

**House Study Bill 557 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON  
WHEELER)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act modifying provisions related to English learner
- 2 participation in open enrollment and including applicability
- 3 provisions.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 282.18, subsection 7, paragraph b,  
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The board of directors of the district of residence shall  
4 pay to the receiving district the sum of the state cost per pupil  
5 for the budget year plus the teacher leadership supplement state  
6 cost per pupil, the professional development supplement state  
7 cost per pupil, and the early intervention supplement state cost  
8 per pupil for the budget year as provided in section 257.9, plus  
9 any moneys that would be due to the school district of residence  
10 for the pupil as a result of the ~~non-English-speaking~~ additional  
11 weighting assigned to English learners under section 280.4,  
12 subsection 3, for the budget year multiplied by the state cost  
13 per pupil for the budget year. If the pupil participating in  
14 open enrollment is also an eligible pupil under section 261E.6,  
15 the receiving district shall pay the tuition reimbursement amount  
16 to an eligible postsecondary institution as provided in section  
17 261E.7.

18 Sec. 2. Section 282.18, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
19 following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. a. If a request filed under this  
21 section is for an English learner, the request to transfer to  
22 the other district shall only be granted if all of the following  
23 conditions are met:

24 (1) The receiving district maintains a program to provide  
25 special instruction to English learners under section 280.4 that  
26 is appropriate to meet the English learner's educational needs  
27 and the enrollment of the English learner in the receiving  
28 district's special instruction program would not cause the size  
29 of the class or caseload in that special instruction program  
30 in the receiving district to exceed the maximum class size or  
31 caseload established pursuant to rules adopted by the state board  
32 of education.

33 (2) If the English learner would be assigned to a general  
34 education class, there is sufficient classroom space in the  
35 general education class to which the English learner would be



1 This bill modifies provisions related to English learner  
2 participation in open enrollment.

3 The bill provides that if a parent or guardian files a  
4 request for an English learner to open enroll, the request shall  
5 be granted only if the receiving district maintains a program  
6 to provide special instruction to English learners that is  
7 appropriate to meet the English learner's educational needs and  
8 the enrollment of the English learner in the receiving district's  
9 special instruction program would not cause the size of the class  
10 or caseload in that special instruction program in the receiving  
11 district to exceed the maximum class size or caseload, and if the  
12 English learner would be assigned to a general education class,  
13 there is sufficient classroom space in the general education  
14 class to which the English learner would be assigned. The bill  
15 establishes the amount that the English learner's district of  
16 residence is required to pay to the receiving district. These  
17 provisions apply to open enrollment applications, requests, and  
18 notifications filed by a parent or guardian on or after the  
19 effective date of the bill.

20 The bill makes other nonsubstantive terminology changes  
21 to Code section 282.18(7)(b)(1), which describes amounts that  
22 districts of residence are required to pay to receiving districts  
23 for students who open enroll.