

**House File 316 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 316  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 44)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to career education, including middle school  
2 career exploration and industry-recognized credential seals  
3 and certificates for high school students.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 69. a. Develop and make available on  
4 the department's internet site a list of industry-recognized  
5 credentials or certifications that are attainable by students  
6 enrolled in grades nine through twelve and that are aligned with  
7 career and technical education service areas.

8 b. Develop and distribute to school districts a seal aligned  
9 to the list of industry-recognized credentials or certifications  
10 described in paragraph "a" to be affixed to high school  
11 transcripts or certificates pursuant to section 279.87.

12 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2025, are  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 3. a. ~~The All of the~~ following areas shall be taught in  
15 grades one through six:

16 (1) English-language arts,~~social.~~

17 (2) Social studies,~~mathematics, science, health, physical.~~

18 (3) Mathematics.

19 (4) Science.

20 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include the  
21 characteristics of communicable diseases.

22 (6) Physical education,~~traffic.~~

23 (7) Traffic safety,~~music, visual.~~

24 (8) Music.

25 (9) Visual art,~~and, subject.~~

26 (10) Subject to section 279.80, age-appropriate and  
27 research-based human growth and development.

28 (11) In grades five and six, career planning and pathways.

29 The career planning and pathways curriculum shall include career  
30 investigation, career connections, and career intentions to help  
31 such students understand career opportunities in order to fully  
32 utilize the individualized career and academic plan developed  
33 pursuant to section 279.61.

34 b. Computer science instruction incorporating the standards  
35 established under section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a",

1 subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade  
2 level commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023.  
3 ~~The health curriculum shall include the characteristics of~~  
4 ~~communicable diseases.~~

5 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall  
6 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary  
7 program.

8 4. a. ~~The~~ All of the following shall be taught in grades  
9 seven and eight:

10 (1) English-language arts;~~social.~~

11 (2) Social studies, including instruction related to civics;  
12 ~~mathematics; science; health;.~~

13 (3) Mathematics.

14 (4) Science.

15 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include  
16 age-appropriate and research-based information regarding the  
17 characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.

18 (6) Age-appropriate and research-based human growth and  
19 ~~development; career.~~

20 (7) Career instruction, exploration, and development;  
21 physical, which shall include career investigation, career  
22 connections, and career intentions.

23 (8) Physical education;~~music; and visual.~~

24 (9) Music.

25 (10) Visual art.

26 b. Computer science instruction incorporating the standards  
27 established under section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a",  
28 subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade  
29 level commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023.  
30 Career exploration and development shall be designed so that  
31 students are appropriately prepared to create an individual  
32 career and academic plan pursuant to section 279.61, incorporate  
33 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned  
34 with the six career and technical education service areas as  
35 defined in subsection 5, paragraph "h", incorporate relevant

1 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness, and  
2 introduce students to career opportunities within the local  
3 community and across this state. ~~The health curriculum shall~~  
4 ~~include age-appropriate and research-based information regarding~~  
5 ~~the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.~~

6 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall  
7 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the program in  
8 grades seven and eight. ~~However, this~~

9 d. This subsection shall not apply to the teaching of career  
10 instruction, exploration, and development in nonpublic schools.

11 **Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 279.87 **Industry-recognized credentials****  
12 **or certifications — recognition.**

13 1. A school district shall report to the department of  
14 education the identity of a student enrolled in the school  
15 district who attains an industry-recognized credential or  
16 certification that is aligned to the student's career and  
17 technical education program of study and that is on the list  
18 described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph "a", and the  
19 specific credential or certification the student attained. The  
20 report shall be confidential and shall not be a public record  
21 subject to disclosure under chapter 22.

22 2. A school district shall recognize high school graduates  
23 who, prior to graduation, have attained an industry-recognized  
24 credential or certification that is aligned to the student's  
25 career and technical education program of study and that is on  
26 the list described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph  
27 "a", by doing one of the following:

28 a. Affixing the seal described in section 256.9, subsection  
29 69, paragraph "b", to the student's high school transcript.

30 b. Providing the student with a certificate to which the  
31 seal described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph "b", is  
32 affixed.

33 **Sec. 4. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED.** In accordance with  
34 section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
35 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall

1 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
2 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
3 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
4 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of section  
5 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall  
6 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and  
7 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

8 EXPLANATION

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

11 This bill relates to career education, including middle school  
12 career exploration and industry-recognized credential seals and  
13 certificates for high school students.

14 The bill requires the director of the department of education  
15 (DE) to develop and make available on DE's internet site a  
16 list of industry-recognized credentials or certifications that  
17 are attainable by students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 and  
18 that are aligned with career and technical education service  
19 areas. The director must also develop and distribute to school  
20 districts a seal that is aligned to the list. The bill  
21 establishes that school districts are to report to DE information  
22 related to students who attain an industry-recognized credential  
23 or certification that is aligned to the student's career and  
24 technical education program of study and that is on the list.  
25 School districts must also recognize high school graduates  
26 who, prior to graduation, have attained an industry-recognized  
27 credential or certification that is aligned to the student's  
28 career and technical education program of study and that is on  
29 the list by either affixing the seal developed by the director  
30 of DE to the student's high school transcript or by providing the  
31 student with a certificate to which the seal is affixed.

32 The bill modifies provisions related to the instruction  
33 provided to students enrolled in grades five and six to require  
34 instruction related to career planning and pathways, which shall  
35 include career investigation, career connections, and career

1 intentions.

2 The bill modifies provisions related to the career exploration  
3 and development curriculum provided to students enrolled in  
4 grades seven and eight by requiring the provision of a career  
5 instruction, exploration, and development curriculum, which shall  
6 include career investigation, career connections, and career  
7 intentions.

8 The bill makes nonsubstantive, stylistic changes to Code  
9 section 256.11(3) and (4), which describe the subjects that must  
10 be taught to students enrolled in grades one through eight.

11 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
12 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
13 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
14 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
15 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
16 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state  
17 mandate funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
18 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
19 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
20 mandates included in the bill.