



## BILL SUMMARY

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# Model Core Curriculum SF 2216

Status of Bill: House Calendar  
Committee: Education (14-9)  
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### BACKGROUND

Iowa is currently the only state that does not have any mandatory statewide measures or standards for curriculum and teaching. In 2005, the Legislature directed the department of education to engage stakeholder groups to develop the core curriculum for high schools in math, science, and literacy. In 2007, the work expanded when the Legislature mandated content standards, expanded the core curriculum to include kindergarten through eighth grade, and added the additional subject areas of social studies and 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills.

Core curriculum was already developed for use in grades nine through twelve. The department was required, in 2007, to develop core curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight in order to make the Iowa Core Curriculum fluid for K-12 education. Important considerations in completing this work included the following: the needs of the students, the needs of the changing workforce, and the need to remain globally competitive.

In the 2007 interim, the department assessed school districts' readiness to implement the Iowa Core Curriculum. The department determined that about half of Iowa's school districts were already utilizing the Iowa Core Curriculum on a voluntary basis. It was determined that the rest of the school districts were either waiting for a mandate or needed assistance with implementation.

### SUMMARY

SF 2216 requires that all accredited public and accredited non-public schools adopt the Iowa model core curriculum. Right now, a model core curriculum exists but it is voluntary and schools do not have to adopt it. The bill now establishes that the Iowa Core Curriculum is mandatory in all grades.

The Iowa Core Curriculum provides local school districts a guide to delivering instructional content that is challenging and meaningful to students. The curriculum will apply to all students in kindergarten through grade 12 in every school district and accredited nonpublic school.

**Model Core Curriculum.** The current model core curriculum will be expanded to include, at a minimum, satisfactory completion of four years of English and language arts, three years of mathematics, three years of science, and three years of social studies. The model core curriculum will include social studies and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills which include but are not limited to civic literacy, health literacy, technology literacy, financial literacy, and employability skills.

The current curriculum that was developed identifies the essential concepts and skill sets needed for literacy, mathematics, science and social studies, as well as 21st century learning skills that include civic literacy, financial literacy, technology literacy, health literacy, and employability. The Iowa Core Curriculum encourages instructional practices that deeply engage students by requiring them to be active learners and critical thinkers who can apply their learning to new and unpredictable situations.

The Iowa model core curriculum incorporates expectations from several sets of national and international expectations including NAEP and ACT. The following sets of expectations were used to develop and were incorporated into the 9-12 literacy, mathematics and science model core curriculum:

- ACT's College Readiness Standards
- College Board's Standards for College Success
- Information provided by Iowa Testing Programs
- International Center for Leadership in Education's Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills
- NAEP Frameworks in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science
- Standards from the National Council of Teachers of English/International Reading Association, National Science Teacher's Association, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- ACHIEVE
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- Reports from the Alliance for Excellent Education
- Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)

**Core Content Standards.** The bill requires school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to adopt a set of core content standards. The content standards must align with the federal No Child Left Behind core content in reading, mathematics, and science. Current law broadly defines content standards as the types of information covered in a given area of emphasis including: the supporting benchmarks, grade level expectations, curriculum, and teacher professional development to support the content standards. Iowa model core curriculum supports the state mandate of core content standards.

**Effective Date.** Full implementation by school districts must be acted upon by July 1, 2010.

## Amendments

### **H-8289 by Committee on Education**

- Strikes the enumeration of the components of financial literacy. Directs the department of education to further define financial literacy in rule.
- Reinforces that a school district does not have to utilize any particular textbook, instructional methodology, etc. from a specific vendor.
- Requires the districts to utilize technical assistance and implementation strategies that include the development of formative and end of course model assessments.
- Technical change from “can” to “may” for the use of the assessments to measure student progress.
- Requires the model assessments to be suitable to meet the multiple assessment measures requirement.
- Requires the department of education to convene an advisory group comprised of education stakeholders to review national assessment of educational progress standards and assessments used by other states. The department is required to work in collaboration with the advisory group in order to identify and make available the models to school districts.
- Requires school districts to make sure that available courses from any sharing agreement or community college or any other entity meet the expectations in the core curriculum.
- Defines public school as any school directly supported in whole or in part by taxation. Defines non-public school as any other school accredited by the department of education.
- Directs the department of education to, as part of their core curriculum study, consider examination of future expansion of the core curriculum to include content areas not currently included such as fine arts, applied arts, humanities, and world languages.

**H-8345 by Chambers of O’Brien (R)** – Strikes any reference that mandates the core curriculum on to nonpublic schools and replaces with voluntary language that encourages nonpublic schools to adopt the core curriculum.

**H-8327 by Zirkelbach of Jones (D)** – Reinserts the enumeration for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and financial literacy.

### **H-8347 by Raecker of Polk (R)**

- Replaces the content standards section of the bill with “core content” and “performance standards”. Performance standards define “what does good performance look like?” and “how good is good enough?”.
- Directs the department of education to adopt rules that identify the core content and performance standards with an implementation date of July 1, 2010.
  - Core content for pre-k through grade six will include reading and writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and art. Core content for grades seven through twelve will include English and language arts, mathematics, science, history, social studies, and art.
  - Performance standards will be grade level expectations that are aligned with the core content standards. Performance standards for kindergarten through grade six will include reading and writing, mathematics, and science. Performance standards for grades seven through twelve will include English and language arts, mathematics, science, history and social studies, and art.
- Requires that the department of education form a task force of teachers, school administrators, higher education faculty, private sector employers, and school board members. The task force will develop the core content and performance standards. Expenses for the task force will be paid out of appropriations from the department. The task force is to submit a report to the state board of education by January 2, 2009.
- Requires the state board of education ensure school districts align the curriculum, instructional materials, and classroom instruction to the standards.

- Requires the adoption of grade level assessments and that the assessments are administered in grades four, eight, and eleven.
- Requires adoption of assessments that the board will make available to school districts to administer to students at the end of algebra, advanced algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, and English. A school district can use Advanced Placement (AP) exams as assessments for AP courses. Requires school districts to consider measures that generate serious student consideration on assessments.
- Requires collaboration with Regents institutions and Area Education Agencies (AEAs) to develop and deliver subject matter and instructional strategies training for teachers and administrators to implement improved standards-based instruction and the professional development model.

**H-8311 by Mascher of Johnson (D)** – Requires the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills to include health literacy that consists of comprehensive sexual health education. Enumerates comprehensive sexual health education as defined in the sex education bill passed last year.

**H-8378 by Raecker (R), Dandekar (D), Quirk (D), Kelley (D), Mertz (D), Huser (D), Bailey (D), Tymeson (R), and Chambers (R)**

- Requires school districts to adopt minimum core content standards for grades kindergarten through twelve that is identical to NCLB.
- Encourages districts to set higher expectations in local content standards.
- Allows the minimum core content standards not be adopted until June 20, 2012.
- Directs the department of education to adopt rules that identify the “core content” and “performance standards” with an implementation date of July 1, 2010.
  - Core content for pre-k through grade six will include reading and writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and art. Core content for grades seven through twelve will include English and language arts, mathematics, science, history, social studies, and art.
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- Requires the state board of education ensure school districts align the curriculum, instructional materials, and classroom instruction to the standards.
- States that a student will not be denied curriculum or instruction consistent with the core content standards that offer the student an opportunity to become proficient.

**H- 8346 by Raecker of Polk (R)** – Requires a school district to consider measures to include serious student consideration of end of course assessments and use the data from the assessments for use in the Iowa professional development model.