

**House File 2486 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2486  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 681)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to student dress code policies of public  
2 schools, charter schools, and innovation school zones, and  
3 including applicability provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2026, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. 01. Be subject to and comply with the  
4 requirements of section 279.58 relating to student dress code  
5 policies in the same manner as a school district.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended  
7 by adding the following new paragraph:

8 NEW PARAGRAPH. v. Be subject to and comply with the  
9 requirements of section 279.58 relating to student dress code  
10 policies in the same manner as a school district.

11 Sec. 3. Section 279.58, Code 2026, is amended by striking  
12 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

13 **279.58 School dress code policies.**

14 1. The board of directors of a public school district shall  
15 adopt a dress code policy for students in grades kindergarten  
16 through twelve requiring students to dress in attire that is  
17 all of the following:

18 a. Appropriate for an educational setting.

19 b. Presentable, promoting personal hygiene, neatness, and  
20 modesty.

21 2. The dress code policy required in this section must apply  
22 to all school-related activities, including regular school  
23 hours, extracurricular activities, and school-sponsored events,  
24 unless otherwise specified by the school district.

25 3. The dress code policy required in this section must  
26 include, at a minimum, all of the following requirements:

27 a. Clothing must be clean, in good repair, and free of  
28 language, symbols, or images that promote illegal activities.

29 b. Attire must adequately cover the body, and clothing that  
30 exposes undergarments or midriffs shall be prohibited.

31 c. Footwear must be worn at all times and shall be  
32 appropriate for the school environment to ensure safety and  
33 hygiene.

34 d. Accessories or attire, including gang-related attire,  
35 that the board of directors of a school district determine

1 is disruptive to the health, safety, or positive educational  
2 environment of students and staff must be prohibited.

3 4. *a.* The board of directors of a school district may  
4 establish additional dress code requirements tailored to the  
5 needs of its student population that are consistent with this  
6 section and do not infringe upon rights protected by the  
7 Constitution of the State of Iowa and the Constitution of the  
8 United States.

9 *b.* The board of directors of a school district may adopt  
10 uniform policies or specific attire guidelines, including  
11 requiring collared shirts, specific colors, or other  
12 standardized clothing, as determined to be appropriate by the  
13 board.

14 5. *a.* The board of directors of a school district shall  
15 establish procedures for enforcing the dress code policy,  
16 including clear consequences for violations, which may include  
17 verbal warnings, parent or guardian notification, or other  
18 disciplinary actions consistent with the district's student  
19 conduct policies.

20 *b.* The board of directors of a school district shall provide  
21 reasonable accommodations for students based on religious  
22 beliefs, medical needs, or other circumstances protected under  
23 state or federal law.

24 6. The dress code policy shall be clearly communicated to  
25 students and parents at the beginning of each school year and  
26 made publicly available on the school district's internet site.

27 7. The dress code policy shall be applied uniformly to  
28 all students without discrimination on the basis of race,  
29 color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or any other  
30 characteristic protected under state or federal law.

31 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school years  
32 beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

33

EXPLANATION

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

1 This bill relates to student dress code policies of school  
2 districts, charter schools, and innovation school zones. The  
3 bill requires that the board of directors of a public school  
4 district adopt a dress code policy applicable to students in  
5 kindergarten through grade 12. The bill provides that the  
6 dress code policy shall require that students dress in attire  
7 that is appropriate for an educational setting, presentable,  
8 and promotes personal hygiene, neatness, and modesty.

9 The bill further establishes minimum standards that must be  
10 included in each school district's dress code policy, including  
11 that clothing is clean, in good repair, adequately covers the  
12 body, and that footwear is worn at all times and appropriate  
13 for the school environment. The bill prohibits clothing  
14 that contains language, symbols, or images that promote  
15 illegal activities, and clothing that exposes undergarments  
16 or midriffs. Accessories or attire, including gang-related  
17 attire, that the board of directors of a school district  
18 determine is disruptive to the health, safety, or educational  
19 environment are also prohibited.

20 The bill permits the board of directors of a school district  
21 to adopt additional dress code requirements and uniform  
22 policies, provided such requirements comply with the bill,  
23 the Constitution of the State of Iowa, and the Constitution  
24 of the United States. Each school district must establish  
25 enforcement procedures, including consequences for violations,  
26 and must provide reasonable accommodations for students based  
27 on religious beliefs, medical needs, or other circumstances  
28 protected by state or federal law.

29 The bill requires that dress code policies be communicated  
30 to students and parents at the beginning of each school year  
31 and posted on the school district's internet site. The bill  
32 requires dress code policies to be applied uniformly and  
33 without discrimination.

34 The bill provides that charter schools and innovation school  
35 zones are subject to the requirements of the bill in the same

1 manner as a school district.

2 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July

3 1, 2026.