

House Study Bill 106 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to electronic devices in schools, including
2 student access during instructional hours, school safety
3 plans, and instruction related to the effects of social media
4 in grades six through eight, and including effective date
5 provisions.

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

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

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 69. Develop and distribute to school
4 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and
5 innovation zone schools model policies that, if adopted, would
6 satisfy the school district's, charter school's, or innovation
7 zone school's responsibilities under section 279.87 relating to
8 policies governing student use of personal electronic devices.

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 70. Consult with the department of health
10 and human services regarding the effects of social media on
11 students enrolled in grades six through eight and provide
12 professional development support to teachers employed by school
13 districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to assist
14 such teachers in providing the instruction related to the effects
15 of social media described in section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4.

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

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

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

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

22 (3) Mathematics.

23 (4) Science.

24 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include all of the
25 following:

26 (a) The characteristics of communicable diseases.

27 (b) In grade six, instruction related to the effects of
28 social media.

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

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

31 (8) Music.

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

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

35 b. Computer science instruction incorporating the standards

1 established under section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a",
2 subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade
3 level commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023.
4 ~~The health curriculum shall include the characteristics of~~
5 ~~communicable diseases.~~

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

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

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

12 (2) Social studies, including instruction related to civics;
13 mathematics; science; health; age-appropriate.

14 (3) Mathematics.

15 (4) Science.

16 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include all of the
17 following:

18 (a) Age-appropriate and research-based information regarding
19 the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.

20 (b) Instruction related to the effects of social media.

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

23 (7) Career exploration and development; ~~physical.~~

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

25 (9) Music.

26 (10) Visual art.

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

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

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

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

12 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code 2025,
13 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

14 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (3) The educational standards established
15 in section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, related to the inclusion
16 of instruction related to the effects of social media in the
17 health curriculum.

18 Sec. 4. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
19 by adding the following new paragraph:

20 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0t. Be subject to and comply with the
21 requirements of section 279.87 relating to policies governing
22 student use of personal electronic devices in the same manner as
23 a school district.

24 Sec. 5. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
25 by adding the following new paragraphs:

26 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. Be subject to and comply with the
27 requirements of section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, relating to
28 the inclusion of instruction related to the effects of social
29 media in the health curriculum.

30 NEW PARAGRAPH. s. Be subject to and comply with the
31 requirements of section 279.87 relating to policies governing
32 student use of personal electronic devices in the same manner as
33 a school district.

34 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **279.87 Limitation on the use of**
35 **personal electronic devices.**

1 1. Commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2025,
2 the board of directors of each school district shall adopt
3 policies regarding student use of personal electronic devices
4 during school hours that restrict student use of such devices
5 during classroom instructional time. The policies must meet all
6 of the following requirements:

7 a. Identify policies and information related to various
8 educational devices and technologies that will be made available
9 to students for instructional purposes.

10 b. Identify the methods that a parent or guardian of a
11 student may use to communicate with the student during school
12 hours or while the student is participating in a school-sponsored
13 activity.

14 c. Identify the methods that a parent or guardian of a
15 student may use to communicate with the student during an
16 emergency situation.

17 d. Include protocols that the school district will use to
18 securely store a student's personal electronic device when such
19 device is in the possession of the school district.

20 e. Specify the discipline associated with a student's
21 violation of the policies, including the discipline associated
22 with a student's use of a personal electronic device during
23 classroom instruction or during the administration of an
24 assessment.

25 f. Establish a process through which a student's parent
26 or guardian may petition the school district to allow the
27 student to maintain access to the student's personal electronic
28 device during the portion of the school day in which classroom
29 instructional time is delivered if the student's parent or
30 guardian can establish that there is a legitimate reason related
31 to the student's physical or mental health for the student to
32 maintain access to the device during such time.

33 g. Allow a student who has an individualized education
34 program, or a plan under section 504 of the federal
35 Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, to maintain access to the

1 student's personal electronic device during the portion of the
2 school day in which classroom instructional time is delivered
3 if the student's individualized education program, or plan under
4 section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794,
5 requires the student to maintain such access.

6 2. The board of directors of a school district may adopt
7 policies that limit student use of personal electronic devices
8 during school hours, including the use of such devices during
9 classroom instructional time, that are more stringent than the
10 model policies developed and distributed by the director of the
11 department of education pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 69.

12 3. For purposes of this section, "*personal electronic*
13 *device*" includes but is not limited to electronic communication
14 equipment, mobile phones, smart phones, video game devices, and
15 portable media players.

16 4. The state board of education may adopt rules pursuant to
17 chapter 17A to administer this section.

18 Sec. 7. REVISION OF HIGH-QUALITY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
19 PLANS.

20 1. The department of education and the department of public
21 safety shall do all of the following:

22 a. Consult regarding revisions that school districts need
23 to make to high-quality emergency operations plans developed
24 pursuant to section 280.30 to take into account the provisions
25 of section 279.87, as enacted by this Act, and revisions that
26 accredited nonpublic schools may make to such plans to take into
27 account policies regarding student use of personal electronic
28 devices during school hours.

29 b. Provide support and guidance to school districts regarding
30 how to revise high-quality emergency operations plans developed
31 pursuant to section 280.30 so that such plans are consistent
32 with the provisions of section 279.87, as enacted by this Act,
33 and provide similar support and guidance to accredited nonpublic
34 schools that elect to adopt policies regarding student use of
35 personal electronic devices during school hours.

1 2. On or before July 1, 2025, each school district shall
2 revise the school district's high-quality emergency operations
3 plans developed pursuant to section 280.30 so that such plans are
4 consistent with the provisions of section 279.87, as enacted by
5 this Act.

6 Sec. 8. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance with
7 section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
8 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
9 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
10 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
11 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
12 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of section
13 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall
14 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and
15 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

16 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following, being deemed of
17 immediate importance, take effect upon enactment:

18 1. The section of this Act enacting section 279.87.

19 2. The section of this Act relating to the revision of
20 high-quality emergency operations plans.

21 3. The section of this Act relating to the specification of
22 state mandate funding.

23 EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill relates to electronic devices in schools, including
27 student access during instructional hours, school safety plans,
28 and instruction related to the effects of social media in grades
29 six through eight.

30 The bill requires that instruction related to the effects of
31 social media be incorporated into the health curriculum provided
32 to students enrolled in grades six through eight in school
33 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and
34 innovation zone schools. The bill requires the director of
35 the department of education (DE) to consult with the department

1 of health and human services regarding the effects of social
2 media and provide professional development support to teachers to
3 assist such teachers in providing such instruction to students.

4 Commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2025, the
5 bill requires school districts, charter schools, and innovation
6 zone schools to adopt policies regarding student use of personal
7 electronic devices during school hours. The bill establishes
8 what the policies are to include. The bill requires the director
9 of DE to develop and distribute to schools model policies that,
10 if adopted, would satisfy the school's responsibilities under
11 these provisions. However, schools may adopt policies that are
12 more stringent than these model policies. The bill defines
13 "personal electronic device" to include electronic communication
14 equipment, mobile phones, smart phones, video game devices,
15 and portable media players. These provisions take effect upon
16 enactment. The bill requires DE and the department of public
17 safety to consult regarding revisions that schools may need
18 to make to high-quality emergency operations plans developed
19 pursuant to Code section 280.30 to take into account the policies
20 adopted pursuant to the bill's provisions and to provide support
21 and guidance to schools regarding how to revise high-quality
22 emergency operations plans so that such plans are consistent with
23 the bill's provisions. The bill also requires school districts
24 to revise the high-quality emergency operations plans on or
25 before July 1, 2025, so that such plans are consistent with the
26 bill's provisions. These provisions take effect upon enactment.

27 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
28 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
29 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
30 district from state school foundation aid received by the
31 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
32 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state
33 mandate funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
34 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
35 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state

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1 mandates included in the bill. This provision takes effect upon
2 enactment.

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