

**House Study Bill 746 - Introduced**

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to education, including by modifying provisions  
2 related to summative testing in schools and the educational  
3 program provided to students enrolled in kindergarten through  
4 grade twelve.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,  
2 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 A set of core academic indicators in mathematics and reading  
4 in grades four, eight, and eleven, a set of core academic  
5 indicators in science and social studies in grades eight and  
6 ten, and another set of core indicators that includes but  
7 is not limited to graduation rate, postsecondary education,  
8 and successful employment in Iowa. Annually, the department  
9 shall report state data for each indicator in the condition of  
10 education report.

11 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,  
12 subparagraph (2), subparagraph divisions (a), (b), (c), and (d),  
13 Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

14 (a) That all students enrolled in school districts ~~in grades~~  
15 ~~three through eleven~~ be administered ~~an assessment in mathematics~~  
16 ~~and English language arts, including reading and writing, during~~  
17 ~~the last quarter of the school year and all students enrolled in~~  
18 ~~school districts in grades five, eight, and ten be administered~~  
19 ~~an assessment in science during the last quarter of the school~~  
20 ~~year~~ the following assessments during the last quarter of the  
21 school year:

22 (i) In grades three through eleven, an assessment in  
23 mathematics and English language arts, including reading and  
24 writing.

25 (ii) In grades five, eight, and ten, an assessment in  
26 science.

27 (iii) In grades eight and ten, an assessment in social  
28 studies.

29 (b) That the assessment, at a minimum, assess the core  
30 academic indicators identified in this paragraph "b"; be aligned  
31 with the Iowa ~~common-core~~ standards in both content and rigor;  
32 accurately describe student achievement and growth for purposes  
33 of the school, the school district, and state accountability  
34 systems; provide valid, reliable, and fair measures of student  
35 progress toward college or career readiness; and meet the

1 summative assessment requirements of the federal Every Student  
2 Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, if applicable.

3 (c) That the assessment be available for administration in  
4 both paper-and-pencil and computer-based formats and include  
5 assessments in mathematics, science, social studies, and English  
6 language arts, including reading and writing.

7 (d) That the assessment be peer-reviewed by an independent,  
8 third-party evaluator to determine that the assessment is aligned  
9 with the Iowa core academic standards, provides a measurement of  
10 student growth and student proficiency, and meets the summative  
11 assessment requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds  
12 Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, if applicable. The assessment developed  
13 by the Iowa testing program within the university of Iowa  
14 college of education shall be adjusted as necessary to meet the  
15 requirements of this subparagraph (2) as determined by the peer  
16 review.

17 Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 33, paragraph b, Code 2026,  
18 is amended to read as follows:

19 b. Adopt rules to require school districts to adopt protocols  
20 for suicide prevention and postvention ~~and the identification of~~  
21 ~~adverse childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic~~  
22 ~~stress response~~. The protocols shall be based on nationally  
23 recognized best practices.

24 Sec. 4. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph b, Code 2026,  
25 is amended to read as follows:

26 b. Convene an advisory group comprised of education  
27 stakeholders including but not limited to school district and  
28 accredited nonpublic school teachers, school administrators,  
29 higher education faculty who teach in the subjects for which the  
30 curriculum is being adopted, private sector employers, members  
31 of the boards of directors of school districts, and individuals  
32 representing the educational assessment providers. The task  
33 force shall review the national assessment of educational  
34 progress standards and assessments used by other states, and  
35 shall consider standards identified as best practices in the

1 field of study by the national councils of teachers of English  
2 and mathematics, ~~the national council for the social studies,~~  
3 the national science teachers association, and other recognized  
4 experts.

5 Sec. 5. Section 256.9, subsection 64, Code 2026, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 ~~64. Develop and distribute to school districts standards of~~  
8 ~~practice for equity coordinators employed by school districts.~~  
9 To provide consistency in training statewide, the director shall  
10 ~~also~~ develop and distribute to school districts a training  
11 program on free speech under the first amendment to the  
12 Constitution of the United States which shall be used by school  
13 districts to provide training pursuant to section 279.75.

14 Sec. 6. Section 256.11, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 The state board shall adopt rules under chapter 17A and  
17 a procedure for accrediting all public and nonpublic schools  
18 in Iowa offering instruction at any or all levels from the  
19 prekindergarten level through grade twelve. The rules of the  
20 state board shall require that an age-appropriate, ~~multicultural,~~  
21 ~~and gender-fair~~ approach is used by schools and school districts.  
22 The educational program shall be taught from an age-appropriate,  
23 ~~multicultural, and gender-fair~~ approach. ~~Global perspectives~~  
24 ~~shall be incorporated into all levels of the educational program.~~  
25 The rules adopted by the state board pursuant to section 256.17,  
26 Code Supplement 1987, to establish new standards shall satisfy  
27 the requirements of this section to adopt rules to implement the  
28 educational program contained in this section. The educational  
29 program shall be as follows:

30 Sec. 7. Section 256.11, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 2. The kindergarten program shall include experiences  
33 designed to develop ~~healthy emotional and social habits and~~  
34 growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well  
35 as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and

1 protect and increase physical well-being with attention given  
2 to experiences relating to the development of life skills and,  
3 ~~subject to section 279.80, age-appropriate and research-based~~  
4 ~~human growth and development.~~ A kindergarten teacher shall  
5 be licensed to teach in kindergarten. An accredited nonpublic  
6 school must meet the requirements of this subsection only if  
7 the nonpublic school offers a kindergarten program; provided,  
8 however, that section 279.80 shall not apply to a nonpublic  
9 school.

10 Sec. 8. Section 256.11, subsection 3, paragraph a,  
11 subparagraph (5), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

12 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include ~~the~~  
13 characteristics of communicable diseases all of the following:

14 (a) The characteristics of communicable diseases.

15 (b) Physical fitness.

16 (c) Nutrition.

17 Sec. 9. Section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph a,  
18 subparagraph (5), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

19 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include  
20 ~~age-appropriate and research-based information regarding the~~  
21 ~~characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases~~ all of the  
22 following:

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

25 (b) Physical fitness.

26 (c) Nutrition.

27 Sec. 10. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraphs e, j, and  
28 k, Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

29 e. Two additional units of mathematics. The two additional  
30 units of mathematics may include instruction related to ~~applied~~  
31 any of the following:

32 (1) Agriculture, which may be offered and taught through  
33 dedicated units of coursework or through units of coursework  
34 that also meet the requirements of the coursework required under  
35 paragraph "h", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (a).

1     (2) Applied sciences, technology, engineering, or  
2 manufacturing, including transportation, distribution, logistics,  
3 architecture, and construction, which may be offered and taught  
4 through dedicated units of coursework or through units of  
5 coursework that also meet the requirements of the coursework  
6 required under paragraph "h", subparagraph (1), subparagraph  
7 division (c).

8     (3) The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
9 to implement this paragraph.

10    j. (1) One unit of health education which.

11    (a) The one unit of health education shall include  
12 instruction related to all of the following:

13    (i) Physical fitness.

14    (ii) Food and nutrition.

15    (iii) Personal health.

16    (b) The one unit of health education may include personal  
17 health; food and nutrition; environmental instruction related to  
18 all of the following:

19    (i) Environmental health; safety.

20    (ii) Safety and survival skills; consumer.

21    (iii) Consumer health; family.

22    (iv) Family life; age-appropriate.

23    (v) Age-appropriate and research-based human growth and  
24 development that incorporates the standards established under  
25 section 279.50, subsection 3, paragraph "b"; substance.

26    (vi) Substance use disorder and nonuse; emotional and social  
27 health; health.

28    (vii) Health resources; cardiopulmonary.

29    (viii) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and prevention.

30    (ix) Prevention and control of disease, including  
31 age-appropriate and research-based information regarding sexually  
32 transmitted diseases.

33    (2) The state board, as part of accreditation standards,  
34 shall adopt curriculum standards for implementing the program in  
35 grades nine through twelve.

1 k. (1) One-half unit of personal finance literacy, which may  
2 be offered and taught through dedicated units of coursework or  
3 through units of coursework that also meet the requirements of  
4 the coursework required under paragraph "a", "b", "c", "d", "e",  
5 or "h". ~~The personal finance literacy curriculum shall, at a~~  
6 ~~minimum, address all of the following:~~

7 (a) ~~Savings, including emergency fund, purchases, and wealth~~  
8 ~~building.~~

9 (b) ~~Understanding investments, including compound and simple~~  
10 ~~interest, liquidity, diversification, risk return ratio,~~  
11 ~~certificates of deposit, money market accounts, single stocks,~~  
12 ~~bonds, mutual funds, rental real estate, annuities, commodities,~~  
13 ~~and futures.~~

14 (c) ~~Wealth building and college planning, including~~  
15 ~~long-term and short-term investing using tax-favored plans,~~  
16 ~~individual retirement accounts and payments from such accounts,~~  
17 ~~employer-sponsored retirement plans and investments, public and~~  
18 ~~private educational savings accounts, and uniform gifts and~~  
19 ~~transfers to minors.~~

20 (d) ~~Credit and debt, including credit cards, payday lending,~~  
21 ~~rent-to-own transactions, debt consolidation, automobile leasing,~~  
22 ~~cosigning a loan, debt avoidance, and the marketing of debt,~~  
23 ~~especially to young people.~~

24 (e) ~~Consumer awareness of the power of marketing on buying~~  
25 ~~decisions including zero percent interest offers; marketing~~  
26 ~~methods, including product positioning, advertising, brand~~  
27 ~~recognition, and personal selling; how to read a credit report~~  
28 ~~and correct inaccuracies; how to build a credit score; how to~~  
29 ~~develop a plan to deal with creditors and avoid bankruptcy; and~~  
30 ~~the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, codified at 15~~  
31 ~~U.S.C. §1692 – 1692p.~~

32 (f) ~~Financial responsibility and money management, including~~  
33 ~~creating and living on a written budget and balancing a~~  
34 ~~checkbook; basic rules of successful negotiating and techniques;~~  
35 ~~and personality or other traits regarding money.~~

1 ~~(g) Insurance, risk management, income, and career decisions,~~  
2 ~~including career choices that fit personality styles and~~  
3 ~~occupational goals, job search strategies, cover letters,~~  
4 ~~resumes, interview techniques, payroll taxes and other income~~  
5 ~~withholdings, and revenue sources for federal, state, and local~~  
6 ~~governments.~~

7 ~~(h) Different types of insurance coverage including renters,~~  
8 ~~homeowners, automobile, health, disability, long-term care,~~  
9 ~~identity theft, and life insurance; term life, cash value and~~  
10 ~~whole life insurance; and insurance terms such as deductible,~~  
11 ~~stop loss, elimination period, replacement coverage, liability,~~  
12 ~~and out-of-pocket.~~

13 ~~(i) Buying, selling, and renting advantages and disadvantages~~  
14 ~~relating to real estate, including adjustable rate, balloon,~~  
15 ~~conventional, government-backed, reverse, and seller-financed~~  
16 ~~mortgages.~~

17 (2) Units of coursework that meet the requirements of any  
18 combination of coursework required under paragraph "a", "b", "c",  
19 "d", "e", or "h", and that incorporate the curriculum required  
20 under subparagraph (1), shall be deemed to satisfy the offer and  
21 teach requirements of this paragraph "k".

22 Sec. 11. Section 256.11, subsection 9A, Code 2026, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 9A. Beginning July 1, 2007, each school district shall have  
25 a qualified guidance counselor who shall be licensed by the  
26 board of educational examiners under subchapter VII, part 3.  
27 Each school district shall work toward the goal of having  
28 one qualified guidance counselor for every three hundred fifty  
29 students enrolled in the school district. The state board  
30 shall establish in rule a definition of and standards for an  
31 articulated sequential kindergarten through grade twelve guidance  
32 and counseling program. The program shall be designed to  
33 ensure that the guidance counselor can work collaboratively  
34 with students, teachers, support staff, and administrators to  
35 support the curricular goals of the school by offering responsive

1 services that address the growth and development needs of  
2 students and the attainment of student competencies in academic,  
3 ~~career, and social areas~~ and career areas.

4 Sec. 12. Section 256.11, subsection 10, paragraph c,  
5 subparagraph (2), unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 If, after having an opportunity to correct, if permitted,  
8 a school district is found to be in noncompliance with  
9 federal education laws including but not limited to the federal  
10 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the federal  
11 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400  
12 et seq., as amended, the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964,  
13 chapter 216, section 279.73, or section 279.74, the director  
14 shall recommend, and the state board ~~may~~ shall do, one of the  
15 following within thirty days of the finding of noncompliance:

16 Sec. 13. Section 256.37, subsection 3, Code 2026, is amended  
17 to read as follows:

18 3. Students graduating from Iowa's education system must  
19 demonstrate competency in challenging subject matter, and must  
20 have learned to use their minds well, so they may be prepared  
21 for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive  
22 employment in a ~~global~~ Iowa's economy.

23 Sec. 14. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph h, Code  
24 2026, is amended by adding the following new subparagraphs:

25 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (02) The educational standards of section  
26 256.11, subsection 2, related to the kindergarten program.

27 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (002) The educational standards of section  
28 256.11, subsection 3, paragraph "a", subparagraph (5), related to  
29 the health curriculum.

30 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (0002) The educational standards of  
31 section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph "a", subparagraph (5),  
32 related to the health curriculum.

33 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (4) The educational standards of section  
34 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "k", related to the personal  
35 finance literacy curriculum.

1     Sec. 15. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph h,  
2 subparagraph (3), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3     (3) The educational standards established in section 256.11,  
4 subsection 5, paragraph "e", related to the use of instruction  
5 related to agriculture or applied sciences, technology,  
6 engineering, or manufacturing to fulfill a portion of the unit  
7 requirements related to mathematics.

8     Sec. 16. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph r, Code  
9 2026, is amended to read as follows:

10    r. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section  
11 279.81 relating to prohibiting students from serving on any  
12 committees that determine, or provide recommendations related to,  
13 whether a material in a school library should be removed in the  
14 same manner as a school district.

15    Sec. 17. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, paragraphs p, r, and  
16 t, Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

17    p. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section  
18 279.81 relating to prohibiting students from serving on any  
19 committees that determine, or provide recommendations related to,  
20 whether a material in a school library should be removed in the  
21 same manner as a school district.

22    r. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of  
23 section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "e", relating to the  
24 use of instruction related to agriculture or applied sciences,  
25 technology, engineering, or manufacturing to fulfill a portion of  
26 the unit requirements related to mathematics in the same manner  
27 as a school district.

28    t. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section  
29 256.11 relating to the human growth and development curriculum  
30 for grades five through eight, and the health curriculum for  
31 grades nine through twelve, in the same manner as a school  
32 district.

33    Sec. 18. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended  
34 by adding the following new paragraphs:

35    NEW PARAGRAPH. 0q. Be subject to and comply with the

1 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 2, relating to the  
2 kindergarten program in the same manner as a school district.

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. 00q. Be subject to and comply with the  
4 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 3, paragraph "a",  
5 subparagraph (5), relating to the health curriculum in the same  
6 manner as a school district.

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. 000q. Be subject to and comply with the  
8 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph "a",  
9 subparagraph (5), relating to the health curriculum in the same  
10 manner as a school district.

11 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0s. Be subject to and comply with the  
12 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "k",  
13 relating to the personal finance literacy curriculum in the same  
14 manner as a school district.

15 Sec. 19. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance with  
16 section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
17 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
18 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
19 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
20 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
21 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of section  
22 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall  
23 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and  
24 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

25 EXPLANATION

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

28 This bill relates to education, including by modifying  
29 provisions related to summative testing in schools and the  
30 educational program provided to students enrolled in kindergarten  
31 through grade 12.

32 The bill requires the state board of education to develop a  
33 set of core academic indicators in social studies in grades 8  
34 and 10. The bill also requires that all students enrolled in  
35 school districts be administered an assessment in social studies

1 in grades 8 and 10 during the last quarter of the school year.

2 Current law requires the summative assessments administered  
3 to students be aligned with the Iowa common core standards  
4 in both content and rigor and meet the summative assessment  
5 requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The bill  
6 modifies this provision to require such summative assessments be  
7 aligned with the Iowa standards in both content and rigor. The  
8 summative assessments are still required to meet the summative  
9 assessment requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds  
10 Act, if applicable.

11 Current law requires the state board of education to adopt  
12 rules requiring school districts to adopt protocols for the  
13 identification of adverse childhood experiences and strategies to  
14 mitigate toxic stress response. The bill strikes this provision.

15 Current law requires the director of the department of  
16 education to convene an advisory group to review the national  
17 assessment of educational progress standards and assessments used  
18 by other states and to consider the standards identified as best  
19 practices in the field of study by, among other entities, the  
20 national council for the social studies. The bill strikes the  
21 provision requiring the advisory group to consider the standards  
22 identified as best practices by the national council for the  
23 social studies.

24 The bill strikes a requirement that the director of the  
25 department of education develop and distribute to school  
26 districts standards of practice for equity coordinators employed  
27 by school districts.

28 Current law requires the state educational program to use,  
29 and be taught from, a multicultural and gender-fair approach  
30 and to incorporate global perspectives. The bill strikes these  
31 requirements.

32 Current law requires the kindergarten program to include  
33 experiences designed to develop healthy emotional social habits  
34 and to include age-appropriate and research-based human growth  
35 and development. The bill strikes this requirement. The bill

1 requires charter school and innovation zone school kindergarten  
2 programs to conform to these same requirements.

3 The bill requires the health curriculum provided to students  
4 enrolled in school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,  
5 charter schools, and innovation zone schools in grades one  
6 through eight to include physical fitness and nutrition.

7 The bill provides that the two additional units of mathematics  
8 offered and taught to students enrolled in school districts,  
9 accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation  
10 zone schools in grades 9 through 12 may include instruction  
11 related to agriculture, which may be offered and taught through  
12 dedicated units of coursework or through units of coursework that  
13 also meet the requirements of the coursework required under the  
14 career and technical education curriculum.

15 The bill requires that the one unit of health education  
16 offered and taught to students enrolled in school districts,  
17 accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation  
18 zone schools in grades 9 through 12 shall include instruction  
19 related to physical fitness, food and nutrition, and personal  
20 health. The bill provides that the one unit of health  
21 education offered and taught to such students may include  
22 instruction related to environmental health, safety and survival  
23 skills, consumer health, family life, human growth and  
24 development, substance use disorder and nonuse, health resources,  
25 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and prevention and control of  
26 disease.

27 Current law requires that the one-half unit of personal  
28 finance literacy offered and taught to students enrolled in  
29 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools address certain  
30 specified subjects. The bill strikes the requirement that such  
31 instruction address certain subjects and applies the modified  
32 offer and teach requirements related to personal finance literacy  
33 to students enrolled in charter schools and innovation zone  
34 schools in grades 9 through 12.

35 Current law requires that the articulated sequential

1 kindergarten through grade 12 guidance and counseling program  
2 established by the state board of education be designed to  
3 ensure that the guidance counselor can work collaboratively  
4 to support the curricular goals of the school by offering  
5 responsive services that address the growth and development needs  
6 of students and the attainment of student competencies in social  
7 areas. The bill strikes this provision.

8 Current law requires that, if a school district is found  
9 to be in noncompliance with certain specified federal education  
10 laws, Code section 279.73 (intellectual freedom — protection  
11 — complaints), or Code section 279.74 (training and curriculum  
12 prohibited — specific defined concepts), the director of the  
13 department of education is required to recommend, and the state  
14 board is authorized to do, one of the following within 30 days  
15 of the finding of noncompliance: impose conditions on funding  
16 provided to the school district or withhold payment of state or  
17 federal funds to the school district. The bill requires the  
18 state board to take one of those actions in such circumstance.

19 Current law establishes that it is the policy of the state of  
20 Iowa to provide an education system that prepares the children of  
21 this state to meet and exceed the technological, informational,  
22 and communications demands of our society, and as part of that  
23 policy, current law establishes findings related to the goals  
24 toward which the education system must strive to reach, including  
25 that students graduating from Iowa's education system must  
26 demonstrate competency in challenging subject matter, and must  
27 have learned to use their minds well, so they may be prepared  
28 for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive  
29 employment in a global economy. The bill modifies this provision  
30 to provide that students graduating from Iowa's education system  
31 must be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning,  
32 and productive employment in Iowa's economy.

33 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
34 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
35 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school

1 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
2 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
3 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state  
4 mandate funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
5 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
6 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
7 mandates included in the bill.

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