

House File 2546 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2546
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2124)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act modifying the duties of the department of education
2 related to electronic systems.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, subsection 11, Code 2026, is
2 amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof
3 the following:

4 11. a. Approve, coordinate, and supervise the use of
5 electronic data and information processing by school districts,
6 area education agencies, and merged areas, including the
7 procurement of a comprehensive, statewide data collection system
8 that must facilitate data collection between the student
9 information systems of all school districts, accredited nonpublic
10 schools, and area education agencies. The director shall procure
11 the comprehensive, statewide data collection system using a
12 process that requires the issuance of requests for proposal.

13 b. The data collection system described in paragraph "a" must
14 satisfy all of the following requirements:

15 (1) Be designed for the purpose of establishing standardized
16 electronic data collections and reporting protocols that
17 facilitate compliance with state and federal reporting
18 requirements.

19 (2) Maintain the confidentiality of student and staff data.

20 (3) Provide for, and improve the process of, the electronic
21 transfer of individual student records between attendance
22 centers, school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, area
23 education agencies, postsecondary institutions, merged areas, and
24 the department.

25 (4) (a) Be designed to ensure compatibility with any student
26 information system utilized by school districts, accredited
27 nonpublic schools, or area education agencies.

28 (b) The department and the developer of the data collection
29 system software must allow a school district, accredited
30 nonpublic school, or area education agency to purchase a student
31 information system from the developer of the school district's,
32 accredited nonpublic school's, or area education agency's choice
33 that maintains a shared database architecture with the data
34 collection system; provided, however, that use of the data
35 collection system shall not require or depend upon the purchase

1 of any specific student information system.

2 (5) Validate data for accuracy prior to a school district,
3 accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency submitting
4 the data to the department.

5 (6) Allow the department, school districts, accredited
6 nonpublic schools, and area education agencies to communicate
7 regarding state reporting within the data collection system.

8 (7) Be hosted by the developer of the software to reduce the
9 burden on the department, school districts, accredited nonpublic
10 schools, and area education agencies associated with maintaining
11 the data collection system.

12 (8) Support the collection and validation of information
13 required to be maintained under federal and state law, including
14 all of the following:

15 (a) School and classroom attendance records.

16 (b) Student enrollment counts and related demographic
17 information.

18 (c) Participation data for federally funded and state funded
19 educational programs.

20 (d) Student and employee demographic information.

21 (e) Student assessment scores for state-required assessments.

22 (f) Special education records and individualized education
23 program information, as required under the federal Individuals
24 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.

25 (g) English learner identification, program participation,
26 and progress monitoring data. For purposes of this subparagraph
27 division, "English learner" means the same as defined in section
28 280.4.

29 (h) Student discipline records and incident reports.

30 (i) Dropout verification and graduation confirmation data.

31 (j) School and district academic calendar information.

32 (9) Collects and distributes only the data required under
33 state law and the minimum amount of data necessary to enroll
34 and serve new students from another school or educational
35 institution.

1 (10) Ensure that the data maintained in the data collection
2 system is the property of the school district, accredited
3 nonpublic school, or area education agency, as applicable, and is
4 not the property of the department.

5 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — MODERNIZATION OF
6 ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS.

7 1. The department of education shall modernize the
8 department's electronic systems and procedures in order to ensure
9 all of the following:

10 a. The proper disbursement of moneys in a timely manner by
11 increasing the ease and frequency of reporting submissions and
12 collections throughout the school year.

13 b. That the department's systems are able to communicate
14 with other state agencies, and with school districts, accredited
15 nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools,
16 to better identify needs for students.

17 2. The modernization described in subsection 1 must include
18 the deployment of a portal, on or before July 1, 2027, which
19 satisfies all of the following requirements:

20 a. Allows school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
21 charter schools, and innovation zone schools to do all of the
22 following:

23 (1) Validate the prior submission of data to the department.

24 (2) Perform a cross-district enrollment check prior to the
25 submission of information.

26 (3) Embed the communication tools between the department and
27 other school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter
28 schools, and innovation zone schools.

29 b. Provides school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
30 charter schools, and innovation zone schools with access to a
31 data dictionary that updates automatically.

32 c. Includes a calendar with key dates.

33 d. Is hosted by the developer of the software to reduce the
34 burden on the department associated with maintaining the portal.

35 e. Collects and distributes only the data required under

1 state law and the minimum amount of data necessary to enroll
2 and serve new students from another school or educational
3 institution.

4 f. Ensures that the information maintained in the portal
5 is the property of the school district, accredited nonpublic
6 school, charter school, or innovation zone school that submitted
7 the information and is not the property of the department of
8 education.

9 EXPLANATION

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

12 This bill modifies the duties of the department of education
13 (DE) related to electronic systems.

14 The bill requires the director of DE to approve, coordinate,
15 and supervise the use of electronic data and information
16 processing by school districts, area education agencies, and
17 merged areas, including the procurement of a comprehensive,
18 statewide data collection system that must facilitate data
19 collection between the student information systems of all school
20 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and area education
21 agencies. The director of the department of education is
22 required to procure the comprehensive, statewide data collection
23 system using a process that requires the issuance of requests
24 for proposal. The bill establishes requirements that the data
25 collection system must satisfy.

26 The bill requires that DE modernize its electronic systems and
27 procedures in order to ensure the proper disbursement of moneys
28 in a timely manner and to ensure that DE's systems are able to
29 communicate with other state agencies, and with school districts,
30 accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation
31 zone schools. The modernization must include the deployment of
32 a portal, on or before July 1, 2027, which satisfies requirements
33 established in the bill.