

**Senate File 2048 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2048

BY ZAUN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying provisions related to the social studies  
2 instruction provided to students enrolled in grades one  
3 through twelve in school districts by creating celebrate  
4 freedom week.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2024,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. a. The following areas shall be taught in grades  
4 one through six: English-language arts, social studies,  
5 mathematics, science, health, physical education, traffic  
6 safety, music, visual art, and, subject to [section 279.80](#),  
7 age-appropriate and research-based human growth and  
8 development. Computer science instruction incorporating  
9 the standards established under section 256.7, subsection  
10 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), shall be offered in  
11 at least one grade level commencing with the school year  
12 beginning July 1, 2023. The health curriculum shall include  
13 the characteristics of communicable diseases. The state board  
14 as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum  
15 definitions for implementing the elementary program.

16 b. (1) The social studies curriculum shall include, during  
17 the week in which September 17 falls, or during another full  
18 school week as determined by the board of directors of a  
19 school district, instruction related to the original intent,  
20 meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence,  
21 the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights  
22 contained in the Constitution, within the historical contexts  
23 of such founding documents.

24 (2) The instruction related to the Declaration of  
25 Independence described in subparagraph (1) shall include an  
26 examination of the relationship between the ideas expressed in  
27 the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent history of  
28 the United States, including the United States being a nation  
29 of immigrants, the American revolution, the formulation of  
30 the Constitution of the United States, and the abolitionist  
31 movement, which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and the  
32 women's suffrage movement.

33 (3) The instruction described in subparagraphs (1) and (2)  
34 shall not censor any religious references in the writings of  
35 the founding fathers.

1     (4) (a) The instruction described in this paragraph  
2 shall require students enrolled in grades three through six  
3 to study and recite the following portion of the Declaration  
4 of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident,  
5 that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their  
6 Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are  
7 Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure  
8 these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving  
9 their just powers from the consent of the governed".

10     (b) The board of directors of a school district shall not  
11 require a student to recite a portion of the Declaration of  
12 Independence, as required in subparagraph division (a), if any  
13 of the following apply:

14     (i) The student's parent or guardian submits to the school  
15 district a written request that the student be excused from  
16 such recitation.

17     (ii) The school district determines that the student has a  
18 conscientious objection to the recitation.

19     (iii) The student is the child of a representative of a  
20 foreign government to whom diplomatic immunity has been awarded  
21 pursuant to the federal Diplomatic Relations Act of 1978, as  
22 codified at 22 U.S.C. §254a et seq.

23     c. Paragraph "b" shall not apply to a nonpublic school.

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

1 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned  
2 with the six career and technical education service areas as  
3 defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", incorporate relevant  
4 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness,  
5 and introduce students to career opportunities within the  
6 local community and across this state. The health curriculum  
7 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information  
8 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.  
9 The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt  
10 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades  
11 seven and eight. However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to  
12 the teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic  
13 schools.

14 b. (1) The social studies curriculum shall include, during  
15 the week in which September 17 falls, or during another full  
16 school week as determined by the board of directors of a  
17 school district, instruction related to the original intent,  
18 meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence,  
19 the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights  
20 contained in the Constitution, within the historical contexts  
21 of such founding documents.

22 (2) The instruction related to the Declaration of  
23 Independence described in subparagraph (1) shall include an  
24 examination of the relationship between the ideas expressed in  
25 the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent history of  
26 the United States, including the United States being a nation  
27 of immigrants, the American revolution, the formulation of  
28 the Constitution of the United States, and the abolitionist  
29 movement, which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and the  
30 women's suffrage movement.

31 (3) The instruction described in subparagraphs (1) and (2)  
32 shall not censor any religious references in the writings of  
33 the founding fathers.

34 (4) (a) The instruction described in this paragraph shall  
35 require students to study and recite the following portion of

1 the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be  
2 self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are  
3 endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that  
4 among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.  
5 That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted  
6 among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the  
7 governed".

8 (b) The board of directors of a school district shall not  
9 require a student to recite a portion of the Declaration of  
10 Independence, as required in subparagraph division (a), if any  
11 of the following apply:

12 (i) The student's parent or guardian submits to the school  
13 district a written request that the student be excused from  
14 such recitation.

15 (ii) The school district determines that the student has a  
16 conscientious objection to the recitation.

17 (iii) The student is the child of a representative of a  
18 foreign government to whom diplomatic immunity has been awarded  
19 pursuant to the federal Diplomatic Relations Act of 1978, as  
20 codified at 22 U.S.C. §254a et seq.

21 c. Paragraph "b" shall not apply to a nonpublic school.

22 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code  
23 2024, is amended to read as follows:

24 *b.* Five units of the social studies including instruction  
25 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration  
26 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in  
27 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting  
28 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum  
29 of one-half unit of United States government and one unit of  
30 United States history.

31 (1) The one-half unit of United States government shall  
32 include the voting procedure as described in this lettered  
33 paragraph and [section 280.9A](#). The government instruction shall  
34 also include a study of the Constitution of the United States  
35 and the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an

1 assessment of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the  
2 Bill of Rights.

3 (2) (a) The one unit of United States history shall  
4 include, during the week in which September 17 falls, or  
5 during another full school week as determined by the board of  
6 directors of a school district, instruction related to the  
7 original intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration  
8 of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and  
9 the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution, within the  
10 historical contexts of such founding documents.

11 (b) The instruction related to the Declaration of  
12 Independence described in subparagraph division (a) shall  
13 include an examination of the relationship between the ideas  
14 expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the subsequent  
15 history of the United States, including the United States  
16 being a nation of immigrants, the American revolution, the  
17 formulation of the Constitution of the United States, and  
18 the abolitionist movement, which led to the Emancipation  
19 Proclamation and the women's suffrage movement.

20 (c) The instruction described in subparagraph divisions  
21 (a) and (b) shall not censor any religious references in the  
22 writings of the founding fathers.

23 (d) (i) The instruction described in this subparagraph  
24 shall require students to study and recite the following  
25 portion of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these  
26 truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that  
27 they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable  
28 Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit  
29 of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are  
30 instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the  
31 consent of the governed".

32 (ii) The board of directors of a school district shall not  
33 require a student to recite a portion of the Declaration of  
34 Independence, as required in subparagraph subdivision (i), if  
35 any of the following apply:

