

House File 2486 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2486
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 681)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to student dress code policies of public schools,
2 charter schools, and innovation school zones, and including
3 applicability provisions.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2026, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0l. Be subject to and comply with the
4 requirements of section 279.58 relating to student dress code
5 policies in the same manner as a school district.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
7 by adding the following new paragraph:

8 NEW PARAGRAPH. v. Be subject to and comply with the
9 requirements of section 279.58 relating to student dress code
10 policies in the same manner as a school district.

11 Sec. 3. Section 279.58, Code 2026, is amended by striking the
12 section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 **279.58 School dress code policies.**

14 1. The board of directors of a public school district shall
15 adopt a dress code policy for students in grades kindergarten
16 through twelve requiring students to dress in attire that is all
17 of the following:

18 a. Appropriate for an educational setting.

19 b. Presentable, promoting personal hygiene, neatness, and
20 modesty.

21 2. The dress code policy required in this section must apply
22 to all school-related activities, including regular school hours,
23 extracurricular activities, and school-sponsored events, unless
24 otherwise specified by the school district.

25 3. The dress code policy required in this section must
26 include, at a minimum, all of the following requirements:

27 a. Clothing must be clean, in good repair, and free of
28 language, symbols, or images that promote illegal activities.

29 b. Attire must adequately cover the body, and clothing that
30 exposes undergarments or midriffs shall be prohibited.

31 c. Footwear must be worn at all times and shall be
32 appropriate for the school environment to ensure safety and
33 hygiene.

34 d. Accessories or attire, including gang-related attire,
35 that the board of directors of a school district determine

1 is disruptive to the health, safety, or positive educational
2 environment of students and staff must be prohibited.

3 4. a. The board of directors of a school district may
4 establish additional dress code requirements tailored to the
5 needs of its student population that are consistent with this
6 section and do not infringe upon rights protected by the
7 Constitution of the State of Iowa and the Constitution of the
8 United States.

9 b. The board of directors of a school district may adopt
10 uniform policies or specific attire guidelines, including
11 requiring collared shirts, specific colors, or other standardized
12 clothing, as determined to be appropriate by the board.

13 5. a. The board of directors of a school district shall
14 establish procedures for enforcing the dress code policy,
15 including clear consequences for violations, which may include
16 verbal warnings, parent or guardian notification, or other
17 disciplinary actions consistent with the district's student
18 conduct policies.

19 b. The board of directors of a school district shall
20 provide reasonable accommodations for students based on religious
21 beliefs, medical needs, or other circumstances protected under
22 state or federal law.

23 6. The dress code policy shall be clearly communicated to
24 students and parents at the beginning of each school year and
25 made publicly available on the school district's internet site.

26 7. The dress code policy shall be applied uniformly to
27 all students without discrimination on the basis of race,
28 color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or any other
29 characteristic protected under state or federal law.

30 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school years
31 beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 This bill relates to student dress code policies of school

1 districts, charter schools, and innovation school zones. The
2 bill requires that the board of directors of a public school
3 district adopt a dress code policy applicable to students in
4 kindergarten through grade 12. The bill provides that the dress
5 code policy shall require that students dress in attire that is
6 appropriate for an educational setting, presentable, and promotes
7 personal hygiene, neatness, and modesty.

8 The bill further establishes minimum standards that must be
9 included in each school district's dress code policy, including
10 that clothing is clean, in good repair, adequately covers the
11 body, and that footwear is worn at all times and appropriate
12 for the school environment. The bill prohibits clothing that
13 contains language, symbols, or images that promote illegal
14 activities, and clothing that exposes undergarments or midriffs.
15 Accessories or attire, including gang-related attire, that the
16 board of directors of a school district determine is disruptive
17 to the health, safety, or educational environment are also
18 prohibited.

19 The bill permits the board of directors of a school
20 district to adopt additional dress code requirements and uniform
21 policies, provided such requirements comply with the bill, the
22 Constitution of the State of Iowa, and the Constitution of the
23 United States. Each school district must establish enforcement
24 procedures, including consequences for violations, and must
25 provide reasonable accommodations for students based on religious
26 beliefs, medical needs, or other circumstances protected by state
27 or federal law.

28 The bill requires that dress code policies be communicated
29 to students and parents at the beginning of each school year
30 and posted on the school district's internet site. The bill
31 requires dress code policies to be applied uniformly and without
32 discrimination.

33 The bill provides that charter schools and innovation school
34 zones are subject to the requirements of the bill in the same
35 manner as a school district.

1 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July 1,
2 2026.

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