

House File 597 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 597
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 219)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including modifying provisions
2 related to school district library programs and the
3 educational program provided to students enrolled in
4 school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter
5 schools.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
2 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3 The state board shall adopt rules under [chapter 17A](#) and
4 a procedure for accrediting all public and nonpublic schools
5 in Iowa offering instruction at any or all levels from the
6 prekindergarten level through grade twelve. The rules of
7 the state board shall require that a an age-appropriate,
8 multicultural, and gender-fair approach is used by schools and
9 school districts. The educational program shall be taught from
10 a an age-appropriate, multicultural, and gender-fair approach.
11 Global perspectives shall be incorporated into all levels of
12 the educational program. The rules adopted by the state board
13 pursuant to [section 256.17, Code Supplement 1987](#), to establish
14 new standards shall satisfy the requirements of [this section](#) to
15 adopt rules to implement the educational program contained in
16 this section. The educational program shall be as follows:

17 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsections 4 and 9, Code 2023, are
18 amended to read as follows:

19 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven and
20 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;
21 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human
22 growth and development; career exploration and development;
23 physical education; music; and visual art. Computer science
24 instruction incorporating the standards established under
25 [section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph \(4\)](#),
26 shall be offered in at least one grade level commencing with
27 the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration
28 and development shall be designed so that students are
29 appropriately prepared to create an individual career
30 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate
31 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned
32 with the six career and technical education service areas
33 as defined in [subsection 5, paragraph "h"](#), and incorporate
34 relevant twenty-first century skills. The health curriculum
35 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information

1 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases,
2 including HPV and the availability of a vaccine to prevent
3 HPV, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The state board
4 as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum
5 definitions for implementing the program in grades seven
6 and eight. However, **this subsection** shall not apply to the
7 teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic
8 schools. ~~For purposes of **this section**, "age-appropriate",~~
9 ~~"HPV", and "research-based" mean the same as defined in section~~
10 ~~279.50.~~

11 9. a. Beginning July 1, 2006, each school district shall
12 have a qualified teacher librarian who shall be licensed by
13 the board of educational examiners under **chapter 272**. Each
14 school district shall establish a kindergarten through grade
15 twelve library program that is consistent with the educational
16 standards established in this section, contains only
17 age-appropriate materials, and supports the student achievement
18 goals of the total school curriculum.

19 b. The state board shall establish in rule a definition
20 of and standards for an articulated sequential kindergarten
21 through grade twelve media program.

22 c. A school district that entered into a contract with an
23 individual for employment as a media specialist or librarian
24 prior to June 1, 2006, shall be considered to be in compliance
25 with **this subsection** until June 30, 2011, if the individual
26 is making annual progress toward meeting the requirements
27 for a teacher librarian endorsement issued by the board of
28 educational examiners under **chapter 272**. A school district
29 that entered into a contract with an individual for employment
30 as a media specialist or librarian who holds at least a
31 master's degree in library and information studies shall be
32 considered to be in compliance with **this subsection** until the
33 individual leaves the employ of the school district.

34 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
35 following new subsection:

1 NEW SUBSECTION. 19. For purposes of this section:

2 a. (1) "*Age-appropriate*" means topics, messages, and
3 teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups
4 of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive,
5 emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age
6 group. "*Age-appropriate*" does not include any material with
7 descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act as defined in
8 section 702.17 or section 728.1.

9 (2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), for purposes of the
10 human growth and development curriculum, "*age-appropriate*" means
11 the same as defined in section 279.50.

12 b. "*HPV*" means the same as defined in section 279.50.

13 c. "*Research-based*" means the same as defined in section
14 279.50.

15 EXPLANATION

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

18 This bill relates to education, including modifying
19 provisions related to school district library programs and the
20 educational program provided to students enrolled in school
21 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools.
22 Code section 256.11 (educational standards) requires that
23 the educational program adopted by the state board of education
24 for school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and
25 charter schools be taught from a multicultural and gender-fair
26 approach. The bill provides that the educational program shall
27 also be taught from an age-appropriate approach. The bill
28 defines "*age-appropriate*" in this context as topics, messages,
29 and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups
30 of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive,
31 emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age
32 group. Additionally, the bill provides that "*age-appropriate*"
33 does not include any material with descriptions or visual
34 depictions of a sex act. The bill does not affect the
35 definition of "*age-appropriate*" in the context of the human

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1 growth and development curriculum.

2 The bill requires each school district to establish
3 a kindergarten through grade 12 library program that
4 is consistent with Code section 256.11, contains only
5 age-appropriate materials, and supports the student achievement
6 goals of the total school curriculum.