

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 19, 2025

Agenda Item:	Rules – Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 12 (amend)
State Board Priority:	Goal 1
State Board Role/Authority:	This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 279.50, as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.
Presenter(s):	Thomas A. Mayes General Counsel and Rules Coordinator
Attachment(s):	One
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Board of Education give notice of its intent to amend Chapter 12.
Background:	This proposed rulemaking implements 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175, which adds additional content to human growth and development instruction in grades 5 through 12 and defines the permissible source of the materials used in such instruction. A hearing on a regulatory analysis hearing is scheduled for November 18, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., in Room B-50, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, and by video conference.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

The State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 12, “General Accreditation Standards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 279.50, as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking implements 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175, which adds additional content to human growth and development instruction in grades 5 through 12 and defines the permissible source of the materials used in such instruction.

A hearing on a regulatory analysis hearing is scheduled for November 18, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., in Room B-50, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, and by video conference.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the State Board for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 281—Chapter 4.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the State Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 30, 2025. Comments should be directed to:

Thomas A. Mayes
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.281.8661
Email: thomas.mayes@iowa.gov

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

December 30, 2025

Room B50

8 to 9 a.m.

Grimes State Office Building

Via videoconference:

meet.google.com/nzv-caed-ttz

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the State Board and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special

meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend rule **281—12.2(256)**, definition of “Age-appropriate,” as follows:

“Age-appropriate,” with the exception of the human growth and development, means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group. ~~“Age-appropriate” does not include any material with descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act. A reference or mention of a sex act in a way that does not describe or visually depict a sex act as defined in these rules is not included in the previous sentence. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, “age-appropriate” means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.~~

1. 1. “Age-appropriate” does not include any material with descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act. A reference or mention of a sex act in a way that does not describe or visually depict a sex act as defined in these rules is not included in the previous sentence.

2. 2. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, “age-appropriate” means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

3. 3. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, in grades 5 through 12, “age-appropriate” also includes the video required by

Iowa Code section 279.50(2) “b”(1) and 279.50(3) “b”(1) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

4. 4. For purposes of human growth and development instruction required by Iowa Code section 279.50, “age-appropriate” does not include any book, article, outline, handout, video, or other educational material described in Iowa Code section 279.50(2) “b”(2) and 279.50(3) “b”(2) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **12.5(3)“e”** as follows:

e. Health. Health instruction is as referenced in Iowa Code sections 256.7(26) “a”(3) and 279.50. At least once during either fifth or sixth grade, health instruction will include the video described in Iowa Code section 279.50(2) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **12.5(4)“e”** as follows:

e. Health. Health instruction is as referenced in Iowa Code sections 256.7(26) “a”(3) and 279.50. At least once during either seventh or eighth grade, health instruction will include the video described in Iowa Code section 279.50(3) as amended by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 175.