

House File 2670 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2670
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 746)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 10, 2026)

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 through
4 grade twelve, and including applicability provisions.
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 follows:

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

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

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

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

25 (ii) In grades five, eight, and eleven, an assessment in
26 science.

27 (iii) In grades eight and eleven, an assessment in social
28 studies.

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

1 summative assessment requirements of the federal Every Student
2 Succeeds Act, Pub. L. No. 114-95, if applicable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 field of study by ~~the national councils of teachers of English~~
2 ~~and mathematics, the national council for the social studies,~~
3 ~~the national science teachers association, and other recognized~~
4 ~~experts.~~

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

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

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

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

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

32 2. The kindergarten program shall include experiences
33 ~~designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits and~~
34 ~~growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well~~
35 ~~as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and~~

1 protect and increase physical well-being with attention given
2 to experiences relating to the development of life skills and,
3 ~~subject to section 279.80, age-appropriate and research-based~~
4 ~~human growth and development.~~ A kindergarten teacher shall
5 be licensed to teach in kindergarten. An accredited nonpublic
6 school must meet the requirements of this subsection only if
7 the nonpublic school offers a kindergarten program; provided,
8 however, that section 279.80 shall not apply to a nonpublic
9 school.

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

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

14 (a) The characteristics of communicable diseases.

15 (b) Physical fitness.

16 (c) Nutrition.

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

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

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

25 (b) Physical fitness.

26 (c) Nutrition.

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

29 e. Two additional units of mathematics. The two additional
30 units of mathematics may include instruction related to ~~applied~~
31 any of the following:

32 (1) Agriculture, which may be offered and taught through
33 dedicated units of coursework or through units of coursework
34 that also meet the requirements of the coursework required under
35 paragraph "h", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (a).

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

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

10 j. (1) One unit of health education which.

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

13 (i) Physical fitness.

14 (ii) Food and nutrition.

15 (iii) Personal health.

16 (b) The one unit of health education may include personal
17 health; food and nutrition; environmental instruction related to
18 all of the following:

19 (i) Environmental health; safety.

20 (ii) Safety and survival skills; consumer.

21 (iii) Consumer health; family.

22 (iv) Family life; age-appropriate.

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

26 (vi) Substance use disorder and nonuse; emotional and social
27 health; health.

28 (vii) Health resources; cardiopulmonary.

29 (viii) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and prevention.

30 (ix) Prevention and control of disease, including
31 age-appropriate and research-based information regarding sexually
32 transmitted diseases.

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

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

7 ~~(a) Savings, including emergency fund, purchases, and wealth~~
8 ~~building.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 ~~(i) Buying, selling, and renting advantages and disadvantages~~
14 ~~relating to real estate, including adjustable rate, balloon,~~
15 ~~conventional, government-backed, reverse, and seller-financed~~
16 ~~mortgages.~~

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

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

24 9A. Beginning July 1, 2007, each school district shall have
25 a qualified guidance counselor who shall be licensed by the
26 board of educational examiners under subchapter VII, part 3.
27 Each school district shall work toward the goal of having
28 one qualified guidance counselor for every three hundred fifty
29 students enrolled in the school district. The state board
30 shall establish in rule a definition of and standards for an
31 articulated sequential kindergarten through grade twelve guidance
32 and counseling program. The program shall be designed to ensure
33 that the guidance counselor ~~can work~~ works collaboratively with
34 parents or guardians, students, teachers, support staff, and
35 administrators to support the curricular goals of the school

1 by offering responsive services that address the growth and
2 development needs of students and the attainment of student
3 competencies in academic, career, and social areas.

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

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

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

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

23 Sec. 14. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph h, Code
24 2026, is amended by adding the following new subparagraphs:

25 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (02) The educational standards of section
26 256.11, subsection 2, related to the kindergarten program.

27 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (002) The educational standards of section
28 256.11, subsection 3, paragraph "a", subparagraph (5), related to
29 the health curriculum.

30 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (0002) The educational standards of
31 section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph "a", subparagraph (5),
32 related to the health curriculum.

33 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (4) The educational standards of section
34 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "k", related to the personal
35 finance literacy curriculum.

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

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

8 Sec. 16. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph r, Code
9 2026, is amended to read as follows:

10 r. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
11 279.81 relating to prohibiting students from serving on any
12 committees that determine, or provide recommendations related to,
13 whether a material in a school library should be removed in the
14 same manner as a school district.

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

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

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

28 t. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
29 256.11 relating to the human growth and development curriculum
30 for grades five through eight, and the health curriculum for
31 grades nine through twelve, in the same manner as a school
32 district.

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

35 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0q. Be subject to and comply with the

1 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 2, relating to the
2 kindergarten program in the same manner as a school district.

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

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. 000q. Be subject to and comply with the
8 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph "a",
9 subparagraph (5), relating to the health curriculum in the same
10 manner as a school district.

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

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

25 Sec. 20. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to school
26 years beginning on or after July 1, 2027:

27 The portion of the section of this Act amending section 256.7,
28 subsection 21, paragraph "b", subparagraph (2), that relates to
29 the administration of assessments in social studies.