

**Senate File 2404 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2404  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2181)

(COMPANION TO HF 2003 BY WILLS)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the department of education to develop and  
2 administer a pilot program that requires certain specified  
3 school districts to establish attendance centers for students  
4 requiring special education and students with behavioral  
5 issues.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.20 Schools for students**  
2 **requiring special education or students with behavioral issues —**  
3 **pilot project.**

4 1. The department shall develop and administer a pilot  
5 program that requires a rural school district and an urban  
6 school district to each establish an attendance center to be  
7 used to provide educational services, including special education  
8 services, to eligible students who are enrolled in the rural  
9 school district or urban school district, as applicable.

10 2. The department shall determine the rural school district  
11 and urban school district that will be required to participate in  
12 the pilot program.

13 3. The department, in consultation with the rural school  
14 district and urban school district, shall determine all of the  
15 following:

16 a. The courses of study and curricula that the rural school  
17 district and urban school district will provide to eligible  
18 students as part of the pilot program.

19 b. The instructional facilities that the rural school  
20 district and urban school district will use to provide  
21 educational services to eligible students as part of the pilot  
22 program.

23 4. a. Annually, on or before June 1 of each year, the rural  
24 school district and urban school district shall submit to the  
25 department an annual report that contains all of the following:

26 (1) The number of eligible students who participated in the  
27 pilot program during the current school year.

28 (2) Information related to the academic performance of  
29 eligible students who participated in the pilot program during  
30 the current school year.

31 (3) Feedback from eligible students who participated in the  
32 pilot program during the current school year related to the  
33 effectiveness of the pilot program.

34 (4) Feedback from the parents or guardians of eligible  
35 students who participated in the pilot program during the current

1 school year related to the effectiveness of the pilot program.

2 (5) Feedback from teachers who provided educational services  
3 to eligible students who participated in the pilot program during  
4 the current school year related to the effectiveness of the pilot  
5 program.

6 (6) Challenges associated with operating the pilot program.

7 (7) Recommendations related to how to improve the pilot  
8 program.

9 (8) Any other information requested by the department that  
10 will allow the department to monitor and assess the pilot  
11 program.

12 b. Annually, on or before June 30 of each year, the  
13 department shall compile the annual reports submitted to the  
14 department pursuant to paragraph "a" and shall submit the  
15 compilation to the general assembly.

16 5. Notwithstanding section 257.10, subsection 7, for budget  
17 years beginning on or after July 1, 2026, not less than  
18 forty-eight percent of the ninety percent of funds calculated  
19 under section 257.10, subsection 7, and received by the rural  
20 school district or urban school district shall be used by the  
21 rural school district or urban school district, as applicable,  
22 for purposes of the pilot program.

23 6. As used in this section:

24 a. "Eligible student" means any of the following:

25 (1) Children requiring special education, as defined in  
26 section 256B.2.

27 (2) A student whose emotional, social, or behavioral needs  
28 interfere with the student's ability to be successful in  
29 the regular educational environment, even with the use of  
30 supplementary aids and services.

31 b. "Rural school district" means a school district as  
32 described in chapter 274 that is located in a county with a  
33 population of greater than seventeen thousand five hundred but  
34 less than eighteen thousand, and that contains a city with a  
35 population of greater than five thousand four hundred, but less

1 than five thousand five hundred, all according to the 2020  
2 federal decennial census.

3 c. "Urban school district" means a school district as  
4 described in chapter 274 with a total enrollment of at least  
5 seven thousand students.

6 7. This section is repealed July 1, 2031.

7 EXPLANATION

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

10 This bill requires the department of education (DE) to  
11 develop and administer a pilot program that requires a rural  
12 school district and an urban school district to establish  
13 attendance centers to be used to provide educational services  
14 to eligible students. DE is responsible for determining the  
15 rural school district and urban school district that will be  
16 required to participate in the pilot program. In addition,  
17 DE, in consultation with the rural school district and urban  
18 school district, is required to determine the courses of study  
19 and curricula that the rural school district and urban school  
20 district will provide to eligible students and the instructional  
21 facilities that the rural school district and urban school  
22 district will use to provide educational services to eligible  
23 students.

24 Annually, on or before June 1 of each year, the rural school  
25 district and urban school district are required to submit to  
26 DE an annual report that contains information related to the  
27 pilot program. Additionally, on or before June 30 of each year,  
28 DE is required to compile those annual reports and submit the  
29 compilation to the general assembly.

30 Under current law, not less than 90 percent of funds  
31 calculated under Code section 257.10(7) (special education  
32 support services district cost) and received by a school district  
33 are required be used by the school district for special education  
34 support services contracted from an area education agency. The  
35 bill requires, instead, that the rural school district and urban

1 school district use not less than 48 percent of that 90 percent  
2 of funds for purposes of the pilot program.

3 The bill defines "eligible student" to mean children requiring  
4 special education, as defined in Code section 256B.2, and a  
5 student whose emotional, social, or behavioral needs interfere  
6 with the student's ability to be successful in the regular  
7 educational environment. The bill defines "rural school  
8 district" as a school district that is located in a county with  
9 a population of greater than 17,500 but less than 18,000, and  
10 that contains a city with a population of greater than 5,400,  
11 but less than 5,500. The bill defines "urban school district" to  
12 mean a school district with a total enrollment of at least 7,000  
13 students.

14 The bill repeals the Code section establishing the pilot  
15 program, Code section 256.20, July 1, 2031.

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