

**House File 555 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 555  
BY BAGNIEWSKI and LOHSE

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying provisions related to notices that school  
2 officials are required to send when a child becomes  
3 chronically absent.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 299.12, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. (1) When a child becomes chronically absent, a school  
4 official shall ~~send~~ do all of the following:

5 (a) Send a notice by ordinary mail or electronic mail to  
6 the county attorney of the county in which the public school's  
7 central administrative office is located, ~~and.~~

8 (b) Send a notice by ~~certified~~ ordinary mail, and electronic  
9 mail if known, to the child's parent, guardian, or legal or  
10 actual custodian of the child, if the child is not an emancipated  
11 minor, or to the child, if the child is an emancipated minor, ~~that includes.~~

12 (2) The notices sent pursuant to subparagraph (1) must  
13 include information related to the child's absences from school  
14 and the policies and disciplinary processes associated with  
15 additional absences.  
16

17 EXPLANATION

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

20 This bill modifies provisions related to notices that school  
21 officials are required to send when a child becomes chronically  
22 absent.

23 Current law provides that when a child becomes chronically  
24 absent under Code section 299.12 (failure to attend), a school  
25 official is required to send a notice by certified mail to the  
26 child's parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian, if the  
27 child is not an emancipated minor, or to the child, if the child  
28 is an emancipated minor, that includes information related to the  
29 child's absences from school and the policies and disciplinary  
30 processes associated with additional absences. The bill modifies  
31 this provision to provide that the school official is required to  
32 send the notice by ordinary mail and by electronic mail, if the  
33 school official knows the electronic mail address.