

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
4 through grade twelve.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 fair measures of student progress toward college or career
2 readiness; and meet the summative assessment requirements of
3 the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, if
4 applicable.

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

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

19 Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 33, paragraph b, Code
20 2026, is amended to read as follows:

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

26 Sec. 4. Section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph b, Code
27 2026, is amended to read as follows:

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

1 of educational progress standards and assessments used by
2 other states, and shall consider standards identified as best
3 practices in the field of study by the national councils of
4 teachers of English and mathematics, ~~the national council for~~
5 ~~the social studies~~, the national science teachers association,
6 and other recognized experts.

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

9 ~~64. Develop and distribute to school districts standards~~
10 ~~of practice for equity coordinators employed by school~~
11 ~~districts.~~ To provide consistency in training statewide, the
12 director shall also develop and distribute to school districts
13 a training program on free speech under the first amendment
14 to the Constitution of the United States which shall be used
15 by school districts to provide training pursuant to section
16 279.75.

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

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

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

35 2. The kindergarten program shall include experiences

1 designed to develop ~~healthy emotional and social habits and~~
2 growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well
3 as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and
4 protect and increase physical well-being with attention given
5 to experiences relating to the development of life skills and,
6 ~~subject to section 279.80, age-appropriate and research-based~~
7 ~~human growth and development.~~ A kindergarten teacher shall be
8 licensed to teach in kindergarten. An accredited nonpublic
9 school must meet the requirements of this subsection only if
10 the nonpublic school offers a kindergarten program; provided,
11 however, that section 279.80 shall not apply to a nonpublic
12 school.

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

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

17 (a) The characteristics of communicable diseases.

18 (b) Physical fitness.

19 (c) Nutrition.

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

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

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

28 (b) Physical fitness.

29 (c) Nutrition.

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

32 e. Two additional units of mathematics. The two additional
33 units of mathematics may include instruction related to ~~applied~~
34 any of the following:

35 (1) Agriculture, which may be offered and taught through

1 dedicated units of coursework or through units of coursework
2 that also meet the requirements of the coursework required
3 under paragraph "h", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division
4 (a).

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

12 (3) The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
13 17A to implement this paragraph.

14 j. (1) One unit of health education ~~which.~~

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

17 (i) Physical fitness.

18 (ii) Food and nutrition.

19 (iii) Personal health.

20 (b) The one unit of health education may include ~~personal~~
21 ~~health; food and nutrition; environmental~~ instruction related
22 to all of the following:

23 (i) Environmental health; ~~safety.~~

24 (ii) Safety and survival skills; ~~consumer.~~

25 (iii) Consumer health; ~~family.~~

26 (iv) Family life; ~~age-appropriate.~~

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

30 (vi) Substance use disorder and nonuse; ~~emotional and~~
31 ~~social health; health.~~

32 (vii) Health resources; ~~cardiopulmonary.~~

33 (viii) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation; ~~and prevention.~~

34 (ix) Prevention and control of disease, including
35 age-appropriate and research-based information regarding

1 sexually transmitted diseases.

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

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

11 ~~(a) Savings, including emergency fund, purchases, and~~
12 ~~wealth building.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 ~~(i) Buying, selling, and renting advantages and~~
18 ~~disadvantages relating to real estate, including adjustable~~
19 ~~rate, balloon, conventional, government-backed, reverse, and~~
20 ~~seller-financed mortgages.~~

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

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

28 9A. Beginning July 1, 2007, each school district shall
29 have a qualified guidance counselor who shall be licensed by
30 the board of educational examiners under subchapter VII, part
31 3. Each school district shall work toward the goal of having
32 one qualified guidance counselor for every three hundred fifty
33 students enrolled in the school district. The state board
34 shall establish in rule a definition of and standards for
35 an articulated sequential kindergarten through grade twelve

1 guidance and counseling program. The program shall be designed
2 to ensure that the guidance counselor can work collaboratively
3 with students, teachers, support staff, and administrators
4 to support the curricular goals of the school by offering
5 responsive services that address the growth and development
6 needs of students and the attainment of student competencies in
7 academic, career, and social areas and career areas.

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

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

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

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

27 Sec. 14. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph h, Code
28 2026, is amended by adding the following new subparagraphs:

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

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

35 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (0002) The educational standards of

1 section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph "a", subparagraph (5),
2 related to the health curriculum.

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

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

8 (3) The educational standards established in section
9 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "e", related to the use of
10 instruction related to agriculture or applied sciences,
11 technology, engineering, or manufacturing to fulfill a portion
12 of the unit requirements related to mathematics.

13 Sec. 16. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph r, Code
14 2026, is amended to read as follows:

15 r. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
16 279.81 relating to prohibiting students from serving on any
17 committees that determine, or provide recommendations related
18 to, whether a material in a school library should be removed in
19 the same manner as a school district.

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

22 p. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
23 279.81 relating to prohibiting students from serving on any
24 committees that determine, or provide recommendations related
25 to, whether a material in a school library should be removed in
26 the same manner as a school district.

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

33 t. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
34 256.11 relating to the human growth and development curriculum
35 for grades five through eight, and the health curriculum for

1 grades nine through twelve, in the same manner as a school
2 district.

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

5 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0g. Be subject to and comply with the
6 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 2, relating to the
7 kindergarten program in the same manner as a school district.

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

12 NEW PARAGRAPH. 000g. Be subject to and comply with the
13 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph "a",
14 subparagraph (5), relating to the health curriculum in the same
15 manner as a school district.

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

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

31

EXPLANATION

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

34 This bill relates to education, including by modifying
35 provisions related to summative testing in schools and

1 the educational program provided to students enrolled in
2 kindergarten through grade 12.

3 The bill requires the state board of education to develop
4 a set of core academic indicators in social studies in grades
5 8 and 10. The bill also requires that all students enrolled
6 in school districts be administered an assessment in social
7 studies in grades 8 and 10 during the last quarter of the
8 school year.

9 Current law requires the summative assessments administered
10 to students be aligned with the Iowa common core standards
11 in both content and rigor and meet the summative assessment
12 requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.
13 The bill modifies this provision to require such summative
14 assessments be aligned with the Iowa standards in both content
15 and rigor. The summative assessments are still required to
16 meet the summative assessment requirements of the federal Every
17 Student Succeeds Act, if applicable.

18 Current law requires the state board of education to adopt
19 rules requiring school districts to adopt protocols for the
20 identification of adverse childhood experiences and strategies
21 to mitigate toxic stress response. The bill strikes this
22 provision.

23 Current law requires the director of the department of
24 education to convene an advisory group to review the national
25 assessment of educational progress standards and assessments
26 used by other states and to consider the standards identified
27 as best practices in the field of study by, among other
28 entities, the national council for the social studies. The
29 bill strikes the provision requiring the advisory group to
30 consider the standards identified as best practices by the
31 national council for the social studies.

32 The bill strikes a requirement that the director of the
33 department of education develop and distribute to school
34 districts standards of practice for equity coordinators
35 employed by school districts.

1 Current law requires the state educational program to use,
2 and be taught from, a multicultural and gender-fair approach
3 and to incorporate global perspectives. The bill strikes these
4 requirements.

5 Current law requires the kindergarten program to include
6 experiences designed to develop healthy emotional social habits
7 and to include age-appropriate and research-based human growth
8 and development. The bill strikes this requirement. The bill
9 requires charter school and innovation zone school kindergarten
10 programs to conform to these same requirements.

11 The bill requires the health curriculum provided to students
12 enrolled in school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,
13 charter schools, and innovation zone schools in grades one
14 through eight to include physical fitness and nutrition.

15 The bill provides that the two additional units of
16 mathematics offered and taught to students enrolled in school
17 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and
18 innovation zone schools in grades 9 through 12 may include
19 instruction related to agriculture, which may be offered and
20 taught through dedicated units of coursework or through units
21 of coursework that also meet the requirements of the coursework
22 required under the career and technical education curriculum.

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

35 Current law requires that the one-half unit of personal

1 finance literacy offered and taught to students enrolled in
2 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools address
3 certain specified subjects. The bill strikes the requirement
4 that such instruction address certain subjects and applies
5 the modified offer and teach requirements related to personal
6 finance literacy to students enrolled in charter schools and
7 innovation zone schools in grades 9 through 12.

8 Current law requires that the articulated sequential
9 kindergarten through grade 12 guidance and counseling program
10 established by the state board of education be designed to
11 ensure that the guidance counselor can work collaboratively
12 to support the curricular goals of the school by offering
13 responsive services that address the growth and development
14 needs of students and the attainment of student competencies in
15 social areas. The bill strikes this provision.

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

27 Current law establishes that it is the policy of the state
28 of Iowa to provide an education system that prepares the
29 children of this state to meet and exceed the technological,
30 informational, and communications demands of our society,
31 and as part of that policy, current law establishes findings
32 related to the goals toward which the education system must
33 strive to reach, including that students graduating from Iowa's
34 education system must demonstrate competency in challenging
35 subject matter, and must have learned to use their minds well,

1 so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further
2 learning, and productive employment in a global economy.
3 The bill modifies this provision to provide that students
4 graduating from Iowa's education system must be prepared for
5 responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive
6 employment in Iowa's economy.

7 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
8 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
9 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
10 district from state school foundation aid received by the
11 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
12 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
13 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
14 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
15 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
16 mandates included in the bill.