



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

UPDATED BILL AND AMENDMENT SUMMARY

H.S. Credit if Completing Unit of Instruction Early SF 2318

Status of Bill: Passed Senate 47-2, on House Calendar
Committee: Education, 23-0
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Lead Democrat: Nielsen
Floor Manager: Gassman

Current Law

Current law for Iowa's high school graduation requirements authorizes a school district or accredited nonpublic school to **consider** that any student, at any grade level, who satisfactorily completes a high school-level unit of instruction has satisfactorily completed a unit for that area of instruction, authorize high school credit for the unit to the student.

Bill Summary

The original bill **required** any student getting high school credit for a class taken at an earlier grade. It did however, have different requirements for students depending on which educational setting they were coming from and wanting to currently attend in high school.

Under the bill, the Iowa State Board of Education rules on graduation requirements are modified so any student at any grade level who satisfactorily completes a high school unit of instruction at any attendance center will be issued credit for that unit from a school district. However, if the student takes a class from an Iowa licensed teacher who does not work for the school district, the school district is allowed to issue high school credit if the student took the course before grade 9.

The language is limited to the public school issuing the credit and eliminates accredited private schools from the Code section for issuing high school credit. Thus, it has different results for credit depending on where the student received their earlier grade instruction and where they are trying to get the credit from for high school.

- Earlier grade public school student going to public high school credit **SHALL** be given.
- Earlier grade private school student going to a public high school credit **MAY** be given.
- Earlier grade public school student going to a private high school, silent, **Unknown** if credit given.

Amendment Summary (As of 3-27 Clip Sheet)

H-8311 by Gassman: Clarifies; Adds Non-Accredited Private and Out of State Students

The amendment clarifies that if a student at any grade level attends public or private school that meets the statute requirement for an accredited school, the student will receive credit from a public school if they satisfactorily completes a high school unit of instruction. That part still requires only public schools issue the credit and not private schools. The focus of the bill then changes to only address a student from non-accredited private school or a student from out of state.

Under the amendment, a school district or accredited nonpublic school is allowed to grant credit to a student who has completed a unit of instruction from another state or a school that does not meet statute requirement for an accredited school. A public school or an accredited nonpublic school may deny credit for a unit of instruction if the student is unable to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter or if they determine that the coursework completed by the student does not meet the state or local standards. The school district or accredited nonpublic is required to provide notice of the denial with the specific reasons for the denial, in writing to the parent or guardian of the student.

New Possible Scenarios Under the Amendment:

- Earlier grade public school or accredited private school student going to public high school, credit **SHALL** be given.
- Earlier grade non-accredited private school student going to a public high school or accredited private school credit **MAY** be given. Credit can be denied without proof of proficiency, or if the student does not meet state or local standards. Requires notice to parent or guardian.
- Out of state student going to a public high school or accredited private school credit **MAY** be given. Credit can be denied without proof of proficiency, or if the student does not meet state or local standards. Requires notice parent or guardian.
- Earlier grade public school student going to a private high school, silent, **Unknown** if credit given.

H-8322 to H-8311 by Gassman: Clarifies and Drops References to Out of State and Non-Accredited Students

The amendment would strike the previous amendment and the bill. It requires that any student seeking high school credit from a class taken in an earlier grade, must come from a public school, or an accredited private school. There would no longer be non-accredited or out of state students involved. The public school or accredited public school are required to issue the credit if the student has satisfactorily completed a high school unit, unless the student is unable to demonstrate proficiency or the school district or accredited nonpublic school determines that the course does not meet local standards. If the credit is denied, the district and nonpublic school is required to provide to the parent or guardian in writing, the reason why the credit was denied.