

**House File 272 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 272

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the Iowa core curriculum and core content  
2 standards applicable to students in kindergarten through  
3 grade twelve and including effective date provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b,  
2 subparagraphs (2) and (3), Code 2015, are amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 (2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), for the school year  
5 beginning July 1, 2016, and each succeeding school year, the  
6 rules shall provide that all students enrolled in school  
7 districts in grades three through eleven shall be administered  
8 an assessment during the last quarter of the school year that  
9 at a minimum assesses the core academic indicators identified  
10 in this paragraph "b"; ~~is aligned with the Iowa common core~~  
11 ~~standards in both content and rigor~~; accurately describes  
12 student achievement and growth for purposes of the school, the  
13 school district, and state accountability systems; and provides  
14 valid, reliable, and fair measures of student progress toward  
15 college or career readiness.

16 (3) The director shall establish an assessment task force  
17 to review and make recommendations for a statewide assessment  
18 of student progress on the core academic indicators identified  
19 pursuant to this paragraph "b". The task force shall recommend  
20 a statewide assessment that is ~~aligned to the Iowa common core~~  
21 ~~standards and is~~, at a minimum, valid, reliable, tested, and  
22 piloted in Iowa. In addition, in developing recommendations,  
23 the task force shall consider the costs to school districts and  
24 the state in providing and administering such an assessment and  
25 the technical support necessary to implement the assessment.  
26 The task force shall submit its recommendations in a report  
27 to the director, the state board, and the general assembly by  
28 January 1, 2015. The task force shall assist with the final  
29 development and implementation of the assessment administered  
30 pursuant to subparagraph (2). The task force members shall  
31 include but not be limited to teachers, school administrators,  
32 business leaders, representatives of state agencies, and  
33 members of the general public. This subparagraph is repealed  
34 July 1, 2020.

35 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code

1 2015, is amended to read as follows:

2     *c.* A requirement that all school districts and accredited  
3 nonpublic schools annually report to the department and the  
4 local community the district-wide progress made in attaining  
5 student achievement goals on the academic and other core  
6 indicators and the district-wide progress made in attaining  
7 locally established student learning goals. The school  
8 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall demonstrate  
9 the use of multiple assessment measures in determining student  
10 achievement levels. The school districts and accredited  
11 nonpublic schools shall also report the number of students  
12 who graduate; the number of students who drop out of school;  
13 the number of students who are tested and the percentage of  
14 students who are so tested annually; and the percentage of  
15 students who graduated during the prior school year ~~and who~~  
16 ~~completed a core curriculum.~~ The board shall develop and  
17 adopt uniform definitions consistent with the federal No Child  
18 Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 and any federal  
19 regulations adopted pursuant to the federal Act. The school  
20 districts and accredited nonpublic schools may report on other  
21 locally determined factors influencing student achievement.  
22 The school districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall  
23 also report to the local community their results by individual  
24 attendance center.

25     Sec. 3. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,  
26 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
27 follows:

28     Adopt rules that establish ~~a core curriculum~~ and high school  
29 graduation requirements for all students in school districts  
30 and accredited nonpublic schools that include at a minimum  
31 satisfactory completion of four years of English and language  
32 arts, three years of mathematics, three years of science, and  
33 three years of social studies. Schools are encouraged to  
34 include in locally developed standards the skills and knowledge  
35 students need to be successful in the twenty-first century,

1 including but not limited to civic literacy, health literacy,  
2 technology literacy, financial literacy, and employability  
3 skills.

4 Sec. 4. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,  
5 subparagraph (3), Code 2015, is amended by striking the  
6 subparagraph.

7 Sec. 5. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph b, Code  
8 2015, is amended by striking the paragraph.

9 Sec. 6. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph c, Code  
10 2015, is amended to read as follows:

11 c. Neither the state board nor the department shall require  
12 school districts or accredited nonpublic schools to adopt a  
13 specific textbook, textbook series, or specific instructional  
14 methodology, or acquire specific textbooks, curriculum  
15 materials, or educational products from a specific vendor  
16 ~~in order to meet the core curriculum requirements of this~~  
17 ~~subsection or the core content standards adopted pursuant to~~  
18 ~~subsection 28.~~

19 Sec. 7. Section 256.7, subsection 26, Code 2015, is amended  
20 by adding the following new paragraph:

21 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. Adopt rules prohibiting the department  
22 from adopting and implementing statewide core curriculum  
23 standards. School districts and accredited nonpublic schools  
24 are strongly encouraged to set high expectations in locally  
25 developed core content standards.

26 Sec. 8. Section 256.7, subsection 28, Code 2015, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 28. Adopt a set of ~~core content~~ assessment standards  
29 applicable to all students in kindergarten through grade twelve  
30 in every school district and accredited nonpublic school. For  
31 purposes of this subsection, "~~core content~~ assessment standards"  
32 includes reading, mathematics, and science. The ~~core content~~  
33 assessment standards shall be identical to the core content  
34 standards included in Iowa's approved 2006 standards and  
35 assessment system under Tit. I of the federal Elementary and

1 Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. §6301 et seq., as  
2 amended by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub.  
3 L. No. 107-110. ~~School districts and accredited nonpublic~~  
4 ~~schools shall include, at a minimum, the core content standards~~  
5 ~~adopted pursuant to this subsection in any set of locally~~  
6 ~~developed content standards. School districts and accredited~~  
7 ~~nonpublic schools are strongly encouraged to set higher~~  
8 ~~expectations in local standards. As changes in federal law or~~  
9 ~~regulation occur, the state board is authorized to amend the~~  
10 ~~core content standards as appropriate.~~

11 Sec. 9. Section 256.7, Code 2015, is amended by adding the  
12 following new subsection:

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 33. Adopt rules prohibiting the department  
14 from adopting and implementing the next generation science  
15 standards.

16 Sec. 10. Section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph a, Code  
17 2015, is amended to read as follows:

18 a. Develop and distribute, in collaboration with the area  
19 education agencies, ~~core curriculum~~ technical assistance and  
20 implementation strategies that school districts and accredited  
21 nonpublic schools shall utilize, including but not limited to  
22 the development and delivery of formative and end-of-course  
23 model assessments classroom teachers may use to measure student  
24 progress ~~on the core curriculum adopted pursuant to section~~  
25 ~~256.7, subsection 26. The department shall, in collaboration~~  
26 ~~with the advisory group convened in accordance with paragraph~~  
27 ~~"b" and educational assessment providers, identify and make~~  
28 ~~available to school districts end-of-course and additional~~  
29 ~~model end-of-course and additional assessments to align with~~  
30 ~~the expectations included in the Iowa core curriculum. The~~  
31 model assessments shall be suitable to meet the multiple  
32 assessment measures requirement specified in section 256.7,  
33 subsection 21, paragraph "c".

34 Sec. 11. Section 256.9, subsection 54, Code 2015, is amended  
35 by striking the subsection.

1     Sec. 12. Section 256.40, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code  
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3     e. Integrate services provided through the program with  
4 other career exploration-related activities such as the student  
5 ~~core-curriculum~~ graduation plan and the career information and  
6 decision-making system developed and administered under section  
7 279.61, where appropriate.

8     Sec. 13. Section 256.42, subsection 6, Code 2015, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10     6. Coursework offered under the initiative shall be  
11 rigorous and high quality, and the department shall annually  
12 evaluate the quality of the courses and ensure that coursework  
13 is aligned with the ~~state's~~ Iowa core curriculum and ~~core~~  
14 ~~content requirements and standards~~, as well as national  
15 standards of quality for online courses issued by an  
16 internationally recognized association for kindergarten through  
17 grade twelve online learning.

18     Sec. 14. Section 257.11, subsection 9, Code 2015, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20     9. *Shared classes and curriculum standards.* A school  
21 district shall ensure that any course made available to a  
22 student through any sharing agreement between the school  
23 district and a community college or any other entity providing  
24 course programming pursuant to this section to students  
25 enrolled in the school district meets the expectations  
26 contained in ~~the core curriculum adopted pursuant to~~ section  
27 256.7, subsection 26. The school district shall ensure that  
28 any course that has the capacity to generate college credit  
29 shall be equivalent to college-level work.

30     Sec. 15. Section 258.4, subsection 8, Code 2015, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32     8. Establish a minimum set of competencies and ~~core~~  
33 ~~curriculum~~ for approval of a vocational program sequence that  
34 addresses the following: new and emerging technologies;  
35 job-seeking, job-keeping, and other employment skills,

1 including self-employment and entrepreneurial skills, that  
2 reflect current industry standards, leadership skills,  
3 entrepreneurial, and labor-market needs; and the strengthening  
4 of basic academic skills.

5 Sec. 16. Section 260C.14, subsection 22, paragraph b, Code  
6 2015, is amended to read as follows:

7 *b.* Collaborate with the state board of regents to meet  
8 the requirements specified in section 262.9, subsection 33,  
9 including but not limited to developing a systematic process  
10 for expanding academic discipline and meetings between the  
11 community college faculty and faculty of the institutions  
12 of higher education governed by the state board of regents,  
13 ~~developing criteria to prioritize core curriculum areas,~~  
14 promoting greater awareness of articulation-related activities,  
15 facilitating additional opportunities for individual  
16 institutions to pursue program articulation agreements for  
17 career and technical educational programs, and developing  
18 and implementing a process to examine a minimum of eight  
19 new associate of applied science degree programs for which  
20 articulation agreements would serve students' continued  
21 academic success in those degree programs.

22 Sec. 17. Section 261E.4, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 4. A school district shall establish prerequisite  
25 coursework for each advanced placement course offered and shall  
26 describe the prerequisites in the course registration handbook,  
27 which shall be provided to every junior high school or middle  
28 school student prior to the development of a ~~core curriculum~~  
29 graduation plan pursuant to section 279.61.

30 Sec. 18. Section 261E.6, subsection 2, Code 2015, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 2. *Notification.* The availability and requirements of this  
33 program shall be included in each school district's student  
34 registration handbook. Information about the program shall be  
35 provided to the student and the student's parent or guardian

1 prior to the development of the student's ~~core curriculum~~  
2 graduation plan under section 279.61. The school district  
3 shall establish a process by which students may indicate  
4 interest in and apply for enrollment in the program.

5 Sec. 19. Section 261E.8, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended  
6 to read as follows:

7 1. A district-to-community college sharing or concurrent  
8 enrollment program is established to be administered by the  
9 department to promote rigorous academic or career and technical  
10 pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to high  
11 school students to enroll part-time in eligible nonsectarian  
12 courses at or through community colleges established under  
13 chapter 260C. The program shall be made available to all  
14 resident students in grades nine through twelve. Notice of  
15 the availability of the program shall be included in a school  
16 district's student registration handbook and the handbook shall  
17 identify which courses, if successfully completed, generate  
18 college credit under the program. A student and the student's  
19 parent or legal guardian shall also be made aware of this  
20 program as a part of the development of the student's ~~core~~  
21 curriculum graduation plan in accordance with section 279.61.

22 Sec. 20. Section 261E.9, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
23 2015, is amended to read as follows:

24 b. A regional academy may include in its curriculum virtual  
25 or internet-based coursework and courses delivered via the Iowa  
26 communications network, career and technical courses, ~~core~~  
27 ~~curriculum coursework~~, courses required pursuant to section  
28 256.7, subsection 26, or section 256.11, subsections 4 and 5,  
29 and asynchronous learning networks.

30 Sec. 21. Section 261E.9, subsection 4, Code 2015, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 4. Information regarding regional academies shall be  
33 provided to a student and the student's parent or guardian  
34 prior to the development of the student's ~~core curriculum~~  
35 graduation plan under section 279.61.

1     Sec. 22. Section 261E.10, subsection 4, Code 2015, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3     4. Information regarding career academies shall be provided  
4 by the school district to a student and the student's parent  
5 or guardian prior to the development of the student's ~~core~~  
6 curriculum graduation plan under section 279.61.

7     Sec. 23. Section 262.9, subsection 33, paragraph c, Code  
8 2015, is amended by striking the paragraph.

9     Sec. 24. Section 279.61, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
10 follows:

11     **279.61 Student plan for progress toward university admissions**  
12 **— report.**

13     1. ~~For the school year beginning July 1, 2008, and each~~  
14 ~~succeeding school year, the~~ The board of directors of each  
15 school district shall cooperate with each student enrolled  
16 in grade eight to develop for the student a ~~core curriculum~~  
17 plan to guide the student toward the goal of successfully  
18 completing, at a minimum, the ~~core curriculum developed~~ high  
19 school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of  
20 education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26, by the  
21 time the student graduates from high school. The plan shall  
22 include career options and shall identify the coursework  
23 needed in grades nine through twelve to support the student's  
24 postsecondary education and career options. Additionally, the  
25 plan shall include a timeline for each student to successfully  
26 complete, prior to graduation, all components of the  
27 state-designated career information and decision-making system  
28 administered by the department in accordance with section 118  
29 of the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education  
30 Improvement Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-270. The student's  
31 parent or guardian shall sign the ~~core curriculum graduation~~  
32 plan developed with the student and the signed plan shall be  
33 included in the student's cumulative records.

34     2. ~~For the school year beginning July 1, 2008, and each~~  
35 ~~succeeding school year, the~~ The board of directors of each

1 school district shall report annually to each student enrolled  
2 in grades nine through twelve in the school district, and, if  
3 the student is under the age of eighteen, to each student's  
4 parent or guardian, the student's progress toward meeting the  
5 goal of successfully completing the ~~core curriculum~~ and high  
6 school graduation requirements adopted by the state board of  
7 education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26.

8 Sec. 25. Section 280.3, subsection 3, Code 2015, is amended  
9 by striking the subsection.

10 Sec. 26. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed  
11 of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 This bill eliminates requirements and references to the  
16 (Iowa) core curriculum and to core content standards, but  
17 continues to direct the state board of education to adopt high  
18 school graduation requirements and assessment standards.

19 The bill requires the state board to adopt rules prohibiting  
20 the department from adopting and implementing statewide core  
21 curriculum standards. However, schools are strongly encouraged  
22 to set high expectations in locally developed core content  
23 standards and are also encouraged to include in locally  
24 developed standards 21st century skills. The bill also directs  
25 the state board of education to adopt rules prohibiting the  
26 department of education from adopting and implementing the  
27 next generation science standards as developed by the national  
28 research council and cooperating states.

29 Provisions directing school districts to cooperate with each  
30 eighth grade student on a core curriculum plan to meet core  
31 curriculum requirements are amended to replace "core curriculum  
32 plan" with "graduation plan" and "core curriculum requirements"  
33 with "high school graduation requirements". The term "core  
34 content standards", which was used to describe the assessment  
35 standards adopted by the state board, is replaced with the term

1 "assessment standards". The assessment standards will remain  
2 applicable to all students in kindergarten through grade 12 in  
3 every school district and accredited nonpublic school.

4 The bill makes technical and corresponding changes to  
5 provisions which contain references to the language stricken.

6 The bill takes effect upon enactment.