

**House File 2546 - Reprinted**

HOUSE FILE 2546  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2124)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 2, 2026)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying the duties of the department of education  
2 related to electronic systems, and including effective date  
3 provisions.

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

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DIVISION I

PROCUREMENT OF A STATEWIDE DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

Section 1. Section 256.9, subsection 11, Code 2026, is amended by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11. a. Approve, coordinate, and supervise the use of electronic data and information processing by school districts, area education agencies, and merged areas, including the procurement of a comprehensive, statewide data collection system that must facilitate data collection between the student information systems of all school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and area education agencies. As soon as is reasonably possible after the effective date of this division of this Act, the director shall procure the comprehensive, statewide data collection system using a process that requires the issuance of requests for proposal.

b. The data collection system described in paragraph "a" must satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) Be designed for the purpose of establishing standardized electronic data collections and reporting protocols that facilitate compliance with state and federal reporting requirements.

(2) Maintain the confidentiality of student and staff data.

(3) Provide for, and improve the process of, the electronic transfer of individual student records between attendance centers, school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, area education agencies, postsecondary institutions, merged areas, and the department.

(4) (a) Be designed to ensure compatibility with any student information system utilized by school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, or area education agencies.

(b) The department and the developer of the data collection system software must allow a school district, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency to purchase a student information system from the developer of the school district's,

1 accredited nonpublic school's, or area education agency's choice  
2 that maintains a shared database architecture with the data  
3 collection system; provided, however, that use of the data  
4 collection system shall not require or depend upon the purchase  
5 of any specific student information system.

6 (5) Validate data for accuracy prior to a school district,  
7 accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency submitting  
8 the data to the department.

9 (6) Allow the department, school districts, accredited  
10 nonpublic schools, and area education agencies to communicate  
11 regarding state reporting within the data collection system.

12 (7) Be hosted by the developer of the software to reduce the  
13 burden on the department, school districts, accredited nonpublic  
14 schools, and area education agencies associated with maintaining  
15 the data collection system.

16 (8) Support the collection and validation of information  
17 required to be maintained under federal and state law, including  
18 all of the following:

19 (a) School attendance records.

20 (b) Student enrollment counts and related demographic  
21 information.

22 (c) Participation data for federally funded and state funded  
23 educational programs.

24 (d) Student and employee demographic information.

25 (e) Student assessment scores for state-required assessments.

26 (f) Special education records and individualized education  
27 program information, as required under the federal Individuals  
28 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.

29 (g) English learner identification, program participation,  
30 and progress monitoring data. For purposes of this subparagraph  
31 division, "English learner" means the same as defined in section  
32 280.4.

33 (h) Student discipline records and incident reports.

34 (i) Dropout verification and graduation confirmation data.

35 (j) School and district academic calendar information.

1 (9) Collects and distributes only the data required under  
2 federal and state law and the minimum amount of data necessary to  
3 enroll and serve new students from another school or educational  
4 institution.

5 (10) Ensure that the data maintained in the data collection  
6 system is the property of the school district, accredited  
7 nonpublic school, or area education agency, as applicable, and is  
8 not the property of the department.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being  
10 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

11 DIVISION II

12 MODERNIZATION OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

13 Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — MODERNIZATION OF  
14 ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS.

15 1. The department of education shall modernize the  
16 department's electronic systems and procedures in order to ensure  
17 all of the following:

18 a. The proper disbursement of moneys in a timely manner by  
19 increasing the ease and frequency of reporting submissions and  
20 collections throughout the school year.

21 b. That the department's systems are able to communicate  
22 with other state agencies, and with school districts, accredited  
23 nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools,  
24 to better identify needs for students.

25 2. The modernization described in subsection 1 must include  
26 the deployment of a portal, on or before July 1, 2027, which  
27 satisfies all of the following requirements:

28 a. Allows school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,  
29 charter schools, and innovation zone schools to do all of the  
30 following:

31 (1) Validate the prior submission of data to the department.

32 (2) Perform a cross-district enrollment check prior to the  
33 submission of information.

34 (3) Embed the communication tools between the department and  
35 other school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter

1 schools, and innovation zone schools.

2     b. Provides school districts, accredited nonpublic schools,  
3 charter schools, and innovation zone schools with access to a  
4 data dictionary that updates automatically.

5     c. Includes a calendar with key dates.

6     d. Is hosted by the developer of the software to reduce the  
7 burden on the department associated with maintaining the portal.

8     e. Collects and distributes only the data required under  
9 federal and state law and the minimum amount of data necessary to  
10 enroll and serve new students from another school or educational  
11 institution.

12     f. Ensures that the information maintained in the portal  
13 is the property of the school district, accredited nonpublic  
14 school, charter school, or innovation zone school that submitted  
15 the information and is not the property of the department of  
16 education.

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