

# 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  
4 one through six: English-language arts, social studies,  
5 mathematics, science, health, physical education, traffic  
6 safety, music, visual art, and, subject to section 279.80,  
7 age-appropriate and research-based human growth and  
8 development.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code  
 27 2025, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

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

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

34 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. Be subject to and comply with the  
 35 requirements of section 256.11 relating to the human growth and

1 development curriculum for grades four through eight and the  
2 health curriculum for grades nine through twelve.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14     Sec. 6. Section 279.50, subsection 10, paragraph b, Code  
15 2025, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

27     ~~{2} Information that is free of racial, ethnic, sexual~~  
28 ~~orientation, and gender biases.~~