

House File 316 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 316
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 44)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to career education, including middle school
2 career exploration and industry-recognized credential seals
3 and certificates for high school students.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2025, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 69. a. Develop and make available on
4 the department's internet site a list of industry-recognized
5 credentials or certifications that are attainable by students
6 enrolled in grades nine through twelve and that are aligned
7 with career and technical education service areas.

8 b. Develop and distribute to school districts a seal
9 aligned to the list of industry-recognized credentials or
10 certifications described in paragraph "a" to be affixed to high
11 school transcripts or certificates pursuant to section 279.87.

12 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2025, are
13 amended to read as follows:

14 3. a. ~~The All of the~~ following areas shall be taught in
15 grades one through six:

16 (1) English-language arts,~~social.~~

17 (2) Social studies,~~mathematics, science, health, physical.~~

18 (3) Mathematics.

19 (4) Science.

20 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include the
21 characteristics of communicable diseases.

22 (6) Physical education,~~traffic.~~

23 (7) Traffic safety,~~music, visual.~~

24 (8) Music.

25 (9) Visual art,~~and, subject.~~

26 (10) Subject to [section 279.80](#), age-appropriate and
27 research-based human growth and development.

28 (11) In grades five and six, career planning and pathways.
29 The career planning and pathways curriculum shall include
30 career investigation, career connections, and career intentions
31 to help such students understand career opportunities in order
32 to fully utilize the individualized career and academic plan
33 developed pursuant to [section 279.61](#).

34 b. Computer science instruction incorporating the standards
35 established under [section 256.7, subsection 26](#), paragraph

1 "a", subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade
2 level commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023.
3 ~~The health curriculum shall include the characteristics of~~
4 ~~communicable diseases.~~

5 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall
6 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the elementary
7 program.

8 4. a. The All of the following shall be taught in grades
9 seven and eight:

10 (1) English-language arts; social.

11 (2) Social studies, including instruction related to
12 civics; mathematics; science; health; .

13 (3) Mathematics.

14 (4) Science.

15 (5) Health. The health curriculum shall include
16 age-appropriate and research-based information regarding the
17 characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.

18 (6) Age-appropriate and research-based human growth and
19 development; career.

20 (7) Career instruction, exploration, and development;
21 physical, which shall include career investigation, career
22 connections, and career intentions.

23 (8) Physical education; music; and visual.

24 (9) Music.

25 (10) Visual art.

26 b. Computer science instruction incorporating the standards
27 established under [section 256.7, subsection 26](#), paragraph "a",
28 subparagraph (4), shall be offered in at least one grade level
29 commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career
30 exploration and development shall be designed so that students
31 are appropriately prepared to create an individual career
32 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate
33 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned
34 with the six career and technical education service areas as
35 defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph "h", incorporate relevant

1 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness,
2 and introduce students to career opportunities within the
3 local community and across this state. ~~The health curriculum~~
4 ~~shall include age-appropriate and research-based information~~
5 ~~regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.~~

6 c. The state board as part of accreditation standards shall
7 adopt curriculum definitions for implementing the program in
8 grades seven and eight. ~~However, this~~

9 d. This subsection shall not apply to the teaching of career
10 instruction, exploration, and development in nonpublic schools.

11 **Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 279.87 Industry-recognized credentials**
12 **or certifications — recognition.**

13 1. A school district shall report to the department of
14 education the identity of a student enrolled in the school
15 district who attains an industry-recognized credential or
16 certification that is aligned to the student's career and
17 technical education program of study and that is on the list
18 described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph "a", and
19 the specific credential or certification the student attained.
20 The report shall be confidential and shall not be a public
21 record subject to disclosure under chapter 22.

22 2. A school district shall recognize high school graduates
23 who, prior to graduation, have attained an industry-recognized
24 credential or certification that is aligned to the student's
25 career and technical education program of study and that is on
26 the list described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph
27 "a", by doing one of the following:

28 a. Affixing the seal described in section 256.9, subsection
29 69, paragraph "b", to the student's high school transcript.

30 b. Providing the student with a certificate to which the
31 seal described in section 256.9, subsection 69, paragraph "b",
32 is affixed.

33 **Sec. 4. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED.** In accordance
34 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
35 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall

1 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
 2 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
 3 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
 4 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
 5 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
 6 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
 7 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
 8 districts.

9

EXPLANATION

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

12 This bill relates to career education, including middle
 13 school career exploration and industry-recognized credential
 14 seals and certificates for high school students.

15 The bill requires the director of the department of
 16 education (DE) to develop and make available on DE's
 17 internet site a list of industry-recognized credentials
 18 or certifications that are attainable by students enrolled
 19 in grades 9 through 12 and that are aligned with career
 20 and technical education service areas. The director must
 21 also develop and distribute to school districts a seal that
 22 is aligned to the list. The bill establishes that school
 23 districts are to report to DE information related to students
 24 who attain an industry-recognized credential or certification
 25 that is aligned to the student's career and technical education
 26 program of study and that is on the list. School districts
 27 must also recognize high school graduates who, prior to
 28 graduation, have attained an industry-recognized credential
 29 or certification that is aligned to the student's career and
 30 technical education program of study and that is on the list by
 31 either affixing the seal developed by the director of DE to the
 32 student's high school transcript or by providing the student
 33 with a certificate to which the seal is affixed.

34 The bill modifies provisions related to the instruction
 35 provided to students enrolled in grades five and six to require

1 instruction related to career planning and pathways, which
2 shall include career investigation, career connections, and
3 career intentions.

4 The bill modifies provisions related to the career
5 exploration and development curriculum provided to students
6 enrolled in grades seven and eight by requiring the provision
7 of a career instruction, exploration, and development
8 curriculum, which shall include career investigation, career
9 connections, and career intentions.

10 The bill makes nonsubstantive, stylistic changes to Code
11 section 256.11(3) and (4), which describe the subjects that
12 must be taught to students enrolled in grades one through
13 eight.

14 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
15 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
16 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
17 district from state school foundation aid received by the
18 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
19 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
20 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
21 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
22 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
23 mandates included in the bill.