

Senate File 2406 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2406
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3170)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to charter schools and innovation zone schools,
2 including by modifying provisions related to charter school
3 funding and operations, services provided to charter schools
4 by area education agencies, charter school contracts, and
5 charter school student participation in extracurricular
6 activities provided by public schools, striking provisions
7 allowing for the establishment of innovation zone schools,
8 and including applicability provisions.

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

1 DIVISION I
2 CONSOLIDATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL CODE CHAPTERS AND ELIMINATION
3 OF INNOVATION ZONE SCHOOLS

4 Section 1. Section 29E.1, subsection 1, paragraph b,
5 subparagraph (4), Code 2026, is amended by striking the
6 subparagraph.

7 Sec. 2. Section 232E.1, subsection 6, Code 2026, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 6. "*Public school district*" means a public school district
10 as described in [chapter 274](#), and includes a charter school
11 under [chapter 256E](#), ~~or a charter school or an innovation zone~~
12 ~~school under [chapter 256F](#).~~

13 Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 15, Code 2026, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 15. Adopt rules under [chapter 17A](#) that require school
16 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools,
17 ~~and innovation zone schools~~ to include information regarding
18 the exemptions and requirements for an exemption described
19 in [section 139A.8, subsection 4](#), in any communication to
20 the parent or guardian of a student that is related to the
21 immunizations required under [section 139A.8](#).

22 Sec. 4. Section 256.9, subsections 69, 71, 73, and 78, Code
23 2026, are amended to read as follows:

24 69. On or before May 1, 2025, develop and distribute to
25 school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter
26 schools, ~~and innovation zone schools~~ model policies that, if
27 adopted, would satisfy a school district's responsibilities
28 under [section 279.88](#) relating to policies governing student use
29 of personal electronic devices.

30 71. Develop and distribute to school districts, accredited
31 nonpublic schools, and charter schools, ~~and innovation~~
32 ~~zone schools~~ family-centered resources to support student
33 development of mathematics knowledge at home.

34 73. On or before July 1, 2025, develop and distribute to
35 school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter

1 schools, ~~and innovation zone schools~~ a comprehensive state
2 mathematics plan that is designed to increase the level of
3 mathematics proficiency attained by students using systematic
4 and sequential approaches to teaching subitizing, cardinality,
5 object counting, verbal counting, spatial relationships,
6 benchmark numbers, and part-part-whole models.

7 78. a. Develop and distribute to school districts,
8 accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools, ~~and~~
9 ~~innovation zone schools~~ a test in multiple-choice format that
10 consists of all of the questions contained in the most recent
11 version of the civics test developed by the United States
12 citizenship and immigration services.

13 b. On or before the January 31 immediately subsequent to
14 each general election which is a presidential election, update
15 the test described in paragraph "a" and distribute the updated
16 test to school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and
17 charter schools, ~~and innovation zone schools~~.

18 Sec. 5. Section 256E.1, subsection 3, unnumbered paragraph
19 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

20 The purpose of a charter school established pursuant to this
21 ~~chapter~~ subchapter shall be to accomplish the following:

22 Sec. 6. Section 256E.1, subsection 4, Code 2026, is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 4. The state board of education shall be the only authorizer
25 of charter schools under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

26 Sec. 7. Section 256E.2, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026,
27 is amended to read as follows:

28 As used in this ~~chapter~~ subchapter, unless the context
29 otherwise requires:

30 Sec. 8. Section 256E.2, subsections 2 and 5, Code 2026, are
31 amended to read as follows:

32 2. "Charter school" means a school established in accordance
33 with this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

34 5. "Founding group" means a person, group of persons,
35 or education service provider that develops and submits an

1 application for a charter school to the state board under this
2 ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

3 Sec. 9. Section 256E.3, Code 2026, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **256E.3 Department — duty to monitor.**

6 The department shall monitor the effectiveness of charter
7 schools and shall implement the applicable provisions of this
8 ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

9 Sec. 10. Section 256E.4, subsection 8, Code 2026, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 8. The state board shall approve a charter school
12 application if the application satisfies the requirements of
13 this ~~chapter~~ subchapter. The state board shall approve or
14 deny a charter school application no later than seventy-five
15 calendar days after the application is received. If the state
16 board denies an application, the state board shall provide
17 notice of denial to the founding group in writing within
18 thirty days after the state board's action. The notice shall
19 specify the exact reasons for denial and provide documentation
20 supporting those reasons. An approval decision may include, if
21 appropriate, reasonable conditions that the founding group must
22 meet before a charter school contract may be executed pursuant
23 to [section 256E.6](#). An approved charter application shall not
24 serve as a charter school contract.

25 Sec. 11. Section 256E.5, subsection 8, Code 2026, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 8. The state board shall approve a charter school
28 application if the application satisfies the requirements of
29 this ~~chapter~~ subchapter. The state board shall approve or
30 deny a charter school application no later than seventy-five
31 calendar days after the application is received. If the state
32 board denies an application, the state board shall provide
33 notice of denial to the applicant in writing within thirty
34 days after board action. The notice shall specify the exact
35 reasons for denial and provide documentation supporting those

1 reasons. An approval decision may include, if appropriate,
2 reasonable conditions that the applicant must meet before a
3 charter school contract may be executed pursuant to section
4 256E.6. An approved charter application shall not serve as a
5 charter school contract.

6 Sec. 12. Section 256E.6, subsection 5, Code 2026, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 5. A charter school approved under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter
9 shall not commence operations without a valid charter school
10 contract executed in accordance with this section and approved
11 in an open session of the state board.

12 Sec. 13. Section 256E.7, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph
13 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

14 In order to fulfill the charter school's public purpose, a
15 charter school established under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter shall
16 be organized as a nonprofit education organization and shall
17 have all the powers necessary for carrying out the terms of
18 the charter school contract including but not limited to the
19 following, as applicable:

20 Sec. 14. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph
21 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

22 A charter school established under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter
23 is exempt from all state statutes and rules and any local rule,
24 regulation, or policy, applicable to a noncharter school,
25 except that the charter school shall do all of the following:

26 Sec. 15. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph w, Code
27 2026, is amended to read as follows:

28 w. Comply with the requirements of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

29 Sec. 16. Section 256E.8, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
30 to read as follows:

31 1. Each student enrolled in a charter school established
32 under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter shall be counted, for state
33 school foundation purposes, in the student's district of
34 residence pursuant to section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph
35 "a", subparagraph (9), including any applicable amounts under

1 section 256B.9. For purposes of [this section](#), residence means
2 a residence under [section 282.1](#).

3 Sec. 17. Section 256E.9, subsection 5, Code 2026, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 5. Each charter school established under this ~~chapter~~
6 subchapter shall be evaluated and graded by the department
7 pursuant to the attendance center performance ranking system
8 developed and adopted by the department.

9 Sec. 18. Section 256E.10, subsections 1, 6, and 13, Code
10 2026, are amended to read as follows:

11 1. The state board shall monitor the performance and
12 compliance of each charter school the state board approves,
13 including collecting and analyzing data according to the
14 charter school contract in order to meet the requirements
15 of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter. Such oversight may include
16 inquiries and investigation of the charter school so long as
17 the activities are consistent with the intent of this ~~chapter~~
18 subchapter, adhere to the terms of the charter school contract,
19 and do not unduly inhibit the autonomy granted to the charter
20 school. Any performance report resulting from an inquiry or
21 investigation under [this section](#) shall, upon conclusion of such
22 action, be included in the annual report required under section
23 256E.12.

24 6. Annually, by June 30, the state board shall issue a
25 charter school performance report and charter school contract
26 renewal application guidance to each charter school whose
27 charter school contract will expire during the following school
28 budget year. The performance report shall summarize the
29 charter school's performance record to date based on the data
30 required by the charter school contract and by this ~~chapter~~
31 subchapter and shall identify concerns that may jeopardize
32 renewal of the charter school contract if not remedied.
33 The charter school shall have sixty days to respond to the
34 performance report and submit any corrections or clarifications
35 for the report.

1 13. If a charter school has been evaluated and graded to
2 be in the exceptional category, or the highest rated category
3 under a succeeding evaluation system, under the evaluation and
4 grading required under [section 256E.9, subsection 5](#), for the
5 immediately preceding two school years, and the charter school
6 is in compliance with the current charter school contract and
7 all provisions of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter, the charter school's
8 application renewal under [subsection 8](#) shall be renewed for an
9 additional period of time equal to the length of the original
10 charter school contract or the most recent renewal of the
11 contract, whichever is longer, unless the state board provides
12 written notice to the charter school of the state board's
13 rejection of the expedited renewal within sixty days of the
14 filing of the application. The state board shall not reject
15 an expedited renewal application unless the state board finds
16 exceptional circumstances for the rejection or seeks material
17 changes to the charter school contract.

18 Sec. 19. Section 256E.10, subsection 10, paragraph a, Code
19 2026, is amended to read as follows:

20 a. Committed a material violation of any of the terms,
21 conditions, standards, or procedures required under the charter
22 school contract or this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

23 Sec. 20. Section 256E.11, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 1. Prior to any charter school closure decision, the state
26 board shall develop a charter school closure protocol to ensure
27 timely notice to parents and guardians, provide for the orderly
28 transition of students and student records to new schools, and
29 to provide proper disposition of school funds, property, and
30 assets in accordance with the requirements of this ~~chapter~~
31 subchapter. The protocol shall specify required actions and
32 timelines and identify responsible parties for each such
33 action.

34 Sec. 21. Section 256E.12, subsection 2, Code 2026, is
35 amended to read as follows:

1 2. The state board shall prepare and file with the general
2 assembly by December 1, annually, a comprehensive report
3 with findings and recommendations relating to the charter
4 school program in the state and whether the charter school
5 program under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter is meeting the goals and
6 purposes of the program. The report also shall contain, for
7 each charter school, a copy of the charter school's mission
8 statement, attendance statistics and dropout rate, aggregate
9 assessment test scores, projections of financial stability, and
10 the number and qualifications of teachers and administrators.

11 Sec. 22. Section 256F.1, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 1. Charter schools ~~and innovation zone schools~~ shall be part
14 of the state's program of public education.

15 Sec. 23. Section 256F.1, subsection 3, unnumbered paragraph
16 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

17 The purpose of a charter school ~~or an innovation zone school~~
18 established pursuant to this ~~chapter~~ subchapter shall be to
19 accomplish the following:

20 Sec. 24. Section 256F.1, subsection 4, Code 2026, is amended
21 by striking the subsection.

22 Sec. 25. Section 256F.2, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026,
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 As used in this ~~chapter~~ subchapter, unless the context
25 otherwise requires:

26 Sec. 26. Section 256F.2, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2026, are
27 amended to read as follows:

28 1. "*Advisory council*" means a council appointed by the
29 school board of directors of a charter school ~~or an innovation~~
30 ~~zone consortium~~ pursuant to [section 256F.5, subsection 4](#).

31 3. "*Charter school*" means a charter school established in
32 accordance with this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

33 Sec. 27. Section 256F.2, subsections 5 and 6, Code 2026, are
34 amended by striking the subsections.

35 Sec. 28. Section 256F.3, Code 2026, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **256F.3 Application Monitoring — no new approvals — adoption**
3 **of rules.**

4 1. The department shall monitor the effectiveness of
5 charter schools and ~~innovation zone schools~~ and shall implement
6 the applicable provisions of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

7 ~~2. a. To receive approval to establish a charter school~~
8 ~~in accordance with this chapter, the principal, teachers,~~
9 ~~or parents or guardians of students at an existing public~~
10 ~~school shall submit an application to the school board to~~
11 ~~convert an existing attendance center to a charter school.~~
12 ~~An attendance center shall not enter into a charter school~~
13 ~~contract with a school district under this chapter unless the~~
14 ~~attendance center is located within the school district. The~~
15 ~~application shall demonstrate the support of at least fifty~~
16 ~~percent of the teachers employed at the school on the date of~~
17 ~~the submission of the application and fifty percent of the~~
18 ~~parents or guardians voting whose children are enrolled at the~~
19 ~~school, provided that a majority of the parents or guardians~~
20 ~~eligible to vote participate in the ballot process, according~~
21 ~~to procedures established by rules of the state board.~~

22 ~~b. To receive approval to establish an innovation zone~~
23 ~~school in accordance with this chapter, an innovation zone~~
24 ~~consortium shall submit an application to the state board~~
25 ~~which demonstrates the support of at least fifty percent of~~
26 ~~the teachers employed at each proposed innovation zone school~~
27 ~~on the date of the submission of the application and fifty~~
28 ~~percent of the parents or guardians voting whose children are~~
29 ~~enrolled at each proposed innovation zone school, provided~~
30 ~~that a majority of the parents or guardians eligible to vote~~
31 ~~participate in the ballot process, according to procedures~~
32 ~~established by rules of the state board.~~

33 ~~c. A parent or guardian voting in accordance with this~~
34 ~~subsection must be a resident of this state.~~

35 3. ~~A school board shall receive and review all applications~~

1 ~~for converting an existing building or creating a new building~~
2 ~~for a charter school. Applications received on or before~~
3 ~~October 1 of a calendar year shall be considered for charter~~
4 ~~schools to be established at the beginning of the school~~
5 ~~district's next school year or at a time agreed to by the~~
6 ~~applicant and the school board. However, a school board may~~
7 ~~receive and consider applications after October 1 at its~~
8 ~~discretion.~~

9 4. ~~A school board shall by a majority vote approve or~~
10 ~~deny an application relating to a charter school no later~~
11 ~~than sixty calendar days after the application is received.~~
12 ~~An application approved by a school board and subsequently~~
13 ~~approved by the state board pursuant to [subsection 6](#) shall~~
14 ~~constitute, at a minimum, an agreement between the school board~~
15 ~~and the charter school for the operation of the charter school.~~
16 ~~A school board that denies an application for a conversion~~
17 ~~to a charter school shall provide notice of denial to the~~
18 ~~applicant in writing within thirty days after board action.~~
19 ~~The notice shall specify the exact reasons for denial and~~
20 ~~provide documentation supporting those reasons.~~

21 5. ~~An applicant may appeal school board denial of the~~
22 ~~applicant's charter school application to the state board~~
23 ~~in accordance with the procedures set forth in [chapter 290](#).~~
24 ~~The state board shall affirm, modify, or reverse the school~~
25 ~~board's decision on the basis of the information provided in~~
26 ~~the application indicating the ability and willingness of the~~
27 ~~proposed charter school to meet the requirements of section~~
28 ~~256F.1, subsection 3, and [section 256F.4](#).~~

29 6. ~~Upon approval of an application for the proposed~~
30 ~~establishment of a charter school, the school board shall~~
31 ~~submit an application for approval to establish the charter~~
32 ~~school to the state board in accordance with [section 256F.5](#).~~

33 7. ~~An application submitted to the state board pursuant to~~
34 ~~[subsection 2](#), paragraph "b", or [subsection 6](#) shall set forth the~~
35 ~~manner in which the charter school or innovation zone school~~

1 ~~will provide special instruction, in accordance with section~~
2 ~~280.4, to students who are English learners. The application~~
3 ~~shall set forth the manner in which the charter school or~~
4 ~~innovation zone school will comply with federal and state laws~~
5 ~~and regulations relating to the federal National School Lunch~~
6 ~~Act and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C.~~
7 ~~§1751-1785, and [chapter 283A](#). The state board shall approve~~
8 ~~only those applications that meet the requirements specified in~~
9 ~~[section 256F.1, subsection 3, and sections 256F.4 and 256F.5.](#)~~
10 ~~The state board may deny an application if the state board~~
11 ~~deems that approval of the application is not in the best~~
12 ~~interest of the affected students.~~

13 ~~8. The state board shall approve not more than ten~~
14 ~~innovation zone consortium applications.~~

15 ~~9. 2.~~ The state board shall not approve a new charter
16 school under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter on or after July 1, 2021.

17 ~~10. 3.~~ The state board shall adopt rules in accordance with
18 chapter 17A for the implementation of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.
19 If federal rules or regulations relating to the distribution
20 or utilization of federal funds allocated to the department
21 pursuant to [this section](#) are adopted that are inconsistent
22 with the provisions of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter, the state
23 board shall adopt rules to comply with the requirements of the
24 federal rules or regulations. The state board shall identify
25 inconsistencies between federal and state rules and regulations
26 as provided in [this subsection](#) and shall submit recommendations
27 for legislative action to the chairpersons and ranking members
28 of the senate and house standing committees on education at the
29 next meeting of the general assembly.

30 Sec. 29. Section 256F.4, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
31 by striking the subsection.

32 Sec. 30. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph
33 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

34 Although a charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ may
35 elect to comply with one or more provisions of statute or

1 administrative rule, a charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~
2 is exempt from all statutes and rules applicable to a school,
3 a school board, or a school district, except that the charter
4 school ~~or innovation zone school~~ shall do all of the following:

5 Sec. 31. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, paragraphs a and h,
6 Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

7 a. Meet all applicable federal, state, and local health and
8 safety requirements and laws prohibiting discrimination on the
9 basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national
10 origin, religion, ancestry, or disability. A charter school
11 ~~or innovation zone school~~ located within the boundaries of a
12 school district subject to court-ordered desegregation at the
13 time the charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ application
14 is approved shall be subject to the desegregation order unless
15 otherwise specifically provided for in the desegregation order.

16 h. Be subject to and comply with [chapter 284](#) relating to
17 the student achievement and teacher quality program. A charter
18 school ~~or innovation zone school~~ that complies with chapter
19 284 shall receive state moneys or be eligible to receive state
20 moneys calculated as provided in section 257.10, subsections
21 9 and 10, and [section 257.37A](#) as if it did not operate under a
22 charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ contract.

23 Sec. 32. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
24 by adding the following new paragraph:

25 NEW PARAGRAPH. v. Be subject to and comply with the
26 requirements of section 256E.9 related to the incorporation
27 into the charter school contract of a performance framework
28 that is used by the state board to evaluate the charter school
29 in the same manner as a charter school established under
30 subchapter I.

31 Sec. 33. Section 256F.4, subsections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8,
32 Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

33 3. A charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ shall not
34 discriminate in its student admissions policies or practices
35 on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures

1 of achievement or aptitude, or status as a person with a
 2 disability. However, a charter school ~~or innovation zone~~
 3 ~~school~~ may limit admission to students who are within a
 4 particular range of ages or grade levels or on any other
 5 basis that would be legal if initiated by a school district.
 6 Enrollment priority shall be given to the siblings of students
 7 enrolled in a charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~.

8 4. A charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ shall
 9 enroll an eligible resident student who submits a timely
 10 application unless the number of applications exceeds the
 11 capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In
 12 this case, students must be accepted by lot. A charter school
 13 ~~or innovation zone school~~ may enroll an eligible nonresident
 14 student who submits a timely application in accordance with
 15 the student admission policy established pursuant to section
 16 256F.5, subsection 1. If the charter school ~~or innovation zone~~
 17 ~~school~~ enrolls an eligible nonresident student, the charter
 18 school ~~or innovation zone school~~ shall notify the school
 19 district of residence and the sending district not later than
 20 March 1 of the preceding school year. Transportation for the
 21 student shall be in accordance with section 282.18, subsection
 22 10. The sending district shall make payments to the charter
 23 school ~~or innovation zone consortium~~ in the manner required
 24 under [section 282.18, subsection 7](#). ~~If the nonresident pupil~~
 25 ~~is also an eligible pupil under [section 261E.6](#), the innovation~~
 26 ~~zone consortium shall pay the tuition reimbursement amount to~~
 27 ~~an eligible postsecondary institution as provided in section~~
 28 ~~261E.7.~~

29 5. A charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ shall provide
 30 instruction for at least the number of days or hours required
 31 by [section 279.10, subsection 1](#).

32 6. Notwithstanding [subsection 2](#), a charter school ~~or~~
 33 ~~innovation zone school~~ shall meet the requirements of section
 34 256.7, subsection 21.

35 7. ~~a.~~ A charter school shall be considered a part of the

1 school district in which it is located for purposes of state
2 school foundation aid pursuant to [chapter 257](#).

3 ~~b. Students enrolled in an innovation zone school shall~~
4 ~~be counted, for state school foundation aid purposes, in the~~
5 ~~student's district of residence.~~

6 8. A charter school ~~or innovation zone consortium~~ may enter
7 into contracts in accordance with [chapter 26](#).

8 Sec. 34. Section 256F.5, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 An application to the state board for the approval of a
11 charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ shall include but
12 shall not be limited to a description of the following:

13 Sec. 35. Section 256F.5, subsections 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10,
14 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, Code 2026, are amended to read as
15 follows:

16 1. The method for admission to the charter school ~~or~~
17 ~~innovation zone school~~.

18 2. The mission, purpose, innovation, and specialized focus
19 of the charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~.

20 4. The method for appointing or forming an advisory
21 council for the charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~.
22 The membership of an advisory council appointed or formed in
23 accordance with this ~~chapter~~ subchapter shall not include more
24 than one member of a participating school board.

25 6. The charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ governance
26 and bylaws.

27 7. The financial plan for the operation of the charter
28 school ~~or innovation zone school~~ including, at a minimum,
29 a listing of the support services the school district ~~or~~
30 ~~innovation zone consortium~~ will provide, and the charter
31 school ~~or innovation zone school's~~ revenues, budgets, and
32 expenditures.

33 10. The organization of the charter school ~~or innovation~~
34 ~~zone school~~ in terms of ages of students or grades to be taught
35 along with an estimate of the total enrollment of the charter

1 school ~~or innovation zone school~~.

2 12. A statement indicating how the charter school ~~or~~
3 ~~innovation zone school~~ will meet the requirements of section
4 256F.1, as applicable; [section 256F.4, subsection 2](#), paragraph
5 "a"; and [section 256F.4, subsection 3](#).

6 13. Assurance of the assumption of liability by the charter
7 school ~~or the innovation zone consortium for the innovation~~
8 ~~zone school~~.

9 14. The types and amounts of insurance coverage to be
10 obtained by the charter school ~~or innovation zone consortium~~
11 ~~for the innovation zone school~~.

12 15. A plan of operation to be implemented if the charter
13 school ~~or innovation zone consortium~~ revokes or fails to renew
14 its contract.

15 16. The means, costs, and plan for providing transportation
16 for students enrolled in the charter school ~~or innovation zone~~
17 ~~school~~.

18 17. The specific statutes, administrative rules, and school
19 board policies with which the charter school ~~or innovation zone~~
20 ~~school~~ does not intend to comply.

21 Sec. 36. Section 256F.6, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2026, are
22 amended to read as follows:

23 1. a. An approved charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~
24 application shall constitute an agreement, the terms of which
25 shall, at a minimum, be the terms of a ~~four-year~~ five-year
26 enforceable, renewable contract between a school board, ~~or the~~
27 ~~boards participating in an innovation zone consortium,~~ and the
28 state board. ~~The contract shall include an operating agreement~~
29 ~~for the operation of the charter school or innovation zone~~
30 ~~school~~. The terms of the contract may be revised at any time
31 with the approval of both the state board and the school board
32 ~~or the boards participating in the innovation zone consortium,~~
33 whether or not the stated provisions of the contract are being
34 fulfilled. The contract must include all of the following:

35 (1) An operating agreement for the operation of the charter

1 school.

2 (2) A performance framework as required under section
3 256F.4, subsection 2, paragraph "v".

4 *b.* A contract may be renewed by agreement of the school
5 board ~~or the boards participating in an innovation zone~~
6 ~~consortium, as applicable,~~ and the state board.

7 *c.* The charter school ~~or innovation zone consortium~~ shall
8 provide parents and guardians of students enrolled in the
9 charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ with a copy of the
10 charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ application approved
11 pursuant to [section 256F.5](#).

12 3. The state board of education shall provide by rule for
13 the ongoing review of each party's compliance with a contract
14 entered into in accordance with this ~~chapter~~ subchapter.

15 Sec. 37. Section 256F.7, Code 2026, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 **256F.7 Employment and related matters.**

18 1. A charter school ~~or the boards participating in an~~
19 ~~innovation zone consortium~~ shall employ or contract with
20 necessary teachers and administrators, as defined in section
21 256.145, who hold a valid license with an endorsement for the
22 type of service for which the teacher or administrator is
23 employed.

24 2. The school board ~~or innovation zone consortium, as~~
25 ~~specified in the application,~~ in consultation with the advisory
26 council, shall decide matters related to the operation of the
27 charter school ~~or innovation zone school,~~ including budgeting,
28 curriculum, and operating procedures.

29 3. ~~a.~~ Employees of a charter school shall be considered
30 employees of the school district.

31 ~~b.~~ ~~Employees of an innovation zone school shall be~~
32 ~~considered employees of a board participating in the innovation~~
33 ~~zone consortium.~~

34 Sec. 38. Section 256F.8, subsections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, Code
35 2026, are amended to read as follows:

1 1. A contract for the establishment of a charter school ~~or~~
2 ~~innovation zone school~~ may be revoked by the state board, or
3 the school board that established the charter school, ~~or the~~
4 ~~innovation zone consortium that established the innovation zone~~
5 ~~school~~ if the appropriate board ~~or consortium~~ determines that
6 one or more of the following occurred:
7 a. Failure of the charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~
8 to abide by and meet the provisions set forth in the contract,
9 including educational goals.
10 b. Failure of the charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~
11 to comply with all applicable law.
12 c. Failure of the charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~
13 to meet generally accepted public sector accounting principles.
14 d. The existence of one or more other grounds for revocation
15 as specified in the contract.
16 e. Assessment of student progress, which is administered
17 in accordance with state and locally determined indicators
18 established pursuant to rules adopted by the state board,
19 does not show improvement in student progress over that
20 which existed in the same student population prior to the
21 establishment of the charter school ~~or the innovation zone~~
22 ~~school~~.
23 2. The decision by a school board ~~or an innovation zone~~
24 ~~consortium~~ to revoke or to fail to take action to renew a
25 charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ contract is subject to
26 appeal under procedures set forth in [chapter 290](#).
27 3. A school board ~~or a board participating in an innovation~~
28 ~~zone consortium~~ that is considering revocation or nonrenewal
29 of a charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ contract shall
30 notify the advisory council, the parents or guardians of the
31 students enrolled in the charter school ~~or innovation zone~~
32 ~~school~~, and the teachers and administrators employed by the
33 charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~, sixty days prior to
34 revoking or the date by which the contract must be renewed, but
35 not later than the last day of classes in the school year.

1 4. If the state board determines that a charter school ~~or~~
2 ~~innovation zone school~~ is in substantial violation of the terms
3 of the contract, the state board shall notify the school board
4 ~~or innovation zone consortium~~ and the advisory council of its
5 intention to revoke the contract at least sixty days prior to
6 revoking a contract and the school board ~~or the school boards~~
7 ~~participating in the innovation zone consortium~~ shall assume
8 oversight authority, operational authority, or both oversight
9 and operational authority. The notice shall state the
10 grounds for the proposed action in writing and in reasonable
11 detail. The school board ~~or innovation zone consortium~~ may
12 request in writing an informal hearing before the state board
13 within fourteen days of receiving notice of revocation of
14 the contract. Upon receiving a timely written request for a
15 hearing, the state board shall give reasonable notice to the
16 school board ~~or innovation zone consortium~~ of the hearing
17 date. The state board shall conduct an informal hearing before
18 taking final action. Final action to revoke a contract shall
19 be taken in a manner least disruptive to students enrolled in
20 the charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~. The state board
21 shall take final action to revoke or approve continuation of
22 a contract by the last day of classes in the school year. If
23 the final action to revoke a contract under [this section](#) occurs
24 prior to the last day of classes in the school year, a charter
25 school ~~or innovation zone school~~ student may enroll in the
26 resident district.

27 6. A school board revoking a contract or a school board,
28 ~~innovation zone consortium~~, or advisory council that fails to
29 renew a contract under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter is not liable
30 for that action to the charter school ~~or innovation zone~~
31 ~~school~~, a student enrolled in the charter school ~~or innovation~~
32 ~~zone school~~ or the student's parent or guardian, or any other
33 person.

34 Sec. 39. Section 256F.9, Code 2026, is amended to read as
35 follows:

1 **256F.9 Procedures after revocation — student enrollment.**

2 If a charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ contract
3 is revoked in accordance with this ~~chapter~~ subchapter, a
4 nonresident student who attended the school, and any siblings
5 of the student may submit an application to another school
6 district according to [section 282.18](#). Applications and notices
7 required by [section 282.18](#) shall be processed and provided in a
8 prompt manner.

9 Sec. 40. Section 256F.10, Code 2026, is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 **256F.10 Reports.**

12 1. A charter school ~~or innovation zone school~~ shall
13 report at least annually to the school board ~~or innovation~~
14 ~~zone consortium~~, advisory council, and the state board the
15 information required by the school board ~~or innovation zone~~
16 ~~consortium~~, advisory council, or the state board. The reports
17 are public records subject to [chapter 22](#).

18 2. Not later than December 1 annually, the state board shall
19 submit a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations
20 to the general assembly. The report shall evaluate the state's
21 charter school ~~and innovation zone school~~ programs generally,
22 including but not limited to an evaluation of whether the
23 charter schools ~~and innovation zone schools~~ are fulfilling the
24 purposes set forth in [section 256F.4, subsection 2](#). The report
25 also shall contain, for each charter school ~~or innovation~~
26 ~~zone school~~, a copy of the charter ~~school or innovation~~
27 ~~zone school's~~ mission statement, attendance statistics and
28 dropout rate, aggregate assessment test scores, projections of
29 financial stability, the number and qualifications of teachers
30 and administrators, and number of and comments on supervisory
31 visits by the department of education.

32 Sec. 41. Section 256F.12, Code 2026, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 **256F.12 Operation of existing charter schools.**

35 Charter schools established under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter

1 prior to July 1, 2021, shall continue to operate under and be
2 subject to the requirements of this ~~chapter~~ subchapter and
3 shall not be subject to ~~chapter 256E~~ subchapter I.

4 Sec. 42. Section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph a,
5 subparagraph (9), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

6 (9) Resident pupils enrolled in a charter school under
7 chapter 256E ~~or 256F~~.

8 Sec. 43. Section 280.36, subsection 3, Code 2026, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 3. The board of directors of a school district or the
11 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school
12 may enter into an agreement with another school district,
13 accredited nonpublic school, or charter school, ~~or innovation~~
14 ~~zone school~~ to create a multidisciplinary school safety
15 assessment team that shall coordinate resources among the
16 schools and assess and intervene when a student enrolled in
17 either school exhibits behavior that may pose a threat to
18 the safety of either school, employees of either school, or
19 students enrolled in either school.

20 Sec. 44. Section 282.9, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 1. Notwithstanding sections 256E.7, ~~256F.4~~ 256E.23,
23 275.55A, and 282.18, or any other provision to the contrary,
24 prior to knowingly enrolling an individual who is required
25 to register as a sex offender under chapter 692A, but who is
26 otherwise eligible to enroll in a public school, the board of
27 directors of a school district shall determine the educational
28 placement of the individual. Upon receipt of notice that a
29 student who is enrolled in the district is required to register
30 as a sex offender under chapter 692A, the board shall determine
31 the educational placement of the student. The tentative agenda
32 for the meeting of the board of directors at which the board
33 will consider such enrollment or educational placement shall
34 specifically state that the board is considering the enrollment
35 or educational placement of an individual who is required

1 to register as a sex offender under [chapter 692A](#). If the
2 individual is denied enrollment in a school district under this
3 section, the school district of residence shall provide the
4 individual with educational services in an alternative setting.

5 Sec. 45. Section 282.18, subsection 11, paragraph a,
6 subparagraph (8), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

7 (8) If the pupil participates in open enrollment because
8 of circumstances that meet the definition of good cause. For
9 purposes of [this section](#), "*good cause*" means a change in a
10 child's residence due to a change in family residence, a change
11 in a child's residence from the residence of one parent or
12 guardian to the residence of a different parent or guardian, a
13 change in the state in which the family residence is located,
14 a change in a child's parents' marital status, a guardianship
15 or custody proceeding, placement in foster care, adoption,
16 participation in a foreign exchange program, initial placement
17 of a prekindergarten student in a special education program
18 requiring specially designed instruction, or participation in
19 a substance use disorder or mental health treatment program,
20 a change in the status of a child's resident district such
21 as removal of accreditation by the state board, surrender of
22 accreditation, or permanent closure of a nonpublic school,
23 revocation of a charter school contract as provided in section
24 256E.10 or ~~256F.8~~ [256E.27](#), the failure of negotiations for a
25 whole grade sharing, reorganization, dissolution agreement, or
26 the rejection of a current whole grade sharing agreement, or
27 reorganization plan.

28 Sec. 46. Section 297.24, subsection 3, paragraph d, Code
29 2026, is amended by striking the paragraph.

30 Sec. 47. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE — TRANSFERS — NEW
31 SUBCHAPTERS.

32 1. The Code editor is directed to make the following
33 transfers:

- 34 a. Section 256F.1 to section 256E.20.
- 35 b. Section 256F.2 to section 256E.21.

- 1 c. Section 256F.3 to section 256E.22.
- 2 d. Section 256F.4 to section 256E.23.
- 3 e. Section 256F.5 to section 256E.24.
- 4 f. Section 256F.6 to section 256E.25.
- 5 g. Section 256F.7 to section 256E.26.
- 6 h. Section 256F.8 to section 256E.27.
- 7 i. Section 256F.9 to section 256E.28.
- 8 j. Section 256F.10 to section 256E.29.
- 9 k. Section 256F.12 to section 256E.30.

10 2. The Code editor is directed to create two new subchapters
11 in chapter 256E as follows:

- 12 a. Subchapter I shall be entitled "Charter Schools" and
13 include sections 256E.1 through 256E.13.
- 14 b. Subchapter II shall be entitled "Legacy Charter Schools"
15 and include sections 256E.20 through 256E.30.

16 3. The Code editor is directed to make changes in any Code
17 sections or other noncodified enactments amended or enacted
18 by any other Act to correspond with the changes made in this
19 Act if there appears to be no doubt as to the proper method of
20 making the changes and the changes would not be contrary to or
21 inconsistent with the purposes of this Act or any other Act.

22 Sec. 48. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to charter
23 school contracts entered into under section 256F.6 between a
24 school board and the state board of education that are renewed
25 on or after the effective date of this division of this Act:

26 1. The section of this division of this Act amending
27 section 256F.4, subsection 2, by requiring charter schools to
28 incorporate a performance framework into the charter school
29 contract.

30 2. The section of this division of this Act amending section
31 256F.6, subsection 1, paragraph "a".

32 DIVISION II

33 FUNDING AND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY SERVICES

34 Sec. 49. Section 256E.8, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
35 2026, is amended to read as follows:

1 *a.* The charter school in which the student is enrolled
2 shall receive under paragraph “c” an amount equal to the sum
3 of the regular program state cost per pupil for the budget
4 year plus the teacher leadership supplement state cost per
5 pupil, the teacher salary supplement state cost per pupil, the
6 professional development supplement state cost per pupil, and
7 the early intervention supplement state cost per pupil for
8 the budget year as provided in [section 257.9](#) plus any moneys
9 that would be due to the school district of residence for the
10 student as a result of the non-English speaking weighting under
11 section 280.4, subsection 3, for the budget year multiplied by
12 the state cost per pupil for the budget year. If a student
13 is an eligible pupil under [section 261E.6](#), the charter school
14 shall pay the tuition reimbursement amount to an eligible
15 postsecondary institution as provided in [section 261E.7](#).

16 Sec. 50. Section 257.35, Code 2026, is amended by adding the
17 following new subsection:

18 NEW SUBSECTION. 21A. The director of the department of
19 management may deduct the following from the state aid due to
20 each school district pursuant to this chapter and shall pay
21 the amounts to the respective area education agencies on a
22 monthly basis from September 15 through June 15 during each
23 school year for purposes of providing services to students
24 enrolled in charter schools established pursuant to chapter
25 256E, subchapter I, within the boundaries of the area education
26 agency:

27 *a.* The amount calculated for media services for the school
28 district that is attributable to the number of students
29 enrolled in charter schools established pursuant to chapter
30 256E, subchapter I, within the school district who are provided
31 with media services by an area education agency.

32 *b.* The amount calculated for educational services for the
33 school district that is attributable to the number of students
34 enrolled in charter schools established pursuant to chapter
35 256E, subchapter I, within the school district who are provided

1 with educational services by an area education agency.

2 Sec. 51. Section 273.2, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code
3 2026, is amended to read as follows:

4 a. The area education agency shall furnish educational
5 services and programs as provided in section 273.1, this
6 section, sections 273.3 through 273.8, and chapter 256B to
7 pupils enrolled in public or nonpublic schools which are on
8 the list of accredited schools pursuant to section 256.11, and
9 to pupils enrolled in charter schools established pursuant
10 to chapter 256E, subchapter I, which request to receive such
11 services. The programs and services provided shall be at least
12 commensurate with programs and services existing on July 1,
13 1974. The programs and services provided to pupils enrolled
14 in nonpublic schools shall be comparable to programs and
15 services provided to pupils enrolled in public schools within
16 constitutional guidelines.

17 Sec. 52. Section 273.2, subsection 4, Code 2026, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 4. The area education agency shall provide for special
20 education services and media services for school districts
21 and shall encourage and assist school districts to establish
22 programs for gifted and talented children. The area education
23 agency shall provide for media services for charter schools
24 established pursuant to chapter 256E, subchapter I. The area
25 education agency shall assist in facilitating interlibrary
26 loans of materials between school districts and other
27 libraries.

28 Sec. 53. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to school
29 budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2026:

30 1. The section of this division of this Act amending section
31 256E.8, subsection 2, paragraph "a".

32 2. The section of this division of this Act amending section
33 257.35.

34 DIVISION III

35 EXTRACURRICULAR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONTESTS OR

1 COMPETITIONS PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2 Sec. 54. Section 280.13D, Code 2026, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **280.13D Participation in extracurricular interscholastic**
5 **athletic contests or competitions provided by public schools.**

6 1. *a.* The board of directors of a school district shall
7 allow a student who resides within the school district, and
8 who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or a charter school
9 established pursuant to chapter 256E, subchapter I, to
10 participate in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic
11 contest or competition that is provided by the school district
12 pursuant to the terms of an agreement between the board of
13 directors of the school district and the authorities in charge
14 of the nonpublic school or the governing board of the charter
15 school, as applicable, that provides for the eligibility of the
16 student, if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

17 (1) The extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or
18 competition has not been provided by the nonpublic school or
19 the charter school during the two immediately preceding school
20 years.

21 (2) The nonpublic school or charter school has not entered
22 into an agreement under [section 280.13A](#) with another school
23 district, nonpublic school, or charter school that provides
24 for the eligibility of students enrolled in the nonpublic
25 school or charter school to participate in the extracurricular
26 interscholastic athletic contest or competition that is being
27 provided by that school district, nonpublic school, or charter
28 school.

29 *b.* The board of directors of a school district shall allow
30 a student who resides within a contiguous school district,
31 and who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or a charter school
32 established pursuant to chapter 256E, subchapter I, to
33 participate in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic
34 contest or competition that is provided by the school district
35 pursuant to the terms of an agreement between the board of

1 directors of the school district and the authorities in charge
2 of the nonpublic school or the governing board of the charter
3 school, as applicable, that provides for the eligibility of the
4 student, if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

5 (1) The extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest
6 or competition has not been provided by the nonpublic school
7 or charter school, or by the student's school district of
8 residence, during the two immediately preceding school years.

9 (2) The nonpublic school or charter school has not entered
10 into an agreement under [section 280.13A](#) with another school
11 district, nonpublic school, or charter school that provides
12 for the eligibility of students enrolled in the nonpublic
13 school or charter school to participate in the extracurricular
14 interscholastic athletic contest or competition that is being
15 provided by that school district, nonpublic school, or charter
16 school.

17 c. If the board of directors of a school district has
18 established a fee for the cost of a student's participation
19 in an extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or
20 competition, a student who is enrolled in a nonpublic school
21 or a charter school established pursuant to chapter 256E,
22 subchapter I, and is participating in a contest or competition
23 at a public school pursuant to paragraph "a" or "b", or the
24 student's parent or guardian, shall be responsible for the
25 payment of such fee. The amount of such fee shall not exceed
26 the amount of the fee the board of directors of the school
27 district has established for students who are enrolled in the
28 school district.

29 2. A student who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or a
30 charter school established pursuant to chapter 256E, subchapter
31 I, and is participating in a contest or competition at a public
32 school pursuant to [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a" or "b", shall
33 participate under the same conditions as a student who is
34 enrolled in the school district, including meeting the school
35 district's student code of conduct requirements.

1 3. A student who participates in an extracurricular
2 interscholastic athletic contest or competition pursuant
3 to [this section](#) shall be deemed to satisfy the residence
4 requirements for purposes of [section 256.46](#).

5 DIVISION IV

6 DRIVER EDUCATION

7 Sec. 55. Section 321.178, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
8 2026, is amended to read as follows:

9 c. (1) (a) Every public school district in Iowa shall
10 offer or make available to all students residing in the school
11 district, or Iowa students attending a nonpublic school or
12 receiving competent private instruction or independent private
13 instruction as defined in [section 299A.1](#), in the district, an
14 approved course in driver education.

15 (b) (i) Every public school district in Iowa shall offer
16 or make available to all Iowa students residing in the school
17 district who attend a charter school established pursuant
18 to chapter 256E, subchapter I, an approved course in driver
19 education pursuant to policies established by the public school
20 district. The charter school shall be responsible for the
21 payment of all of the school district's costs associated with
22 providing the approved course in driver education to such
23 students.

24 (ii) Every charter school established pursuant to chapter
25 256E, subchapter I, shall offer or make available to all
26 students attending the charter school an approved course in
27 driver education.

28 (c) The receiving district shall be the school district
29 responsible for making driver education available to a student
30 participating in open enrollment under [section 282.18](#).

31 (2) The courses may be offered at sites other than at the
32 public school or charter school, including nonpublic school
33 facilities within the public school districts. An approved
34 course offered during the summer months, on Saturdays, after
35 regular school hours during the regular terms or partly in one

1 term or summer vacation period and partly in the succeeding
2 term or summer vacation period, as the case may be, shall
3 satisfy the requirements of *this section* to the same extent
4 as an approved course offered during the regular school hours
5 of the school term. A student who successfully completes and
6 obtains certification in an approved course in driver education
7 or an approved course in motorcycle education may, upon proof
8 of such fact, be excused from any field test which the student
9 would otherwise be required to take in demonstrating the
10 student's ability to operate a motor vehicle. A student shall
11 not be excused from any field test if a parent, guardian,
12 or instructor requests that a test be administered. A final
13 field test prior to a student's completion of an approved
14 course shall be administered by a person qualified to provide
15 street or highway driving instruction under paragraph "b",
16 subparagraph (2).

17 DIVISION V

18 CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATIONS

19 Sec. 56. Section 256.163, subsection 1, Code 2026, is
20 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

21 NEW PARAGRAPH. *f.* A charter school established pursuant to
22 chapter 256E, subchapter I.

23 Sec. 57. Section 256E.1, subsection 3, paragraph d, Code
24 2026, is amended to read as follows:

25 *d.* Accelerating student learning to prevent learning loss
26 during ~~the COVID-19 pandemic and other~~ significant disruptions
27 to student learning.

28 Sec. 58. Section 256E.6, subsections 2 and 6, Code 2026, are
29 amended to read as follows:

30 2. An initial charter school contract shall be granted for a
31 term of five school budget years, commencing the school budget
32 year in which the charter school opens. The charter school
33 contract shall include the beginning and ending dates of the
34 charter school contract term. An approved charter school ~~may~~
35 ~~delay its opening for a period of time not to exceed one school~~

1 ~~year in order to plan and prepare for the charter school's~~
2 opening shall open on the first day of the school year that is
3 two school years immediately subsequent to the school year in
4 which the charter school contract is executed under subsection
5 1; provided, however, that the approved charter school may
6 open on the first day of the school year that is immediately
7 subsequent to the school year in which the charter school
8 contract is executed under subsection 1 if the approved charter
9 school demonstrates adequate preparation to the state board.
10 If the charter school requires an opening delay of more than
11 ~~one school year~~ two school years immediately subsequent to the
12 school year in which the charter school contract is executed
13 under subsection 1, the charter school may request an extension
14 from the state board.

15 6. The contract may provide for requirements or conditions
16 to govern and monitor the start-up progress of an approved
17 charter school ~~prior to the opening of the charter school~~
18 from the date the charter school contract is executed under
19 subsection 1 through the date the charter school opens under
20 subsection 2, including but not limited to conditions to ensure
21 that the charter school meets all building, health, safety,
22 insurance, and other legal requirements.

23 Sec. 59. Section 261E.8, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
24 2026, is amended to read as follows:

25 a. (1) Students from accredited nonpublic schools, and
26 students receiving competent private instruction or independent
27 private instruction under [chapter 299A](#), and students from
28 charter schools established pursuant to chapter 256E may access
29 the program through the school district in which the accredited
30 nonpublic school, or private institution, or charter school is
31 located.

32 (2) Students from charter schools established pursuant to
33 chapter 256E that provide educational instruction and course
34 content that is delivered entirely over the internet may access
35 the program through the students' school district of residence.

1 a contract to incorporate a performance framework in the same
2 manner as a Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter school's
3 contract is required to do so under Code section 256E.9
4 (performance framework). These provisions apply to charter
5 school contracts under Code chapter 256F that are renewed on or
6 after the effective date of the division.

7 The division transfers the Code sections within Code chapter
8 256F (charter schools and innovation zone schools) to a new
9 subchapter II within Code chapter 256E (charter schools —
10 school board and founding group models). The division also
11 organizes the current Code sections within Code chapter 256E
12 into a new subchapter I.

13 DIVISION II — FUNDING AND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY SERVICES.
14 Currently, each student enrolled in a charter school under Code
15 chapter 256E, subchapter I, shall be counted, for state school
16 foundation purposes, in the student's district of residence.
17 The department of education is then required to pay to the
18 charter school in which the student is enrolled an amount equal
19 to the sum of the regular program state cost per pupil for
20 the budget year plus other additional costs specified in Code
21 section 256E.8(2)(a). This division adds the teacher salary
22 supplement state cost per pupil to the amount required to be
23 paid to the Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter school.
24 This provision applies to school budget years beginning on or
25 after July 1, 2026.

26 The division requires area education agencies to provide
27 educational services and media services to students enrolled
28 in Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter schools.
29 Additionally, the division authorizes the department of
30 management to deduct both of the following from the state
31 aid due to each school district pursuant to Code chapter
32 257 (financing school programs) and pay the amounts to the
33 respective area education agencies for purposes of providing
34 services to students enrolled in Code chapter 256E, subchapter
35 I, charter schools within the boundaries of the area education

1 agency: the amount calculated for media services for
2 the school district that is attributable to the number of
3 students enrolled in Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter
4 schools within the school district who are provided with
5 media services by an area education agency, and the amount
6 calculated for educational services for the school district
7 that is attributable to the number of students enrolled in Code
8 chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter schools within the school
9 district who are provided with educational services by an area
10 education agency. This provision applies to school budget
11 years beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

12 DIVISION III — EXTRACURRICULAR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC
13 CONTESTS OR COMPETITIONS PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. The
14 division requires the board of directors of a school district
15 to allow a student who resides within the district, and who is
16 enrolled in a Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter school,
17 to participate in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic
18 contest or competition that is provided by the school district
19 pursuant to the terms of an agreement between the board of
20 directors of the school district and the governing board of the
21 charter school if the extracurricular interscholastic athletic
22 contest or competition has not been provided by the charter
23 school during the two immediately preceding school years and
24 if the charter school has not entered into an agreement under
25 Code section 280.13A (sharing interscholastic activities)
26 with another school district, nonpublic school, or charter
27 school that provides for the eligibility of students enrolled
28 in the charter school to participate in the extracurricular
29 interscholastic athletic contest or competition that is being
30 provided by that school.

31 The division requires the board of directors of a school
32 district to allow a student who resides within a contiguous
33 school district, and who is enrolled in a Code chapter
34 256E, subchapter I, charter school, to participate in any
35 extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition

1 that is provided by the school district pursuant to the
2 terms of an agreement between the board of directors of
3 the school district and the governing board of the charter
4 school that provides for the eligibility of the student
5 if the extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or
6 competition has not been provided by the charter school, or
7 by the student's school district of residence, during the two
8 immediately preceding school years, and if the charter school
9 has not entered into an agreement under Code section 280.13A
10 with another school district, nonpublic school, or charter
11 school that provides for the eligibility of students enrolled
12 in the charter school to participate in the extracurricular
13 interscholastic athletic contest or competition that is being
14 provided by that school.

15 The division provides that if the board of directors of
16 a school district has established a fee for the cost of a
17 student's participation in an extracurricular interscholastic
18 athletic contest or competition, a student who is enrolled
19 in a Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter school and is
20 participating in a contest or competition at a public school
21 pursuant to the division's provisions, or the student's parent
22 or guardian, shall be responsible for the payment of such fee.

23 The division requires a student who is enrolled in a Code
24 chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter school and is participating
25 in a contest or competition at a public school pursuant
26 to the division's provisions to participate under the same
27 conditions as a student who is enrolled in the school district,
28 including meeting the school district's student code of conduct
29 requirements.

30 The division provides that a student who participates in an
31 extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition
32 pursuant to the division's provisions is deemed to satisfy the
33 residence requirements for purposes of Code section 256.46
34 (rules for participation in extracurricular activities by
35 certain children).

1 DIVISION IV — DRIVER EDUCATION. Current law requires every
2 public school district in Iowa to offer or make available to
3 all students residing in the school district, including Iowa
4 students attending a nonpublic school or receiving competent
5 private instruction or independent private instruction, in the
6 district, an approved course in driver education. The division
7 requires Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter schools to
8 offer or make available such courses to students attending
9 the charter school. In addition, the division requires every
10 public school district in Iowa to offer or make available to
11 all Iowa students residing in the school district who attend
12 a Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, charter school an approved
13 course in driver education pursuant to policies established by
14 the school district. The charter school is responsible for
15 the payment of all of the school district's costs associated
16 with providing the approved course in driver education to such
17 students.

18 DIVISION V — CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATIONS. Code section
19 256.163 establishes requirements for teacher licensure beyond
20 a temporary initial license or an initial license. Pursuant
21 to current Code section 256.163, the requirements for teacher
22 licensure beyond a temporary initial license or an initial
23 license include successful completion of a beginning teacher
24 mentoring and induction program; two years of successful
25 teaching experience in a school district with an approved
26 career paths, leadership roles, and compensation framework; or
27 evidence of not less than three years of successful teaching
28 experience at certain specified schools or programs. The
29 division modifies Code section 256.163 to add charter schools,
30 established pursuant to Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, to
31 this list of schools or programs, allowing a teacher to attain
32 licensure beyond a temporary initial license or an initial
33 license if the teacher completes not less than three years of
34 successful teaching experience at such a charter school.

35 Current law provides that one of the purposes of charter

1 schools established under Code chapter 256E, subchapter I, is
2 to accelerate student learning to prevent learning loss during
3 the COVID-19 pandemic and other significant disruptions to
4 student learning. The division modifies this provision to
5 provide that one of the purposes of such charter schools is to
6 accelerate student learning to prevent learning loss during
7 significant disruptions to student learning.

8 The division provides that an initial charter school
9 contract shall be granted for a term of five school budget
10 years, commencing the school budget year in which the charter
11 school opens. In addition, the division provides that an
12 approved charter school opens on the first day of the school
13 year that is two school years immediately subsequent to the
14 school year in which the charter school contract is executed;
15 provided, however, that the approved charter school may open on
16 the first day of the school year that is immediately subsequent
17 to the school year in which the charter school contract is
18 executed if the approved charter school demonstrates adequate
19 preparation to the state board. If the charter school requires
20 an opening delay of more than two school years immediately
21 subsequent to the school year in which the charter school
22 contract is executed, the charter school may request an
23 extension from the state board. This provision applies to
24 charter school contracts that are executed on or after the
25 effective date of the division.

26 The division allows students from charter schools
27 established pursuant to Code chapter 256E, subchapters I and
28 II, to access the district-to-community college sharing or
29 concurrent enrollment program through the school district in
30 which the charter school is located. The division also allows
31 students from online charter schools to access the program
32 through the students' school district of residence.