

House Study Bill 44 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION BILL)

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.