Summary of Enacted Legislation
2025 Session of the 91st Iowa General Assembly

Updated: November 17, 2025

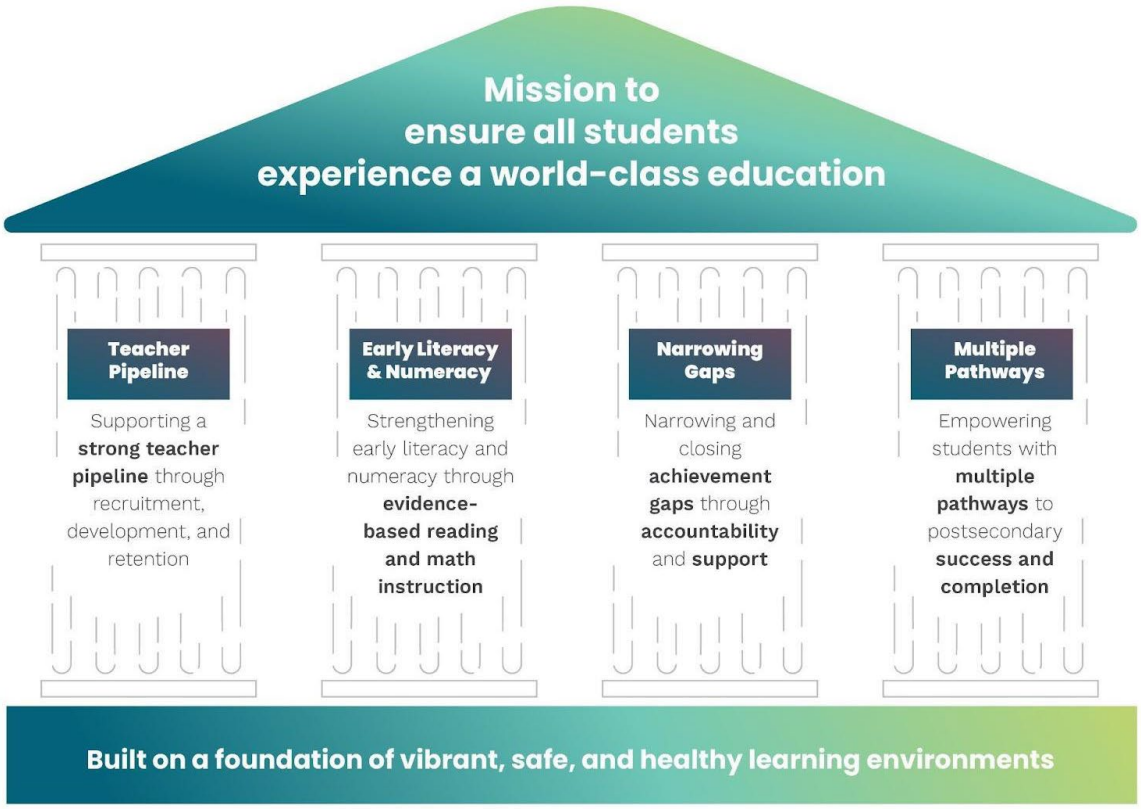
Substantive changes to the document will be differentiated in blue, noting date of change.

The Iowa Department of Education's (Department) "letter to the field" summarizing legislation enacted through the 2025 Session of the 91st Iowa General Assembly is organized by Iowa's state education system priorities:

1. Supporting a Strong Teacher Pipeline
2. Strengthening Evidence-Based Literacy and Math Instruction
3. Narrowing and Closing Achievement Gaps through Accountability and Support
4. Empowering Students with Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success
5. Promoting Vibrant, Safe, and Healthy Learning Environments

The "letter to the field" also includes summaries of:

6. Appropriations
7. Additional Updates



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Contents

1. Supporting a Strong Teacher Pipeline 4

HF787 - Department Technical Improvements (Teacher Salary Supplement, Teacher Preparation, Out-of-state Placement, Online State Job Posting System, Teacher Salary Minimums) (pre-filed) 4

HF784 - Math Counts Act (Student Screening and Progress Monitoring, Student Interventions and Personalized Math Plans, State Comprehensive Math Plan, Family Resources, Professional Learning, Educator Preparation Program Accreditation) (pre-filed) 5

2. Strengthening Evidence-Based Literacy and Math Instruction 6

HF784 - Math Counts Act (Student Screening and Progress Monitoring, Student Interventions and Personalized Math Plans, State Comprehensive Math Plan, Family Resources, Professional Learning, Educator Preparation Program Accreditation) (pre-filed) 6

HF890 - Department Administration (Community College Reporting, National Board Certification and Dyslexia Endorsement, Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired/Iowa School for the Deaf, Community College Instructor Definitions) (pre-filed) 7

3. Narrowing and Closing Achievement Gaps through Accountability and Support 8

SF369 - Civics Examination, Graduation Requirement (pre-filed) 8

HF787 - Department Technical Improvements (Teacher Salary Supplement, Teacher Preparation, Out-of-state Placement, Online State Job Posting System, Teacher Salary Minimums) (pre-filed) 9

HF785 - Charter School Board Membership (pre-filed) 9

SF277 - Compulsory Education, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism 9

HF870 - Course in Religious Instruction, Compulsory Education, and Chronic Absenteeism 10

HF392 - Year-round School in Grades 9-12 11

HF190 - State Summative Assessments, Online Administration, and Remote Proctoring 11

HF393 - Iowa School Performance Profile, Dropout Metric 12

4. Empowering Students with Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success 13

HF316 - Career Education, Middle School Career Exploration, Industry-recognized Credential Diploma Seal (pre-filed) 13

HF890 - Department Administration (Community College Reporting, National Board Certification and Dyslexia Endorsement, Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired/Iowa School for the Deaf, Community College Instructor Definitions) (pre-filed) 14

HF972 - Rural Healthcare, Healthcare Professional Incentive Program (pre-filed) 14

HF117 - National Guard Service Professional Qualifications Scholarship Program (pre-filed) 15

HF118 - National Guard Service Scholarship Program (pre-filed) 15

SF278 - Robotics Student Organizations, CTSOs, Extracurricular Competitions 16

HF295 - Accreditation of Postsecondary Educational Institutions 16

5. Promoting Vibrant, Safe, and Healthy Learning Environments 17

HF782 - Student Access to Personal Electronic Devices during Instructional Time, School Safety Plans (pre-filed) 17

SF275 - Purple Star School Initiative (pre-filed) 18

SF583 - School Safety Assessment Team (pre-filed) 18

SF659 - Standing Appropriations (Appropriations, Student Abuse by School Employees, Open Enrollment Modified Supplemental Amount) 19
HF865 - Harassment or Bullying of Students 20
HF835 - School Personnel Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder Training, Department Work Group on Health Care-related Training for School Personnel 20
HF783 - Athletic Conference Realignment Committee 22
HF189 - Nonpublic School Students, Extracurricular Interscholastic Athletics 22
6. Appropriations 24
SF167 - State Supplemental Aid 24
SF647 - Education Appropriations 24
SF659 - Standing Appropriations (Appropriations, Student Abuse by School Employees, Open Enrollment Modified Supplemental Amount) 25
SF660 - Sports Wagering and Tourism Appropriations (Education Support Personnel Compensation Supplement, Division of Special Education Appropriation) 26
7. Additional Updates 28
HF299 - Immunization Exemption Information 28
HF395 - School Bus Driver Training 28
HF856 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities 29
SF175 - Human Growth and Development 29
SF288 - Postsecondary Student Pregnancy or Recent Birth Accommodations 30
SF418 - Gender and Sex, Statutory Construction 31

1. Supporting a Strong Teacher Pipeline

HF787 - Department Technical Improvements (Teacher Salary Supplement, Teacher Preparation, Out-of-state Placement, Online State Job Posting System, Teacher Salary Minimums) (pre-filed)

Division I. Modifies the process for the calculation of teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil by specifying the Department of Management is to calculate an amount necessary to meet the teacher minimum salary requirements, which include:

- Costs associated with the employer's share of contributions to the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System and the employer's share of the tax imposed by the federal Insurance Contributions Act.
- The minimum teacher salary requirement for teachers with at least twelve years of experience, who have had a bona fide retirement from employment with a covered employer and who have returned to covered full-time employment with a covered employer as a teacher, with a salary of $50,000.

Directs the Department of Management to increase the teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil for the budget year beginning July 1, 2025, for a school district that incorrectly reported a teacher's years of experience on the fall 2023 Basic Educational Data Survey, and the difference would have resulted in an additional per pupil amount for the budget year beginning July 1, 2024. A district will be eligible to receive the difference between the teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil that would have been calculated if not for the incorrect reporting, and the teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil actually calculated.

The portion of the Act related to the calculation of the teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil was effective upon enactment on June 6, 2025.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Kassandra Cline, School Business Operations - kassandra.cline@iowa.gov

Division II. Modifies provisions related to pre-student teaching field experiences for students enrolled in a teacher intern preparation program by specifying the experience may, not shall, total at least 50 hours in duration.

Strikes the requirement that a student provide an offer of employment prior to completion of a program designed to assist students in attaining a teacher intern license.

Allows a student to be credited a minimum of one week, but not more than 10 weeks, toward the 14-week student teaching experience if the student has prior work experience as a substitute teacher.

Strikes the requirement that a student hold a paraeducator certification in order for prior work as a paraeducator to count toward the 14-week student teaching experience.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Maryam Rod Szabo, Educator Quality - maryam.rodszabo@iowa.gov

*See **Division III** regarding Out-of-State Placement in Narrowing and Closing Achievement Gaps.*

Division IV. Reestablishes the online state job posting system (i.e., TeachIowa) under the Department.

Requires a school district, charter school, or area education agency to submit all job openings for posting on the system and maintain all unfilled job openings on the system. An accredited nonpublic school may use the system.

Strikes the requirement that a school district, charter schools, area education agency, and Department of Education submit job openings to the IowaWorks job posting system.

Implementation updates:

The TeachIowa job posting system can be accessed at iowa.schoolspring.com.

Point of contact:
TeachIowa team - teachiowa@iowa.gov

Division V. Permits, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and each subsequent fiscal year, a career teacher, model teacher, mentor teacher, or lead teacher, who holds a valid Iowa teaching license, who has been a teacher for at least 12 years, who has had a bona fide retirement from employment with a covered employer, to return to covered full-time employment with a covered employer at a salary of not less than $50,000.

Point of contact:
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System provides assistance via the call center, website information, education sessions, and in-person appointments. Please visit ipers.org for information and resources.

Divisions II, IV, and V are effective on July 1, 2025.

HF784 - Math Counts Act (Student Screening and Progress Monitoring, Student Interventions and Personalized Math Plans, State Comprehensive Math Plan, Family Resources, Professional Learning, Educator Preparation Program Accreditation) (pre-filed)

Specifies that teacher preparation programs are to include specific criteria for preparation in methods of teaching mathematics, which may be satisfied by requiring teacher candidates who will be teaching mathematics to complete the following:

- Mathematics methods coursework and demonstrating competency in number sense, learning progressions, conceptual understanding, and procedural fluency; and
- Application in mathematics, including implementation of high-quality instructional materials aligned with Iowa academic standards for mathematics.

HF784 is effective on July 1, 2025.

See provisions regarding Student Screening and Progress Monitoring, Student Interventions and Personalized Math Plans, State Comprehensive Math Plan, Family Resources, and Professional Learning in Strengthening Evidence-Based Literacy and Math Instruction.

Implementation updates:
[Updated 11/17/2025] A Mathematics Teacher Preparation Workbook, including a program self-study, is available on the Department's website.

Additional information and resources are posted to the Department's Educator Quality and Mathematics Instruction webpages.

Point of contact:
Administrative Consultant Maryam Rod Szabo, Educator Quality - maryam.rodszabo@iowa.gov

2. Strengthening Evidence-Based Literacy and Math Instruction

HF784 - Math Counts Act (Student Screening and Progress Monitoring, Student Interventions and Personalized Math Plans, State Comprehensive Math Plan, Family Resources, Professional Learning, Educator Preparation Program Accreditation) (pre-filed)

Requires each school district to assess all students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 to determine a student's level of proficiency in mathematics. The assessment is to occur three times per school year, using a valid and reliable mathematics screener as identified by the Iowa Department of Education.

Establishes intervention protocols to be used by a school district for students identified as persistently at risk in mathematics, defined as a student who has not met the grade-level benchmark on two consecutive assessments on the valid and reliable mathematics screener used by the school district.

Interventions are to be provided until the student performs at or above benchmark on the statewide summative assessment in mathematics, or achieves benchmark on two consecutive assessments on the valid and reliable mathematics screener used by the school district, whichever occurs first.

Intervention protocols include the following:

- Assessing the student's progress in mathematics at least every other week and implementing interventions and supports to increase mathematics proficiency;
- Developing, in consultation with the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), a personalized mathematics plan detailing interventions and supports that will be provided to the student to increase mathematics proficiency; and
- Based on whether the student is meeting expectations related to mathematics proficiency, providing:
    - Interventions in a small-group setting for students meeting expectations.
    - Intensive interventions for students not meeting expectations.

Directs the Iowa Department of Education to do the following:

- By July 1, 2025, develop and distribute a comprehensive state mathematics plan designed to increase the level of mathematics proficiency attained by students using systematic and sequential approaches to teaching subitizing, cardinality, object counting, verbal counting, spatial relationships, benchmark numbers, and part-part-whole models.
- Develop and distribute family-centered resources to support student development of mathematics knowledge in the home setting.
- Provide evidence-based professional development related to implementing high-quality mathematics instruction to teachers most in need of support, as identified by criteria established by the Iowa Department of Education.
- Create and publish a list of valid and reliable mathematics screeners to identify students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 in need of additional instruction and support in mathematics.

HF784 is effective on July 1, 2025.

See provisions regarding Educator Preparation Program Accreditation in Supporting a Strong Teacher Pipeline.

Implementation updates:

Information and resources are posted to the Department's Mathematics Instruction webpage, including:

- Comprehensive State Mathematics Plan (executive summary),
- Model Personalized Reading Plan,
- Build Math Minds statewide K-6 professional learning,
- Approved Early Mathematics Screening and Progress Monitoring Assessments, and
- High-quality Instructional Materials that schools may elect to purchase.

Points of contact:

Education Program Consultant April Pforts, Mathematics - april.pforts@iowa.gov

Education Program Consultant Christi Donald, Mathematics - christi.donald@iowa.gov

HF890 - Department Administration (Community College Reporting, National Board Certification and Dyslexia Endorsement, Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired/Iowa School for the Deaf, Community College Instructor Definitions) (pre-filed)

Division II. Authorizes the Department to retain any unspent balance within the National Board Certification appropriation and utilize it to provide stipends to individuals who receive an Advanced Dyslexia Specialist endorsement from the Board of Educational Examiners.

The portion of Division II modifying the statutory language for the National Board Certification standing appropriation was effective upon enactment on June 6, 2025.

*See **Division I, III, and IV** in Empowering Students with Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success.*

Implementation updates:

Information and resources will be posted to the Department's Dyslexia webpage when available.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Tom Wood, Academic and Learner Supports - tom.wood@iowa.gov

3. Narrowing and Closing Achievement Gaps through Accountability and Support

SF369 - Civics Examination, Graduation Requirement (pre-filed)

Directs the Department to develop a multiple-choice test that consists of all questions contained in the most recent version of the civics test developed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and distribute the multiple choice test to school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools. The Department is to update the multiple-choice test on or before January 31 following a general election inclusive of a presidential election; the Department will do so accordingly, as well as on an as-needed basis.

Establishes a requirement commencing with the school year starting July 1, 2026 for the board of directors of a school district or authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school to administer the civics exam developed and distributed by the Department to students in grades 9-12. The school district or accredited nonpublic school shall ensure that each student receives one passing score as a condition of graduation.

- A passing score means a student has answered at least 60 percent of the exam questions correctly.
- A student may retake the exam as many times as is necessary to secure a passing score.

A school district or accredited nonpublic school may modify the exam or develop and administer an alternative exam for a student with an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan, who has a severe intellectual disability, or is an English learner.

A school district or accredited nonpublic school is to report the results of the test to the Department by June 30 of each year.

Specifies that a charter school or innovation zone school is subject to requirements related to the administration of the civics exam.

Specifies that individuals completing a high school equivalency diploma are to complete and pass the civics exam as a condition of receiving the high school equivalency diploma.

Directs the Department to study the relationship between high school graduation rates and the number of students who attain a passing score on the required civics exam. The results are to be included in a report submitted to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2029.

SF369 is effective on July 1, 2025. The civics exam is to be administered starting with the 2026-27 school year.

Implementation updates:

Additional information, including the multiple choice exam, will be posted to the Department's Social Studies Instruction webpage when available.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Stefanie Wager, Standards and Practices - stefanie.wager@iowa.gov

HF787 - Department Technical Improvements (Teacher Salary Supplement, Teacher Preparation, Out-of-state Placement, Online State Job Posting System, Teacher Salary Minimums) (pre-filed)

Division III. Establishes a mechanism for school districts of residence to pay the educational component of a student with an out-of-state placement that was not made by the court system or an IEP team, subject to the following:

- The student's healthcare coordination and intervention team has determined that the out-of-state placement is necessary to realize the full benefits of chapter 249A;
- The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services certified the out-of-state placement is necessary to prevent a child in need of assistance petition;
- The Director of the Department of Education determined the out-of-state placement provides the student with the education required under Iowa Code chapter 256B regarding the education of students with special needs.

Provides a mechanism for reimbursing the district of residence if the amount it pays exceeds the amount it generates under the special education weighting plan, and provides accountability from the institution in which the out-of-state placement was made.

Division III is effective on July 1, 2025.

*See **Division I, II, IV, and V** in Supporting a Strong Teacher Pipeline.*

Point of contact:
Bureau Chief Betsy Lin, Evaluation, Instruction, and Services - betsy.lin@iowa.gov

HF785 - Charter School Board Membership (pre-filed)

Maintains the requirement that the majority of the governing board of a charter school established under Iowa Code chapter 256E (school board and founding group model) must consist of individuals from the geographic area served by the charter school, and permits not more than one member of the governing board to be a resident of another state.

Requires all members of the governing board to be citizens of the United States.

HF785 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Point of contact:
Charter School Team - charters@iowa.gov

SF277 - Compulsory Education, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism

Directs the Department, in consultation with the Iowa County Attorneys Association, to develop a model policy that county attorneys may reference when determining whether and to what extent to enforce the provisions of Chapter 299, and to distribute the model policy to county attorneys, school districts, and accredited nonpublic schools.

Specifies that the attendance policy and requirements adopted by the board of directors of a school district pursuant to Iowa Code section 299.1 shall not apply to a child who:

- Is a military applicant undergoing military entrance processing;
- Is engaged in military service;
- Is traveling to attend a funeral (consistent with previous Department FAQs); and
- Is traveling to attend a wedding (consistent with previous Department FAQs).

These exemptions are in addition to the six stated in 2024 Iowa Acts, chapter 1152 (Senate File 2435).

Requires that the attendance policy and requirements adopted by the board of directors of a school district pursuant to Iowa Code section 299.1 include a description of how a child may meet the exemptions specified within the section and give reasonable consideration to travel time.

Strikes the requirement for the notice that is to be sent by a school official to the parent(s), guardian(s), or legal/actual custodian of a child who becomes chronically absent be sent by certified mail, and permits the notice to be sent by ordinary mail, electronic mail or electronic message, or in person. A school district must retain a copy of the notice until the child graduates, turns 21 years of age, or is no longer enrolled in the school, whichever occurs first.

Specifies that a school is to initiate a school engagement meeting for a student who is absent from school for greater than or equal to 15 percent of the days or hours of a grading period if a school official determines the child's absences are negatively affecting the child's academic progress.

SF277 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

Information regarding chronic absenteeism, including technical assistance documents, are posted on the Department's Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism webpage. This includes the following:

- Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism Summary for Schools (updated)
- 2025-2026 Attendance Coding (updated)
- Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism FAQs (updated)
- School Attendance, Chronic Absenteeism, and Truancy Model Policy (new)

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Greg Feldmann, School Improvement - greg.feldmann@iowa.gov

HF870 - Course in Religious Instruction, Compulsory Education, and Chronic Absenteeism

Modifies the definition of chronically absent to account for a student attending a course in religious instruction, and adds attending a course in religious instruction to Iowa Code sections 299.1 and 299.2 regarding compulsory education.

Establishes a new section under Iowa Code chapter 299 clarifying that section 299.1 related to attendance requirements and policies adopted by the board of directors of a school district shall not apply to a student attending a course in religious instruction if the following conditions are satisfied:

- The parent or guardian of the student submits notification to the school that the child will be attending a course in religious instruction during the school day (an emancipated minor may provide this notification to the school).
- The course in religious instruction does not require the student to be absent from school for more than five hours per week.
- The private organization offering the course in religious instruction maintains attendance records and makes the records available to the school district or accredited nonpublic school.
- Transportation is provided by the parent or guardian of the child, the child, or the private organization providing the course in religious instruction.
- The private organization providing the course in religious instruction assumes liability for the student during the time in which the student is attending the course.
- The school district or accredited nonpublic school must not expend funds on the course of religious instruction, except de minimis costs associated with necessary administrative functions of the school district or accredited nonpublic school.
- The course of religious instruction must not be held on school district property unless authorized by the board of directors of the school district.

- The child attending the course in religious instruction must agree to complete any school work missed while attending the course.

A school district or accredited nonpublic school shall excuse the child from school for at least one hour but not more than five hours per week upon receiving a request from the child's parent or guardian or from the emancipated minor. Authorizes the pursuit of civil action against the school district if it is alleged that the school district has violated the terms of this section

HF870 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

Additional information on HF870 will be incorporated into the Department's chronic absenteeism resources posted on the Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism webpage.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Greg Feldmann, School Improvement - greg.feldmann@iowa.gov

HF392 - Year-round School in Grades 9-12

Prior to the Act, a school district or accredited nonpublic school could apply for a year-round school calendar for prekindergarten through grade 8. This act modifies the law to also allow for grades 9-12.

Following a public hearing on any such proposal, the board of directors of a school district and the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school may apply to the Department for authorization to maintain a year-round school calendar at an attendance center. Applications for a year-round school are due November 1 of the preceding school year.

HF392 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

The year-round school application for prekindergarten through grade 12 is available through the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA) system.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Eric Heitz, School Improvement - eric.heitz@iowa.gov

HF190 - State Summative Assessments, Online Administration, and Remote Proctoring

Permits a school district, accredited nonpublic school, or charter school providing instruction primarily in an online format, that meets the requirements for the delivery of online instruction established under Iowa Code section 256.7, subsection 32 and the corresponding administrative rules, to administer the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), in an online setting that is similar to the student's regular academic instruction.

Establishes the following criteria that must be met to provide a required state assessment in an online setting:

- The student takes the assessment at a date and time that are assigned by personnel designated by the school district, accredited nonpublic school, or charter school, provided that a district that chooses to offer this option to students will need to proctor the assessment in the last week of the operational test window. For the upcoming school year, this is tentatively set for May 4-8, 2026.
- The student participates in a synchronous assessment session that is initiated and managed by personnel designated by the school district, accredited nonpublic school, or charter school.
- The student takes the assessment using a device and an assessment platform that allow an assessment proctor to monitor the student for the duration of the assessment through a video feed that allows the assessment proctor to view the student taking the assessment and the student's background.

    - If the device or assessment platform does not allow an assessment proctor to monitor the student for the duration of the assessment through a video feed in accordance with subparagraph part (A), the requirements of this subparagraph subdivision shall be satisfied if an assessment proctor is able to, through the use of a second device, monitor the student for the duration of the assessment through a video feed that allows the assessment proctor to view the student taking the assessment and the student's background.
- The school district, accredited nonpublic school, or charter school maintains a ratio of students taking the assessment to assessment proctors of not greater than 10 to one.
- The student does not exit the assessment session until instructed to do so by the assessment proctor.
- An assessment administrator employed by the school district, accredited nonpublic school, or charter school verifies student submission of the assessment.

HF190 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

Additional information, such as any administration, proctoring, and technology requirements, will be forthcoming from Iowa Testing Programs.

Point of contact:

Division Administrator Jay Pennington, Teacher Quality and Innovation - jay.pennington@iowa.gov.

HF393 - Iowa School Performance Profile, Dropout Metric

Specifies, for purposes of calculating a school performance grade, that a student who returns to school after dropping out and subsequently drops out again shall not adversely affect a school's performance grade.

Note that the school performance profiles do not include a dropout metric. The graduation rate included in a school's accountability score already takes into account a student who may drop out of school multiple times. The graduation rate formula only counts a student once, even if the student drops out multiple times. Additionally, a student who drops out in multiple districts is only counted in the last district in which the student was enrolled.

HF393 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Point of contact:

Division Administrator Jay Pennington, Teacher Quality and Innovation - jay.pennington@iowa.gov.

4. Empowering Students with Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success

HF316 - Career Education, Middle School Career Exploration, Industry-recognized Credential Diploma Seal (pre-filed)

Adds career planning and pathways to the offer-and-teach requirements starting in grades 5-8, which are to include career investigation, career connections, and career intentions designed to assist students in completing the Individual Career and Academic Planning (ICAP) process starting in grade 8.

Point of contact:

[Updated 11/17/2025] A revised District Career and Academic Planning Template, incorporating the new career guidance components for grades 5-8, is available on the Department's website. Please also refer to the HF316 Middle School Career Guidance Overview.

Education Program Consultant Cale Hutchings, interim Career and Academic Planning point of contact - cale.hutchings@iowa.gov.

Implementation updates:

Please refer to the Middle School Career Development Overview for a summary of requirements of the enacted legislation. Additional information will be posted to the Department's Career and Academic Planning webpage when available.

Directs the Department to publish a list of industry-recognized credentials (IRCs) or certifications that are attainable by students enrolled in grades 9-12, and that are aligned with career and technical education (CTE) service areas.

Directs the Department to develop and distribute to school districts a seal aligned to the list of IRCs or certifications published by the Department.

School districts shall affix such seals to the high school transcript and certificate of a student who secures a listed IRC or certificate aligned to the student's CTE program of study.

Establishes a process for school districts to report to the Department any student who attains an IRC that is on the list of credentials maintained by the Department.

HF316 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

Please refer to the approved Industry-Recognized Credentials List for the 2025-26 school year on the Department's Industry-Recognized Credentials webpage.

[Updated 11/17/2025] Please refer to the Industry-Recognized Credentials Seal Guidelines for information on the IRC diploma seal requirements.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Heather Meissen, CTE and Postsecondary Readiness - heather.meissen@iowa.gov

HF890 - Department Administration (Community College Reporting, National Board Certification and Dyslexia Endorsement, Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired/Iowa School for the Deaf, Community College Instructor Definitions) (pre-filed)

Division I. Consolidates several community college-related reporting requirements into the annual Condition of Community Colleges Report.

Implementation updates:

The new report, recently converted to an interactive data visualization dashboard with multiple years of data, can be found on the Iowa Student Outcomes website.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Amy Gieseke, Community Colleges - amy.gieseke@iowa.gov

*See **Division II** in Strengthening Evidence-Based Instruction.*

Division III. Clarifies the applicability of certain administrative and disciplinary procedures related to employees with the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI) and the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD). Directs the Iowa Department of Administrative Services to consult with the Department in establishing an annual compensation schedule for employees of IESBVI/ISD.

Point of contact:

Superintendent Chris Kaftan, ISD/IESVI - chris.kaftan@iaedb.org

Division IV. Establishes definitions related to continuing education instructor and noncredit instructor employed by a community college.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Amy Gieseke, Community Colleges - amy.gieseke@iowa.gov

Divisions I, III, and IV are effective on July 1, 2025.

HF972 - Rural Healthcare, Healthcare Professional Incentive Program (pre-filed)

Divisions III and IV. Establishes the Healthcare Professional Incentive Program for the purpose of offering awards to recruit and retain eligible health care professionals for employment in eligible practice areas. The Bureau of Iowa College Aid is to administer the program, in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Specifies that priority for awards shall be given to an applicant fulfilling a full-time employment obligation in the state. Establishes criteria for the determination of eligible healthcare professions, distribution of awards, and definitions applicable to the program.

Establishes protocols for the phase out of several existing, now-duplicative loan repayment and income bonus programs, including:

- Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program;
- Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program;
- Healthcare Professional Recruitment Program;
- Healthcare Award Program; and
- Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program.

HF972, Division III is effective on July 1, 2025. Division IV was effective upon enactment on May 28, 2025.

Implementation updates:
Details will be posted to the Department's Loan Repayment and Income Bonus Programs webpage when available.

Point of contact:
Bureau Chief David Ford, Iowa College Aid – david.ford@iowa.gov

HF117 - National Guard Service Professional Qualifications Scholarship Program (pre-filed)

Establishes the National Guard Service Professional Qualification Scholarship program to be administered by the Bureau of Iowa College Aid for members of the Iowa National Guard participating in a short-term education program that is not eligible for Federal Student Aid, and leads to a credential. To be eligible for the program, an individual must:

- Be a resident of Iowa and a member of an Iowa Army or Air National Guard unit while receiving the scholarship award.
- Have satisfactorily completed required initial active duty training.
- Maintain satisfactory performance of duty.
- Be enrolled in a program approved by the Adjutant General through an eligible postsecondary institution.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress within the program.
- Submit necessary application forms to the National Guard and Adjutant General, and apply for all nonrepayable state and federal financial aid for which the individual is eligible.

Authorizes the Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard to publish a list of approved education programs leading to a credential which are eligible under the scholarship program.

Defines credential as a postsecondary certificate or other competency-based credential that is not authorized for federal student aid under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and does not include an associate degree or any degree beyond an associate degree.

HF117 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:
Additional details will be posted to the Department's Scholarships and Grants webpage when available.

Point of contact:
Financial Aid Program Specialist Tracy Davis, Iowa College Aid - tracy.davis@iowa.gov

HF118 - National Guard Service Scholarship Program (pre-filed)

Modifies the National Guard Service Scholarship program by specifying that the maximum award under the program is equal to the tuition rate at the postsecondary institution in which the individual is enrolled, less any financial aid received under the federal tuition assistance program established under 10 §U.S.C. 2007.

HF118 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:
Additional details will be posted to the Department's Scholarships and Grants webpage when available.

Point of contact:
Financial Aid Program Specialist Tracy Davis, Iowa College Aid - tracy.davis@iowa.gov

SF278 - Robotics Student Organizations, CTSOs, Extracurricular Competitions

Requires the Department to provide educational resources and technical assistance to school districts for chartering career and technical student organizations (CTSOs), including CTSOs related to robotics, robotics teams, and robotics competitions.

Permits the state's athletic associations to sponsor or administer interscholastic contests or competitions related to robotics.

SF278 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

The Department is working with SkillsUSA Iowa and TSA state directors to provide resources to CTE programs, including instructional materials and updates for student competitions. Please find information on the Department's CTSO webpage.

The Iowa High School Boys Athletic Association or Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union also will provide additional information on sponsored competitions.

Point of contact:

Education Program Consultant Cale Hutchings, Career and Technical Education and Postsecondary Readiness - cale.hutchings@iowa.gov

HF295 - Accreditation of Postsecondary Educational Institutions

Replaces references in statute to the postsecondary accreditation organization, Higher Learning Commission, with "any federally recognized accreditor of postsecondary educational institutions."

Establishes a new Iowa Code chapter 261K which prohibits an accrediting agency from taking adverse action against a public institution of higher education in the state of Iowa for complying with state law or refusing to violate state law.

Allows a public institution of higher education that is negatively affected by an adverse action taken by an accrediting agency to bring civil action against an accrediting agency. Requires the Attorney General to authorize the civil action.

The Act was effective upon enactment on May 6, 2025.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Robin Lilienthal, Community Colleges - robin.lilienthal@iowa.gov

5. Promoting Vibrant, Safe, and Healthy Learning Environments

HF782 - Student Access to Personal Electronic Devices during Instructional Time, School Safety Plans (pre-filed)

Requires the board of directors of a school district to adopt policies restricting student use of personal electronic devices during classroom instructional time. Personal electronic devices are defined in the Act as including, but not limited to, electronic communication equipment, mobile phones, smart phones, video game devices, and portable media players.

Establishes the minimum components of the policy to be adopted by the board of directors of a school district, including:

- Identify policies and information related to various educational devices and technologies that will be made available to students for instructional purposes.
- Identify the methods that a parent or guardian of a student may use to communicate with the student during school hours, or while the student is participating in a school-sponsored activity.
- Identify the methods that a parent or guardian of a student may use to communicate with the student during an emergency situation.
- Include protocols that the school district will use to securely store a student's personal electronic device when such device is in the possession of the school district.
- Specify the discipline associated with a student's violation of the policies, including the discipline associated with a student's use of a personal electronic device during classroom instruction or during the administration of an assessment.
- Establish a process through which a student's parent or guardian may petition the school district to allow the student to maintain access to their personal electronic device during the portion of the school day in which classroom instructional time is delivered, if the student's parent or guardian can establish that there is a legitimate reason related to the student's physical or mental health for the student to maintain access to the device during such time.
- Allow a student who has an individualized education program, or a plan under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, to maintain access to the student's personal electronic device during the portion of the school day in which classroom instructional time is delivered if the student's individualized education program, or plan under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, requires the student to maintain such access.

School board policies adopted prior to the enactment date of the Act are expected to include the above minimum components.

Requires the Department to develop and distribute a model policy by May 1, 2025 that, if adopted, would satisfy the requirements of Iowa Code section 279.87 as established by the Act regarding the use of personal electronic devices during instructional time.

Permits the board of directors of a school district to adopt a policy that is more stringent than the minimum requirements specified in the Act.

Implementation updates:

The Model Policy Implementing House File 782: Personal Electronic Devices in Schools was provided by the Department on April 30, 2025. Districts can choose to use or adapt the Department's model policy or adopt their own policy to satisfy its responsibilities established by the legislation

Point of contact:

General Counsel Thomas Mayes - thomas.mayes@iowa.gov

Directs the Department to consult with the Iowa Department of Public Safety on revisions to high-quality emergency operations plans developed pursuant to Iowa Code section 280.30 in light of the provisions of the

Act, that need to be adopted by school districts by July 1, 2025 and may be adopted by accredited nonpublic schools. Directs both agencies to provide support and guidance to school districts and accredited nonpublic schools in the revision of emergency operations plans to conform with the requirements of the Act.

HF782 is effective upon enactment on April 30, 2025.

Implementation updates:

The Department, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Governor's School Safety Bureau, held a webinar on June 17, 2025 to provide insight on the modification of the emergency operations plan to incorporate local school district policies regarding the use of personal electronic devices. A recording of this webinar is available on the Department's Legislative Information webpage.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Kassandra Cline, School Business Operations - kassandra.cline@iowa.gov

SF275 - Purple Star School Initiative (pre-filed)

Directs the Department to develop and administer a Purple Star School Initiative. Applicant schools must demonstrate a commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families with the goal of increasing such support in their school and in schools across Iowa.

SF275 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

[Updated 11/17/2025] Program requirements, an application form, and review timeline are posted to the Department's Purple Star School Program website.

Point of contact:

Veterans and Military Education Program Consultant Jathan Chicoine, Community Colleges - jathan.chicoine@iowa.gov

SF583 - School Safety Assessment Team (pre-filed)

Permits the board of directors of a school district or authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school to establish a multidisciplinary school safety assessment team, which may consist of the following personnel:

- A local law enforcement official.
- A representative from juvenile court services.
- A mental health professional.
- A social services representative.
- A school official.

Authorizes a school safety assessment team to do the following:

- Coordinate resources and assess and intervene when a student enrolled in the school district or accredited nonpublic school exhibits behavior that may pose a threat to the safety of the school district or accredited nonpublic school, employees of the school district or accredited nonpublic school, or other student enrolled in the school district or accredited nonpublic school.
- Share or request records or information in accordance with section 29D.1.
- Request records from the state court administrator.

Permits a covered entity and school to share records or information related to a student who is experiencing or is at risk of an emotional disturbance or mental illness, or who poses an articulable and significant threat to the health and safety of any person, provided such records or information are reasonably necessary to ensure access to appropriate services for such students, or to ensure the safety of such students or others, with any other such covered entity or school.

- A school is defined as a school corporation, nonpublic school, charter school established under Iowa Code chapter 256E or 256F, or a contracted service or support provider of such entities.
- A covered entity is defined as a criminal or juvenile justice agency; a city, county, or township; a state agency; or contracted service or support provider of such entities.

SF583 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

The Department will coordinate with the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Governor's School Safety Bureau to identify resources for the implementation of school safety assessment teams available on the Governor's School Safety Bureau webpage.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Kassandra Cline, School Business Operations - kassandra.cline@iowa.gov

Governor's School Safety Bureau team - School.Safety@dps.state.ia.us

SF659 - Standing Appropriations (Appropriations, Student Abuse by School Employees, Open Enrollment Modified Supplemental Amount)

Division VI. Implements a new investigative process under Iowa Code section 232E for the investigation of alleged student abuse by a school employee (Division VI). The new investigative process under section 232E replaces the investigative process under Iowa Code section 280.17 (chapter 102 investigations).

- Assigns investigative responsibility to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Investigations are to be commenced within 24 hours of receiving the report and completed within 30 days of receiving the report.
- Directs the DHHS to notify the board of directors of a school district or authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school, and the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE), if a report that constitutes student abuse by a school employee is received through an identifiable source.
    - Upon receiving the report, the school employee is to be placed on administrative leave and prohibited from entering school property until the investigation is complete.

Division VII. Modifies Iowa Code section 280.17 related to the investigation of student abuse by a school employee by directing the board of directors of a school district or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school to cooperate with an investigation commenced by DHHS pursuant to Iowa Code section 232E.

- Specifies that a school employee is to be terminated if the investigation report produced by DHHS determines the school employee committed student abuse.
- Adds commission of student abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 232E.1 as grounds for immediate suspension from duties as a school bus driver.

SF659 is effective on July 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified.

See provisions regarding Appropriations and Open Enrollment Modified Supplemental Amount in Appropriations.

Implementation resources:

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services developed a fact sheet on this new process, which is posted on the Department's Protecting Student Safety webpage. Additional information will be forthcoming following the determination of the Department of Health and Human Services supports.

Points of contact:

General Counsel Thomas Mayes - thomas.mayes@iowa.gov

Bureau Chief Mike Cavin, Educational Examiners - mike.cavin@iowa.gov

HF865 - Harassment or Bullying of Students

Modifies the definition of "harassment" and “bullying” under Iowa Code section 280.28, which establishes requirements for the adoption of policies addressing bullying and harassment, investigating allegations of bullying and harassment, and reporting instances of bullying and harassment.

The definition, as modified, adds reference to repeated and targeted conduct toward another student, and clarifies that the conduct does not have to be based on an actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the other student. The definition will read as follows:

> *[A]ny repeated and targeted electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which that creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:*
> *(1) Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or property.*
> *(2) Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student’s physical or mental health.*
> *(3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s academic performance.*
> *(4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.*

Strikes the definition of “trait or characteristic of the student” under Iowa Code section 280.28.

Note that the bullying and harassment policy must be considered in conjunction with other relevant laws and policies including: Title VI, Title IX, IDEA, 504, and civil rights acts.

HF865 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

Additional information will be posted to the Department’s Bullying and Harassment webpage once available.

Point of contact:

Education Program Consultant Kay Augustine, Academics and Learner Supports - kay.augustine@iowa.gov

HF835 - School Personnel Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder Training, Department Work Group on Health Care-related Training for School Personnel

Requires each public school and each accredited nonpublic school to provide training to all school personnel by Dec. 31, 2026, on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of seizures and the appropriate steps for seizure first aid. School personnel responsible for the supervision or care of students shall thereafter complete seizure recognition and first-aid training on a biennial basis. Any training or guidelines must be consistent with the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Implementation updates:

Seizure First Aid training is 30 minutes long and available on-demand, online by the Epilepsy Foundation.

Requires, starting with the school year beginning July 1, 2025, that the board of directors of each school district and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school have at least one school employee at each school who has met the training requirements necessary to administer or assist with the self-administration of all of the following:

- A medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat seizure disorder symptoms or for use as a rescue medication.
- A manual dose of prescribed electrical stimulation using a vagus nerve stimulator magnet approved by the FDA.
- The presence of a school nurse employed full time by a school district or accredited nonpublic school, who assumes responsibility for the administration of seizure medications and the administration oversight of vagus nerve stimulation, shall fulfill this requirement.

Establishes the following protocols, which are applicable if a school district or accredited nonpublic school has an enrolled student with a known diagnosis of epilepsy or seizure disorder, or an enrolled student who is known to currently be taking medication prescribed by a healthcare provider to treat seizure disorder symptoms:

- Secure, on an annual basis and prior to school personnel administering medication for the treatment of a student's seizure disorder symptoms, parent or guardian authorization for the school year that is signed, and which authorizes administration of medication in accordance with the school's policy and procedures.
- Collaborate, upon the request of a student's parent or guardian, in the development of an individual health plan, and a seizure action plan if appropriate. The individual health plan and seizure action plan shall be based on the student's needs and in accordance with licensure requirements and IAC 281.14.2. Maintain all student health records (e.g. authorizations, individual health plans, and seizure action plans) for enrolled students on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator, and distribute information regarding a student's seizure action plan to any school personnel responsible for the supervision or care of the student.

Specifies that a school district or accredited nonpublic school, or an employee or agent of a school district or accredited nonpublic school acting reasonably, in good faith, and in compliance with a student's individual health plan and seizure action plan, shall not be liable for any claim for injuries or damages arising from actions taken to assist a student with the student's needs related to epilepsy or a seizure disorder.

Establishes Work Group on Health Care-related Training for School Personnel, to be convened by the Department. The charge of the work group is to:

- Review and develop a plan to ensure Iowa educators have the health care training necessary to perform their duties and responsibilities.
- Identify which trainings can be best provided over the internet and rotated on a five-year basis for school personnel.
- Develop a plan for a regular cycle of health care-related training review, with the goal of identifying less costly, more efficient options by removing or modifying training or training programs that are no longer relevant, while still providing the appropriate level of training to school personnel.
- Standardize the process of establishing new training requirements in state law or rule to manage stakeholder expectations relating to the timeline for establishing the requirements.
- Create an ongoing review process of training options to find efficiencies, and better utilize time and financial resources through a continuous improvement model for the system moving forward.
- Study and make any recommended changes to rules adopted by the Iowa State Board of Education under 281 IAC ch. 14, relating to individual health plans prepared for students with various health conditions.
- Ensure a public comment process for patient advocacy groups and parents to provide input on the recommendations of the work group.

Requires the Department to compile the work group's findings, recommendations, and any proposal for legislation in a report that is to be submitted to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the State Board of Education by Dec. 1, 2025.

HF835 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation updates:

Additional information on the Work Group on Health Care-related Training for School Personnel is posted to the Department's Boards, Councils and Task Forces webpage when available.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Melissa Walker, Health Services - melissa.walker@iowa.gov

HF783 - Athletic Conference Realignment Committee

Requires the creation of a joint conference realignment committee consisting of 18 members.

Assigns the joint conference realignment committee the following duties:

- Take action to bring about a reasonable conference affiliation and relationship for member schools.
- Review all requests that are submitted to the committee by members of an organization related to changing the extracurricular interscholastic athletics conferences the school belongs to, including moving a member school to a different conference.
- Develop an expedited review process for requests to change an extracurricular interscholastic athletics conference membership that are submitted to the committee by a member school that may be affected by a change in conference membership.
- Review extracurricular interscholastic athletics conference changes at least once every two years.
- Allow a school district or an accredited nonpublic school to appeal orders issued by the committee to the Director of the Department of Education.

Prevents an athletic organization from changing membership of extracurricular interscholastic athletics conferences, including moving a member school to a different conference, unless the conference realignment committee ordered the organization to make such change.

Requires that, in order for a school district or accredited nonpublic school to be included in any extracurricular interscholastic athletics conference, the school must offer at least one extracurricular interscholastic athletics activity for boys and at least one extracurricular interscholastic athletics activity for girls in the fall, winter, and spring. Schools that are not coeducational must offer at least one extracurricular interscholastic athletics activity for boys or girls, as applicable, in the fall, winter, and spring.

Prohibits a member school that withdraws from an extracurricular interscholastic athletics conference without approval from competing in the same extracurricular interscholastic athletics activity in any conference for the two years immediately subsequent to the date the member school district or accredited nonpublic school withdrew, and competing in a tournament sponsored by an organization in the same extracurricular interscholastic athletics activity for the two years immediately subsequent to the date the member school district or accredited nonpublic school withdrew.

HF783 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Points of contact:

Executive Director Tom Keating, Iowa High School Athletic Association - tkeating@iahsaa.org

Executive Director Erin Gerlich, Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union - erin@ighsau.org

HF189 - Nonpublic School Students, Extracurricular Interscholastic Athletics

Requires a school district or nonpublic school count one-quarter of the enrollment in grades 9-11 of the other school district or nonpublic school with which a cooperative agreement under Iowa Code section 280.13A has been established, for purposes of determining the classification of an extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition. Specifies the calculation of enrollment based on one-fourth of an enrollment as required by the Act, shall not impact football classifications until June 30, 2027. This portion of the Act is effective on Aug. 1, 2025.

Requires the board of directors of a school district to allow a resident student enrolled in a nonpublic school to participate in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition provided by the school district through an agreement between the school district and nonpublic school, provided that:

- The nonpublic school has not offered the activity within the past two years; and
- The nonpublic school has not previously entered into a sharing agreement under Iowa Code section 280.13A.

Requires the board of directors of a school district to allow a student who is a resident of a contiguous Iowa school district and enrolled in a nonpublic school to participate in any extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition provided by the school district through an agreement between the school district and nonpublic school, provided that:

- The nonpublic school or the student's resident district has not offered the activity within the past two years; and
- The nonpublic school has not previously entered into a sharing agreement under Iowa Code section 280.13A.

Permits a school district that has established a fee for student participation in an extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition to charge the same fee to the student enrolled in a nonpublic school who is participating in the activity sponsored by the school district. This statute does not independently authorize a fee or fees; it permits a fee that is otherwise chargeable to be applied to a student participating in a school's interscholastic athletic contest or competition.

The portion of the Act regarding participation of a student enrolled in a nonpublic school in a district-sponsored extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition is effective upon enactment on June 6, 2025.

Points of contact:

Executive Director Tom Keating, Iowa High School Athletic Association - tkeating@iahsaa.org

Executive Director Erin Gerlich, Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union - erin@ighsau.org

6. Appropriations

SF167 - State Supplemental Aid

Sets for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026:

- For state supplemental aid (SSA), a two-percent state percent of growth and categorical state percent of growth for FY26 was enacted. Categorical funding includes teacher salary supplement, professional development supplement, early intervention supplement, and Teacher Leadership and Compensation.
- For transportation equity payments, a five-percent growth rate compared to the FY25 amount was enacted. Supports payments to school districts with transportation costs above the statewide average.

Increases the regular program and special education state cost per pupil by $5 to decrease the District Cost Per Pupil variance to $135.

Increases the limit on supplementary weighting for shared operational functions from 21 to 25 additional pupils.

The provisions of SF167 are effective upon enactment on May 19, 2025.

Implementation resources:

Refer to the Legislative Services Agency fiscal note for additional information.

Point of contact:

Fiscal and Policy Analyst John Parker, Iowa Department of Management - john.parker@dom.iowa.gov

SF647 - Education Appropriations

Authorizes or modifies appropriations to the education system including the Department of Education, community colleges, the Board of Regents, and scholarship and grant programs administered by the Bureau of Iowa College Aid, including the following appropriation adjustments under the purview of the Department:

- Department general administration, an increase of $151,558 for 1.00 FTE for a school safety education program consultant.
- Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG), an increase of $300,000.
- Community colleges, an increase of $7.5 million.
- Iowa School for the Deaf, an increase of $342,391, consistent with the 2% increase in SSA, and 1.00 FTE for an executive interpreter.
- Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, an increase of $98,278 consistent with the 2% increase in SSA.
- Online state job posting system (Teach Iowa), restores $265,000 appropriation.
- Therapeutic classroom transportation, eliminates unused appropriation.
- Division of Special Education (Department of Education), a decrease of $5 million from FY25. The Department is appropriated $5 million through SF660, for a combined appropriation of $10 million for the Division of Special Education, with no total change from FY2025.
- Teach Iowa scholar program, an increase of $298,715.
- Healthcare Professional Incentive Program, establishes appropriation of $7,985,911. The Healthcare Professional Incentive Program consists of several consolidated programs including: Health Care Professional Recruitment, Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment, Health Care-Related Loan, Mental Health Practitioner Loan Repayment, and Rural and Community Health Loan Repayment programs.
- Pathways for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) program, a decrease of $200,000. Eliminates the sector partnership provision of the appropriation. There is no change in the amount

appropriated for and distributed to community colleges ($4.8 million) for administration of the PACE program.
- Workforce outcomes reporting, a decrease of $125,000. Transferred $125,000 to Iowa Workforce Development through economic development appropriations (SF645).

Authorizes the standing appropriation for programs to support at-risk children, supplemental assistance for high-need schools, the National Board Certification program, the professional development and teacher quality programs, and the fine arts teacher mentoring program.

Increases the Iowa Tuition Grant nonprofit appropriation by $1,054,141 for FY2025-26. Increases the Iowa Tuition Grant for-profit appropriation by $2,214 for FY2025-26.

Establishes a $50,000 appropriation within the Department for the Court Reporter Equipment Grant Program. Establishes new Iowa Code section 256.231 regarding the Court Reporter Equipment Grant Program under the Department.

Establishes funds for several scholarship and grant programs administered by the Bureau of Iowa College Aid, and permits the use of interest and earnings credited to the funds for bureau administrative purposes. Funds are established for the following programs:

- Iowa Tuition Grant, non- and for-profit
- Iowa Tuition Grant, for-profit
- Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant
- Teach Iowa Scholar
- All Opportunity Scholarship
- Rural Veterinary Care Trust Fund
- Last-Dollar Scholarship
- Future Ready Iowa Grant
- Iowa Workforce Grant and Incentive Program

SF647 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation resources:

For additional information, please see Legislative Services Agency's Senate File 647 Notes on Bills and Amendments.

Point of contact:

Chief Financial Officer Sandra Hurtado-Peters - sandra.hurtado-peters1@iowa.gov

SF659 - Standing Appropriations (Appropriations, Student Abuse by School Employees, Open Enrollment Modified Supplemental Amount)

Authorizes and/or modifies the following standing appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025-26:

- State school foundation aid
  - Replaces $21.9 million General Fund related to property tax assessment limitations with $21.9 million from excess moneys in the Economic Emergency Fund.
  - Reduces the FY26 state school aid funding by $25 million that is attributed to the state aid portion for area education agency (AEA) Special Education Support services.
  - Reduces state aid to school districts and AEAs by $7.5 million that is attributed to the state aid portion for AEA Special Education Support services, per Iowa Code 257.35.
- Nonpublic school transportation
  - Limits the FY26 appropriation to $8,997,091.
  - Requires the appropriation to be prorated if claims exceed the appropriation.
- Sac and Fox settlement education
- Education savings accounts

- Charter schools
- Transportation equity fund

Suspends the state portion of the standing appropriation for instructional support state aid. School districts may use local revenue sources to fund the program.

Modifies 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 782 regarding restrictions on the use of personal electronic devices during instructional time, by striking the reference to charter schools and innovation zone schools included in the section of Iowa Code that requires the Department to develop and distribute a model school board policy. Under HF782, as enacted, charter schools and innovation zone schools are not required to adopt such policies.

Adopts technical corrections to 2025 Iowa Acts, House File 870 (excusal for religious instruction) and Senate File 583 (school threat assessment teams).

Establishes a mechanism for the distribution of funds generated by students enrolled in nonpublic schools for media and educational services, which are paid directly to the AEAs (Iowa Code section 6, new subsection 19B).

SF659 is effective on July 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified above.

Implementation resources:

The Department published a SF659 Implementation FAQ regarding the mechanism for the distribution of education and media services funds.

For additional information, please see Legislative Services Agency's Senate File 659 Notes on Bills and Amendments.

Points of contact:

Chief Financial Officer Sandra Hurtado-Peters - sandra.hurtado-peters1@iowa.gov

Fiscal and Policy Analyst John Parker, Iowa Department of Management - john.parker@dom.iowa.gov

*See **Divisions VI and VII** in Promoting Vibrant, Safe, and Healthy Learning Environments.*

Division VIII. Specifies that if a district experiences more than 45% open-enrolled population, the combined property tax rate for a school district that is granted a modified supplemental amount for a budget year beginning on or after July 1, 2025 shall not exceed the combined property tax rate for the budget year the modified supplemental amount was granted.

Division VIII was effective upon enactment on June 11, 2025.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Kassandra Cline, School Business Operations - kassandra.cline@iowa.gov

SF660 - Sports Wagering and Tourism Appropriations (Education Support Personnel Compensation Supplement, Division of Special Education Appropriation)

Appropriates $14 million in FY2025-26 to supplement education support personnel compensation.

- Requires a school district to report the number of education support personnel to the Department by July 1, 2025, as a condition of receiving a funding supplement.
- Defines education support personnel as regular and part-time employees of a school district who are not salaried.
- Supplemental education support personnel compensation is considered miscellaneous income and cannot be included in any computation of district cost.

The portion of SF660 appropriating funds to the Department for supplemental education support personnel compensation was effective upon enactment on June 11, 2025.

Appropriates $5 million in FY2025-26 to the Department for the Division of Special Education. This is in addition to the $5 million appropriated to the Department for the Division of Special Education under SF647.

The Sports Wagering Receipts Fund was established in FY2020 in the 2019 Iowa Acts, chapter 132 (Sports Wagering and Fantasy Sports Act). The Act authorized sports wagering and fantasy sports contests in the state. The fund receives sports wagering taxes and internet fantasy sports taxes.

SF660 is effective on July 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified above.

Implementation resources:

An email was sent to superintendents on June 17 with instructions on how to complete the required reporting to the Department by the statutory July 1, 2025 deadline. The Department will coordinate with the Iowa Department of Management on the calculation and distribution of the appropriated funds following completion of the reporting process.

For additional information, please see Legislative Services Agency's Senate File 660 Notes on Bills and Amendments.

Point of contact:

Chief Financial Officer Sandra Hurtado-Peters - sandra.hurtado-peters1@iowa.gov

7. Additional Updates

HF299 - Immunization Exemption Information

Directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules requiring school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to include information regarding statutory exemptions, and requirements for an immunization exemption, in any communication to the parent or guardian of a student related to required immunizations.

Adds to the definition of "accredited private institution" for purposes of the Iowa Tuition Grant, a criterion that the institution adopts a policy requiring the institution to include in any communication to students related to immunization requirements, information regarding exemptions to such requirements.

Requires the board of directors of each community college to adopt rules requiring inclusion of information regarding exemptions related to immunizations requirements in any communication to students, that is related to immunization information.

HF299 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation resources:

Additional information on required immunizations and exemption protocols is available on the Department's Student Health Requirements for Schools webpage.

Sample letters that may be used by a school for communication with parent(s)/guardian(s) are available in 13 languages on TransACT. To access the letters, please use the self-onboarding link to register and activate your school account.

Point of contact:

Administrative Consultant Melissa Walker, Health Services - melissa.walker@iowa.gov

HF395 - School Bus Driver Training

Specifies that a school bus driver shall, in addition to meeting the requirements established for school bus drivers under Iowa Code section 321.375 and holding a commercial driver's license issued by the Department of Transportation with a passenger endorsement and school bus endorsement, successfully complete an approved course of instruction for school bus drivers (i.e., STOP training) if required by the school district employing the school bus driver beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

Requires the Department, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Transportation, to adopt rules on or before July 1, 2026, establishing requirements for providers of entry-level driver training that provide for minimum training content, contact hours, and proficiency standards; and must establish a standard training course duration that ensures each training course provides all entry-level driver training requirements and specified school bus driver training requirements, including but not limited to training necessary for a passenger endorsement and a school bus endorsement.

HF395 is effective on Jan. 1, 2026.

Implementation resources:

Additional information will be posted to the Department's Pupil Transportation webpage and communicated via the School Business Alert, once available.

Point of contact:

Bureau Chief Kassandra Cline, School Business Operations - kassandra.cline@iowa.gov

HF856 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities

Division I. Establishes a definition under new Iowa Code chapter 19 for "diversity, equity, and inclusion," "diversity, equity, and inclusion office," and "diversity, equity, and inclusion officer."

Prohibits a state entity from expending funds appropriated by the General Assembly or derived from other sources to establish, sustain, support, or staff a diversity, equity, and inclusion office, or to contract, employ, engage, or hire an individual to serve as a diversity, equity, and inclusion officer. Specifies that the prohibitions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion offices and officers do not apply to certain functions, services, activities, or protocols listed in the section, such as nondiscrimination policies and practices required by federal, state or local law, academic instruction, or creative work or research.

Establishes an enforcement mechanism through the office of the Attorney General.

Division II. Adds community colleges to Iowa Code chapter 261J regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion activities at public institutions of higher education in Iowa.

Division I of HF856 was effective upon enactment on May 27, 2025. Division II is effective on July 1, 2025.

Point of contact:

General Counsel Thomas Mayes - thomas.mayes@iowa.gov

SF175 - Human Growth and Development

Specifies within the statutory requirement for the teaching of age-appropriate and research-based instruction in human growth and development in grades 5-12, the inclusion of the following:

- Instruction related to human development inside the womb.
- A high-definition ultrasound video showing the presence of the brain, heart, and other vital organs in early fetal development.
- A high-quality, computer-generated rendering or animation, or an ultrasound or other real image, that depicts the humanity of the unborn child by showing prenatal human development, starting at fertilization, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development throughout every stage of pregnancy.

[Updated 9/25/2025] At a minimum, this content must be provided at least once during grades five and six, at least once in grades seven and eight, and during the health class required in grades 9-12. How this instruction is provided, in which of these grade bands, and the amount of time the required instruction is provided is a local decision.

Prohibits the use of any book, article, outline, handout, video, or other educational material for the instruction in human growth and development that is produced or provided by an entity that does any of the following:

- Performs abortions.
- Promotes abortions.
- Contracts or subcontracts with an entity that performs or promotes abortions.
- Becomes or continues to be an affiliate of any entity that performs or promotes abortions.
- Regularly makes referrals to an entity that provides or promotes abortions.

[Updated 9/25/2025] Authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules for the administration and implementation of the human growth and development instruction. Senate File 175 does not specifically authorize the Iowa Department of Education to publish a list of required or approved curricular materials.

SF175 is effective on July 1, 2025.

Implementation resources:

General information regarding health instruction is available on the Department's Health Education Instruction webpage.

Point of contact:
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SF288 - Postsecondary Student Pregnancy or Recent Birth Accommodations

Prohibits an institution of higher education governed by the Board of Regents or a community college, inclusive of the faculty, staff, and other employees of such institutions, from requiring a student (defined by the Act as a biological female) enrolled in a course of study or research activity to take a leave of absence, withdraw from a program, or limit the student's participation in academic activities solely due to pregnancy.

Requires a postsecondary institution to make reasonable accommodations to a pregnant student, or a student who has recently given birth, to allow the student to complete a course of study or research. As defined in the Act, reasonable accommodations include but are not limited to:

- Taking additional health and safety measures.
- Allowing a student to reschedule tests and assignment due dates that are missed for reasons related to the student's pregnancy.
- Allowing a student to take a leave of absence.
- Excusing absences for reasons deemed medically necessary due to the pregnancy.

Requires a postsecondary institution to allow a student who is pregnant or has recently given birth:

- An additional, reasonable period of time to take examinations that is consistent with the policies of the postsecondary institution, and that is mutually agreed to by the student and the postsecondary institution.
- An additional, reasonable period of time to complete a degree or candidacy for a degree that is consistent with the policies of the postsecondary institution, and that is mutually agreed to by the student and the postsecondary institution.
- A leave of absence for a reasonable period of time that is consistent with the policies of the postsecondary institution, and that is mutually agreed to by the student and the postsecondary institution. Following the leave of absence, the student shall be allowed to return to the student's program with the same standing as the student left, to the extent reasonably possible.

Directs a postsecondary institution to maintain a written policy for students about pregnancy discrimination, and procedures for addressing pregnancy discrimination complaints filed pursuant to federal and state law, and to provide notice of the protections afforded to pregnant students and students who have recently given birth by prominently posting a notice of such protections on the school's website, and providing information through the postsecondary institution's medical and/or health center.

Requires a postsecondary institution to assign responsibility for providing pregnancy and parenting support and protection, to an office of the postsecondary institution other than the office responsible for coordination of the institution's compliance with Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972. The institution shall post the name, location, and contact information of the responsible office on the institution's website. The minimum responsibilities of the office include, but are not be limited to:

- Maintaining current knowledge of the provisions of state law providing for support and protections of students who are pregnant or have recently given birth.
- Overseeing institutional compliance with state law providing for support and protections of students who are pregnant or have recently given birth.
- Understanding and publicizing topics related to pregnancy and parenting in order to enhance campus life and academic performance, including but not limited to: child care availability, breastfeeding accommodations, and pregnancy and parenting assistance from public and private providers.

SF288 is effective on July 1, 2025.

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SF418 - Gender and Sex, Statutory Construction

Establishes a cross reference in Iowa Code section 261I.1 regarding extracurricular athletics eligibility, for the definition of sex to mean the same as defined in Iowa Code section 4.1A.

Modifies the definition of "gender identity" under Iowa Code section 279.78, regarding parental rights in education.

Establishes a definition of "gender theory" in place of the definition of "gender identity" for purposes of prohibited instruction under Iowa Code section 279.80.

Establishes a cross reference in Iowa Code section 280.33, establishing requirements for single- and multiple-occupancy restrooms and changing areas within facilities under the control of a school district or nonpublic school, for the definition of "sex" to mean the same as defined in Iowa Code section 4.1A.

SF418 is effective on July 1, 2025.

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