Section 280.8, Code 2024, is amended to read as
27 follows:

28 **280.8 Special education.**

29 The board of directors of each public school district and
30 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
31 shall make adequate educational provisions for each resident
32 child or enrolled child, as applicable, requiring special
33 education appropriate to the nature and severity of the child's
34 disability pursuant to rules promulgated by the department
35 under the provisions of **chapters 256B and 273.**

1 Sec. 40. Section 280.14, Code 2024, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **280.14 School requirements — administration.**

4 1. The board or governing authority of each public school
5 ~~or school district subject to the provisions of this chapter~~
6 and accredited nonpublic school shall establish and maintain
7 adequate administration, school staffing, personnel assignment
8 policies, teacher qualifications, certification requirements,
9 facilities, equipment, grounds, graduation requirements,
10 instructional requirements, instructional materials,
11 maintenance procedures, and policies on extracurricular
12 activities. In addition, the board or governing authority of
13 each public school or school district and accredited nonpublic
14 school shall provide such principals as it finds necessary
15 to provide effective supervision and administration for each
16 school and its faculty and student body.

17 2. An individual who is employed or contracted as a
18 superintendent by a public school or school district accredited
19 nonpublic school may also serve as an elementary or secondary
20 principal in the same public school or school district
21 accredited nonpublic school.

22 Sec. 41. Section 280.19, Code 2024, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 **280.19 At-risk children.**

25 The board of directors of each public school district and the
26 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall
27 incorporate, into the kindergarten admissions program, criteria
28 and procedures for identification and integration of at-risk
29 children and their developmental needs.

30 Sec. 42. Section 280.19A, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2024,
31 are amended to read as follows:

32 1. Each school district and nonpublic school shall adopt
33 a plan to provide alternative options education programs
34 to students who are either at risk of dropping out or have
35 dropped out. An alternative options education program may be

1 provided in a nonpublic school, a district, through a sharing
2 agreement with a school in a contiguous district, or through
3 an areawide program available at the community college serving
4 the merged area in which the school district is located. Each
5 area education agency shall provide assistance in establishing
6 a plan to provide alternative education options to students
7 attending a public school or a nonpublic school in a district
8 served by the agency.

9 2. When a plan is developed, the district or nonpublic
10 school shall be responsible for the operation of the program
11 and shall reimburse the area education agency for the actual
12 costs incurred by the area education agency under [this section](#).

13 Sec. 43. Section 280.20, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 1. It is the intent of the general assembly to encourage the
16 public and nonpublic secondary schools to develop comprehensive
17 programs for career and technical education in agriculture
18 technology to meet the diverse needs of Iowa's students and to
19 ensure an adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals in
20 all phases of the agriculture industry. The board of directors
21 of each public school district and the authorities in charge of
22 each accredited nonpublic school may develop, as part of the
23 curriculum in grades nine through twelve, programs for career
24 and technical education in agriculture technology.

25 Sec. 44. Section 280.20, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
26 2024, is amended to read as follows:

27 *b.* Supervision and accountability of career and technical
28 agriculture teachers employed for extended contracts are the
29 responsibility of the local school board or authorities in
30 charge of an accredited nonpublic school, as applicable.

31 Sec. 45. Section 280.21A, subsection 1, paragraph a,
32 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 A school employee who, in the course of employment, suffers
35 a personal injury causing temporary total disability, or a

1 permanent partial or total disability, resulting from an
2 episode of violence toward that employee, for which workers'
3 compensation under [chapter 85](#) is payable, shall be entitled to
4 receive workers' compensation, which the district or nonpublic
5 school shall supplement in order for the employee to receive
6 full salary and benefits for the shortest of the following
7 periods:

8 Sec. 46. Section 280.21A, subsection 2, Code 2024, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 2. The school district or nonpublic school may require
11 the employee, as a condition of receiving benefits under this
12 section, to provide a signed statement that justifies the
13 use of this leave and, if medical attention is required, a
14 certificate from a licensed physician that states the nature
15 and duration of the leave.

16 Sec. 47. Section 280.22, subsections 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9, Code
17 2024, are amended to read as follows:

18 1. Except as limited by [this section](#), students of the public
19 schools and accredited nonpublic schools have the right to
20 exercise freedom of speech, including the right of expression
21 in official school publications.

22 4. Each board of directors of a public school and the
23 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall
24 adopt rules in the form of a written publications code, which
25 shall include reasonable provisions for the time, place, and
26 manner of conducting such activities within its jurisdiction.
27 The code shall incorporate all of the provisions of this
28 section. The board and the authorities shall make the code
29 available to the students and their parents.

30 6. Any expression made by students in the exercise of
31 free speech, including student expression in official school
32 publications, shall not be deemed to be an expression of school
33 policy, and the public school district or the accredited
34 nonpublic school, and school employees or officials, shall
35 not be liable in any civil or criminal action for any student

1 expression made or published by students, unless the school
2 employees or officials have interfered with or altered the
3 content of the student speech or expression, and then only to
4 the extent of the interference or alteration of the speech or
5 expression.

6 7. A public school or accredited nonpublic school
7 employee or official, acting within the scope of the person's
8 professional ethics, if any, shall not be dismissed, suspended,
9 disciplined, reassigned, transferred, subject to termination or
10 nonrenewal of a teaching contract issued under [section 279.13](#)
11 or an extracurricular contract issued under [section 279.19A](#), or
12 otherwise retaliated against for acting to protect a student
13 for engaging in conduct authorized under [this section](#), or
14 refusing to infringe upon student conduct that is protected by
15 this section, the first amendment to the Constitution of the
16 United States, or Article I, section 7, of the Constitution of
17 the State of Iowa.

18 9. [This section](#) does not prohibit a board of directors of
19 a public school or the authorities in charge of an accredited
20 nonpublic school from adopting otherwise valid rules relating
21 to oral communications by students upon the premises of each
22 school.

23 Sec. 48. Section 280.32, subsections 2, 3, and 4, Code 2024,
24 are amended to read as follows:

25 2. The board of directors of each public school district
26 and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic
27 school shall establish a radon plan and schedule for short-term
28 tests for radon gas to be performed at each attendance center
29 under its control at least once by July 1, 2027, and at least
30 once every five years thereafter. Each school district and
31 accredited nonpublic school shall publish testing results on
32 the district's or accredited nonpublic school's internet site
33 in a timely manner.

34 3. Radon testing pursuant to [this section](#) conducted on and
35 after July 1, 2022, shall be conducted by a person certified to

1 conduct such testing pursuant to [section 136B.1](#) or by district
2 or accredited nonpublic school employees that have completed
3 a school radon testing training program approved by the
4 department of education and the department of health and human
5 services. District or accredited nonpublic school employees
6 that have completed training shall not perform testing services
7 in locations other than the employee's employing district or
8 accredited nonpublic school. The department of health and
9 human services shall maintain and make available to school
10 districts and accredited nonpublic schools a list of such
11 approved school radon testing training programs. Testing shall
12 be based on recognized national standards that outline school
13 radon testing practices.

14 4. a. If the results of a short-term test at an attendance
15 center are at or above four picocuries per liter, the board
16 of directors of the public school district or the authorities
17 in charge of the accredited nonpublic school shall conduct a
18 second short-term test for radon gas and radon decay products
19 in the spaces with elevated results within sixty days of the
20 first test.

21 b. If the averaged results of the first and second tests at
22 an attendance center pursuant to paragraph "a" are at or above
23 four picocuries per liter, the board of directors of the public
24 school district or the authorities in charge of the accredited
25 nonpublic school shall retain or employ a person credentialed
26 pursuant to [section 136B.1](#) to develop a radon mitigation
27 plan that may include further diagnostic testing, corrective
28 measures, and active mitigation. The board or the authorities
29 shall complete the radon mitigation plan within two years of
30 the first test. A district or accredited nonpublic school
31 is not required to mitigate radon at an attendance center if
32 the district or accredited nonpublic school intends to abandon
33 the building within five years or has a plan to renovate the
34 attendance center within five years and the renovation will
35 include radon mitigation.

1 Sec. 49. Section 282.3, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 1. The board may exclude from school children under the
4 age of six years when in its judgment such children are not
5 sufficiently mature to be benefited by regular instruction, or
6 any child who is found to be physically or mentally unable to
7 attend school under [section 299.5](#), or whose presence in school
8 has been found to be injurious to the health of other pupils,
9 or is efficiently taught for the scholastic year at a state
10 institution. However, the board or the authorities in charge
11 of an accredited nonpublic school, as applicable, shall provide
12 special education programs and services under [chapters 256B](#),
13 [257](#), and [273](#) for all children requiring special education.

14 Sec. 50. Section 282.9, Code 2024, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 **282.9 Enrollment of person listed on sex offender registry.**

17 1. Notwithstanding sections [256E.7](#), [256F.4](#), [275.55A](#), and
18 [282.18](#), or any other provision to the contrary, prior to
19 knowingly enrolling an individual who is required to register
20 as a sex offender under [chapter 692A](#), but who is otherwise
21 eligible to enroll in a public school or an accredited
22 nonpublic school, the board of directors of a school district
23 or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school
24 shall determine the educational placement of the individual.
25 Upon receipt of notice that a student who is enrolled in the
26 district or accredited nonpublic school is required to register
27 as a sex offender under [chapter 692A](#), the board of directors
28 of the school district or the authorities in charge of the
29 accredited nonpublic school shall determine the educational
30 placement of the student. The tentative agenda for the meeting
31 of the board of directors at which the board will consider such
32 enrollment or educational placement shall specifically state
33 that the board is considering the enrollment or educational
34 placement of an individual who is required to register as a
35 sex offender under [chapter 692A](#). If the individual is denied

1 enrollment in a school district or an accredited nonpublic
2 school under this section, the school district of residence or
3 the accredited nonpublic school, as applicable, shall provide
4 the individual with educational services in an alternative
5 setting.

6 2. Notwithstanding section 692A.121, or any other provision
7 of law to the contrary, the county sheriff shall provide to
8 the boards of directors of the school districts located within
9 the county and to the authorities in charge of the accredited
10 nonpublic schools in the county the name of any individual
11 under the age of twenty-one who is required to register as a
12 sex offender under chapter 692A.

13 EXPLANATION

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

16 This bill modifies provisions related to the
17 responsibilities of nonpublic schools.

18 Current law provides that the standards established in Code
19 section 256.11(4) related to career exploration and development
20 in grades seven and eight shall not apply to the teaching
21 of career exploration and development in nonpublic schools.
22 The bill strikes this provision. Additionally, current
23 law provides that the standards established in Code section
24 256.11(5)(h) related to career and technical education in
25 grades 9 through 12 shall not apply to the teaching of career
26 and technical education in nonpublic schools. The bill strikes
27 this provision.

28 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to adopt
29 rules prohibiting the use of tobacco and the use or possession
30 of certain types of alcohol or any controlled substance by any
31 student. The bill authorizes the accredited nonpublic school
32 to suspend or expel a student for a violation of such a rule.

33 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to adopt
34 rules requiring that, once school officials have been notified
35 by a juvenile court officer that a student attending the school

1 is under supervision or has been placed on probation, school
2 officials are required to notify the juvenile court of each
3 unexcused absence or suspension or expulsion of the student.

4 Current law imposes restrictions on the ability of a school
5 district to take disciplinary actions against an employee or
6 contractor for disclosing certain specified information to any
7 public official or law enforcement agency. The bill imposes
8 these same restrictions on accredited nonpublic schools.

9 The bill authorizes accredited nonpublic schools to employ
10 for head coach of any interscholastic athletic activity, or for
11 assistant coach of any interscholastic athletic activity, an
12 individual who possesses a coaching authorization issued by
13 the board of educational examiners or who possesses a teaching
14 license with a coaching endorsement.

15 The bill authorizes accredited nonpublic schools to employ
16 principals in the same manner as school districts. The bill
17 also requires a principal employed by an accredited nonpublic
18 school to hold a current valid principal's certificate.

19 Current Code section 279.40 grants minimum amounts of sick
20 leave to public school employees. The bill grants these same
21 minimum amounts of sick leave to employees of accredited
22 nonpublic schools under the same conditions as sick leave
23 granted to public school employees.

24 Current Code section 279.50 requires school districts
25 to provide certain specified human growth and development
26 instruction to students enrolled in kindergarten through grade
27 12, and imposes other requirements related to such instruction.
28 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to provide the
29 same instruction and follow the same requirements.

30 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to adopt
31 policies for different grade levels that describe how an
32 accredited nonpublic school may discipline a student for making
33 a threat of violence or causing an incident of violence that
34 results in injury or property damage or assault. The bill
35 establishes requirements related to such policy.

1 Current Code section 279.68 imposes responsibilities on
2 school districts related to assessing students to determine
3 levels of reading readiness and providing intensive reading
4 instruction. The bill imposes these same responsibilities on
5 accredited nonpublic schools.

6 The bill provides that accredited nonpublic schools are
7 to require licensed personnel who have regular contact with
8 students to undergo training related to suicide prevention and
9 postvention, the training related to identification of adverse
10 childhood experiences, and strategies to mitigate toxic stress.

11 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools that issue
12 identification cards to students in grades 7 through 12 to
13 include on the card the crisis hotline telephone and text
14 numbers and the internet address for your life Iowa or the
15 your life Iowa successor program. The bill also authorizes
16 accredited nonpublic schools that issue identification cards
17 to students in grades five and six to include on the card the
18 crisis hotline telephone and text numbers and the internet
19 address for your life Iowa or the your life Iowa successor
20 program.

21 Current Code section 279.71 imposes on school districts
22 certain requirements related to student online personal
23 information protection. The bill imposes these same
24 requirements on accredited nonpublic schools.

25 The bill requires certain specified licensed accredited
26 nonpublic school employees who are employed by an accredited
27 nonpublic school after July 1, 2024, to complete the Iowa
28 reading research center dyslexia overview module within one
29 year of the employee's initial date of hire.

30 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to protect
31 the intellectual freedom of the school's students and
32 practitioners and to establish and publicize policies that
33 protect students and faculty from discrimination based on
34 speech. The bill also provides that if an accredited nonpublic
35 school or a court finds that certain specified employees of the

1 accredited nonpublic school discriminated against a student or
2 employee in violation of this provision, the employee found to
3 be in violation shall be subject to a hearing conducted by the
4 board of educational examiners.

5 Current Code section 279.74 imposes certain responsibilities
6 and prohibitions on school districts related to training and
7 curriculum that includes race or sex scapegoating, race or sex
8 stereotyping, or specific defined concepts. The bill imposes
9 these same responsibilities and prohibitions on accredited
10 nonpublic schools.

11 The bill prohibits accredited nonpublic schools from
12 conducting an invasive physical examination of a student, a
13 student health screening that is not required by law, or a
14 formal examination or survey of a student that is designed
15 to assess the student's health that is not required by law,
16 without first acquiring the written consent of the student's
17 parent or guardian. The bill also requires accredited
18 nonpublic schools to give written notice to a student's parent
19 or guardian of an examination of the student required by law
20 that is designed to assess the student's health not less than
21 seven days prior to the examination or survey.

22 Current Code section 279.77 requires school districts
23 to publish certain specified information on the school
24 district's internet site and adopt policies related to the
25 review of instructional materials. The bill imposes the same
26 responsibilities on accredited nonpublic schools.

27 Current Code section 279.78 imposes certain responsibilities
28 and prohibitions on school districts related to the gender
29 identity of students enrolled in the school district. The
30 bill imposes the same responsibilities and prohibitions on
31 accredited nonpublic schools.

32 The bill requires an accredited nonpublic school to receive
33 the prior written consent of a student's parent or guardian
34 before requiring a student to take part in certain specified
35 evaluations. The bill prohibits an employee or contractor of

1 an accredited nonpublic school from answering any question
2 pertaining to any particular student enrolled in the school
3 in any survey related to the social or emotional abilities,
4 competencies, or characteristics of the student, unless the
5 school satisfies certain specified requirements.

6 The bill prohibits an accredited nonpublic school from
7 providing any program, curriculum, test, survey, questionnaire,
8 promotion, or instruction relating to gender identity or sexual
9 orientation to students in kindergarten through grade six. The
10 bill makes conforming changes.

11 The bill provides that religious books shall not be excluded
12 from a nonpublic school.

13 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to make
14 adequate educational provisions for each enrolled child who
15 requires special education that is appropriate to the nature
16 and severity of the child's disability. The bill makes
17 conforming changes.

18 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to establish
19 and maintain adequate administration, school staffing,
20 personnel assignment policies, teacher qualifications,
21 certification requirements, facilities, equipment, grounds,
22 graduation requirements, instructional requirements,
23 instructional materials, maintenance procedures, and policies
24 on extracurricular activities. The bill authorizes an
25 individual employed or contracted by an accredited nonpublic
26 school to serve as an elementary or secondary principal in the
27 same accredited nonpublic school.

28 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to
29 incorporate, into the kindergarten admissions program, criteria
30 and procedures for identification and integration of at-risk
31 children and their developmental needs.

32 Current Code section 280.19A imposes certain requirements
33 on school districts related to alternative options education
34 programs for students who are either at risk of dropping out or
35 have dropped out. The bill imposes the same requirements on

1 accredited nonpublic schools.

2 The bill authorizes accredited nonpublic schools to develop,
3 as part of the curriculum in grades 9 through 12, programs for
4 career and technical education in agriculture technology. The
5 bill provides that supervision and accountability of career and
6 technical agriculture teachers employed for extended contracts
7 are the responsibility of the accredited nonpublic school.

8 The bill provides that accredited nonpublic school employees
9 who, in the course of employment, suffer permanent partial or
10 total disability, resulting from an episode of violence, for
11 which workers' compensation is payable, shall be entitled to
12 receive workers' compensation, which the nonpublic school shall
13 supplement. The bill also provides that a nonpublic school
14 may require the employee to provide a signed statement that
15 justifies the use of this leave and, if medical attention is
16 required, a certificate from a licensed physician that states
17 the nature and duration of the leave.

18 Current Code section 280.22 provides that students of public
19 schools have the right to exercise freedom of speech, including
20 the right of expression in official school publications,
21 subject to the limits contained in that Code section. The
22 bill modifies Code section 280.22 to provide that students of
23 accredited nonpublic schools have the same rights.

24 The bill requires accredited nonpublic schools to establish
25 a radon plan and schedule for short-term tests for radon gas to
26 be performed at each attendance center at least once by July 1,
27 2027, and at least once every five years thereafter. The bill
28 also requires accredited nonpublic schools to publish testing
29 results on the school's internet site in a timely manner. The
30 bill imposes other responsibilities on accredited nonpublic
31 schools related to testing for radon gas.

32 The bill provides that, prior to knowingly enrolling an
33 individual who is required to register as a sex offender,
34 an accredited nonpublic school is required to determine
35 the educational placement of the individual. The bill also

1 provides that if the individual is denied enrollment in an
2 accredited nonpublic school, the school shall provide the
3 individual with educational services in an alternative setting.
4 The bill requires the county sheriff to provide accredited
5 nonpublic schools in the county the name of any individual
6 under the age of 21 who is required to register as a sex
7 offender.