

House File 2545 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2545
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2329)

(As Amended and Passed by the House February 28, 2024)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the director of the department of education to
2 conduct a comprehensive review of the state's high school
3 graduation requirements, core curriculum, core content
4 standards, and educational standards and to recommend policy
5 changes, and including effective date provisions.
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW
2 OF IOWA EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS — RECOMMENDED REVISIONS.

3 1. The director of the department of education shall
4 conduct a comprehensive review of the high school graduation
5 requirements and core curriculum established pursuant to
6 section 256.7, subsection 26, the core content standards
7 established pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 28, and
8 the educational standards established in section 256.11.
9 The comprehensive review shall be designed to generate
10 recommendations for policy changes to be included in the report
11 required under subsection 3. The recommendations for policy
12 changes shall include all of the following:

13 a. A plan to regularly review and revise the core content
14 standards focused on English language arts, mathematics,
15 science, and social studies, with a focus on United States
16 history, western civilization, and civics.

17 b. A plan to make Iowa's educational standards the best in
18 the nation.

19 c. Input from relevant stakeholders, including parents and
20 teachers.

21 d. A plan to increase the quality of the instructional
22 curriculum.

23 e. A plan to maximize local flexibility in graduation
24 requirements and course offerings while maintaining a goal that
25 all high school graduates have necessary skills at graduation.

26 f. Identification of opportunities to equip high school
27 graduates with sufficient knowledge of civics and United States
28 history, including the principles reflected in the Constitution
29 of the United States, so that high school graduates are capable
30 of discharging the responsibilities associated with United
31 States citizenship.

32 g. A statewide literacy plan to increase student
33 proficiency using systematic and sequential approaches to
34 teaching phonetic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and
35 text comprehension.

1 2. The director of the department of education shall ensure
2 that the core curriculum established pursuant to section 256.7,
3 subsection 26, the core content standards established pursuant
4 to section 256.7, subsection 28, and the educational standards
5 established in section 256.11, comply with section 279.74.

6 3. The comprehensive review described in subsection 1 shall
7 include all of the following:

8 a. Providing the opportunity for the public and interested
9 stakeholders to provide comments related to the comprehensive
10 review, including comments related to each graduation
11 requirement, core content standard, and educational requirement
12 by grade level, at each committee meeting convened pursuant to
13 this subsection.

14 b. Collecting and considering the comments provided
15 pursuant to paragraph "a".

16 c. (1) Convening committees to assist in the comprehensive
17 review and provide recommendations related to the subject areas
18 in the educational standards established in section 256.11.

19 (2) The director of the department of education shall
20 determine the membership of each committee; provided, however,
21 that each committee shall include four members of the general
22 assembly with one member designated by each of the following:
23 the president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate,
24 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the minority
25 leader of the house of representatives. A legislative member
26 serves in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity.

27 4. a. The director of the department of education shall
28 submit an initial report, including initial findings and
29 recommendations for policy changes, to the governor and the
30 general assembly on or before December 31, 2024.

31 b. The director of the department of education shall submit
32 a final report, including findings and recommendations for
33 policy changes, to the governor and the general assembly on or
34 before July 1, 2025.

35 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate

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1 importance, takes effect upon enactment.