

House File 2231 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2231
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 558)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 3, 2026)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a seal of civics excellence program
2 administered by the department of education to recognize
3 student excellence in civics.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, subsection 59, Code 2026, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 59. a. Develop and administer a seal of biliteracy program
4 to recognize students graduating from high school who have
5 demonstrated proficiency in two or more world languages, one of
6 which may be American sign language, though one of which must
7 be English. Participation in the program by a school district,
8 attendance center, or accredited nonpublic school shall
9 be voluntary. The department shall work with stakeholders
10 to identify standardized tests that may be utilized to
11 demonstrate proficiency. The department shall produce a seal
12 of biliteracy, which may include but need not be limited to
13 a sticker that may be affixed to a student's high school
14 transcript or a certificate that may be awarded to the student.
15 A participating school district or school shall notify the
16 department of the names of the students who have qualified for
17 the seal and the department shall provide the school district
18 or school with the appropriate number of seals or other
19 authorized endorsement. The department may charge a nominal
20 fee to cover printing and postage charges related to issuance
21 of the biliteracy seal under [this subsection paragraph](#).

22 b. Develop and administer a seal of civics excellence
23 program to recognize students graduating from high school who
24 have demonstrated proficiency in civics. The department shall
25 determine the minimum requirements necessary for a student
26 to obtain a civics seal, including knowledge of American
27 government and participation in civic and community activities.
28 The department shall produce a civics seal, which may include
29 a sticker which may be affixed to a student's high school
30 transcript or a certificate awarded to the student. A seal of
31 civics excellence may be affixed to the diploma and noted on
32 the transcript of a student to recognize that the student has
33 achieved excellence in civics. Participation in the program
34 by a school district or accredited nonpublic school shall be
35 voluntary. A participating school district or accredited

H.F. 2231

1 nonpublic school shall notify the department of the names of
2 students who have qualified for a seal, and the department
3 shall provide the school district or accredited nonpublic
4 school with the appropriate number of seals or other authorized
5 endorsement. The department may charge a nominal fee to cover
6 printing and postal charges related to the issuance of the
7 civics seal under this paragraph.