

**Senate File 175 - Reprinted**

SENATE FILE 175  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1028)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate February 18, 2025)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act incorporating provisions related to pregnancy and fetal  
2 development into the human growth and development and health  
3 curricula provided by school districts, accredited nonpublic  
4 schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to  
5 students enrolled in grades four through twelve.  
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2025,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. a. The following areas shall be taught in grades one  
4 through six: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics,  
5 science, health, physical education, traffic safety, music,  
6 visual art, and, subject to section 279.80, age-appropriate and  
7 research-based human growth and development.

8 b. Computer science instruction incorporating the standards  
9 established under section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a",  
10 subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade level  
11 commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023.

12 c. In grades four through six, the age-appropriate and  
13 research-based human growth and development instruction shall  
14 incorporate the standards established under section 279.50,  
15 subsection 2, paragraph "b".

16 d. The health curriculum shall include the characteristics of  
17 communicable diseases.

18 e. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall  
19 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary  
20 program.

21 4. The following shall be taught in grades seven  
22 and eight: English-language arts; social studies, including  
23 instruction related to civics; mathematics; science; health;  
24 age-appropriate and research-based human growth and development  
25 that incorporates the standards established under section 279.50,  
26 subsection 3, paragraph "b"; career exploration and development;  
27 physical education; music; and visual art. Computer science  
28 instruction incorporating the standards established under section  
29 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), shall  
30 be offered in at least one grade level commencing with the  
31 school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration and  
32 development shall be designed so that students are appropriately  
33 prepared to create an individual career and academic plan  
34 pursuant to section 279.61, incorporate foundational career  
35 and technical education concepts aligned with the six career

1 and technical education service areas as defined in subsection  
2 5, paragraph "h", incorporate relevant twenty-first century  
3 skills to facilitate career readiness, and introduce students  
4 to career opportunities within the local community and across  
5 this state. The health curriculum shall include age-appropriate  
6 and research-based information regarding the characteristics of  
7 sexually transmitted diseases. The state board as part of  
8 accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for  
9 implementing the program in grades seven and eight. However,  
10 this subsection shall not apply to the teaching of career  
11 exploration and development in nonpublic schools.

12 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph j,  
13 subparagraph (1), Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

14 (1) One unit of health education which may include personal  
15 health; food and nutrition; environmental health; safety and  
16 survival skills; consumer health; family life; age-appropriate  
17 and research-based human growth and development that incorporates  
18 the standards established under section 279.50, subsection 3,  
19 paragraph "b"; substance use disorder and nonuse; emotional and  
20 social health; health resources; cardiopulmonary resuscitation;  
21 and prevention and control of disease, including age-appropriate  
22 and research-based information regarding sexually transmitted  
23 diseases.

24 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code 2025,  
25 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

26 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (01) The educational standards of section  
27 256.11 relating to the human growth and development curriculum  
28 for grades four through eight or the health curriculum for grades  
29 nine through twelve.

30 Sec. 4. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended  
31 by adding the following new paragraph:

32 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. Be subject to and comply with the  
33 requirements of section 256.11 relating to the human growth and  
34 development curriculum for grades four through eight and the  
35 health curriculum for grades nine through twelve.

1     Sec. 5. Section 279.50, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2025, are  
2 amended to read as follows:

3     2. a. Subject to section 279.80, each school board shall  
4 provide age-appropriate and research-based instruction in  
5 human growth and development including instruction regarding  
6 self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relationships, and  
7 domestic abuse in grades one through six.

8     b. In grades four through six, the age-appropriate and  
9 research-based instruction in human growth and development  
10 described in paragraph "a" shall include all of the following:

11     (1) Instruction related to human development inside the womb.

12     (2) A high-definition ultrasound video showing the presence  
13 of the brain, heart, and other vital organs in early fetal  
14 development.

15     (3) A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or  
16 animation, or an ultrasound or other real image, that depicts  
17 the humanity of the unborn child by showing prenatal human  
18 development, starting at fertilization, noting significant  
19 markers in cell growth and organ development throughout every  
20 stage of pregnancy.

21     c. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to  
22 chapter 17A to administer and interpret this subsection.

23     3. a. Each school board shall provide age-appropriate and  
24 research-based instruction in human growth and development  
25 including instruction regarding human sexuality, self-esteem,  
26 stress management, interpersonal relationships, domestic abuse,  
27 and the prevention and control of disease, including sexually  
28 transmitted diseases as required in section 256.11, in grades  
29 seven through twelve.

30     b. The age-appropriate and research-based instruction in  
31 human growth and development described in paragraph "a" shall  
32 include all of the following:

33     (1) Instruction related to human development inside the womb.

34     (2) A high-definition ultrasound video showing the presence  
35 of the brain, heart, and other vital organs in early fetal

1 development.

2 (3) A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or  
3 animation, or an ultrasound or other real image, that depicts  
4 the humanity of the unborn child by showing prenatal human  
5 development, starting at fertilization, noting significant  
6 markers in cell growth and organ development throughout every  
7 stage of pregnancy.

8 c. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to  
9 chapter 17A to administer and interpret this subsection.

10 Sec. 6. Section 279.50, subsection 10, paragraph b, Code  
11 2025, is amended to read as follows:

12 b. "Research-based" means ~~all of the following:~~

13 ~~(1) Complete~~ complete, unbiased information that is verified  
14 or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance  
15 with accepted scientific methods~~;~~, recognized as medically  
16 accurate and objective by leading professional organizations and  
17 agencies with relevant expertise in the field, ~~such as the~~  
18 ~~American college of obstetricians and gynecologists, the American~~  
19 ~~public health association, the American academy of pediatrics,~~  
20 ~~and the national association of school nurses;~~ and published in  
21 peer-reviewed journals where appropriate.

22 ~~(2) Information that is free of racial, ethnic, sexual~~  
23 ~~orientation, and gender biases.~~