

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
4 students requiring special education and students with
5 behavioral 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
7 be used to provide educational services, including special
8 education services, to eligible students who are enrolled
9 in the rural school district or urban school district, as
10 applicable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (4) Feedback from the parents or guardians of eligible

1 students who participated in the pilot program during the
2 current school year related to the effectiveness of the pilot
3 program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 6. As used in this section:

26 *a.* "Eligible student" means any of the following:

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

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

33 *b.* "Rural school district" means a school district as
34 described in chapter 274 that is located in a county with a
35 population of greater than seventeen thousand five hundred but

1 less than eighteen thousand, and that contains a city with a
2 population of greater than five thousand four hundred, but less
3 than five thousand five hundred, all according to the 2020
4 federal decennial census.

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

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

9

EXPLANATION

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

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

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

32 Under current law, not less than 90 percent of funds
33 calculated under Code section 257.10(7) (special education
34 support services district cost) and received by a school
35 district are required be used by the school district for

1 special education support services contracted from an area
2 education agency. The bill requires, instead, that the rural
3 school district and urban school district use not less than 48
4 percent of that 90 percent of funds for purposes of the pilot
5 program.

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

17 The bill repeals the Code section establishing the pilot
18 program, Code section 256.20, July 1, 2031.