

Educator Quality (SSB3048, HF2230)

Strengthening teacher preparation without adding barriers to licensure.

The Iowa Department of Education's Educator Quality bill proposes two targeted updates to ensure new teachers are better prepared to meet student needs while allowing flexibility for Iowa's teacher preparation programs.

1. Stronger Preparation to Support English Learners and Students with Disabilities

The Issue

New teachers consistently report feeling least prepared to:

- Differentiate instruction for English learners
- Support students with disabilities

The Iowa Department of Education's **annual "Novice Teacher Survey"** shows:

- Only **44% feel well prepared** to differentiate for English learners
- **63% feel prepared** to support students with disabilities
- These are two of the lowest rated preparedness areas among novice teachers across the state.

The Solution

- Establish **minimum statewide training expectations** for all teacher candidates in:
 - English-language instruction
 - Special education
- Require hands-on practicum experience focused on differentiating instruction.
- Strengthen requirements for candidates seeking an English-language instruction endorsement.

Why It Matters

- Every Iowa classroom has children who are diverse learners.
- This ensures all new teachers enter the profession with baseline skills to support every student.

2. End-of-Program Assessment to Improve Preparation (Not Licensure)

The Issue

Iowa is **one of the few states** that does not require a consistent, statewide measure of what teacher candidates know at the end of their preparation programs.

The Solution

- Require teacher preparation programs to administer a state selected end of program assessment
- Assessment results will be used for:
 - Program improvement
 - Targeted remediation and support
- ☒ This assessment is NOT required to graduate.
- ☒ This assessment is NOT required for licensure.
- ☒ This assessment is NOT required for current teachers.

Why It Matters

As we continue to work to accelerate student learning and close achievement gaps this provides Iowa with:

- Better insight into teacher readiness
- Stronger preparation programs
- More transparency for continuous improvement

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