

Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 12:46:04 Eastern Standard Time

Subject: Requested Records
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 11:22:40 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Epstein, Peggy
To: AO Records
Attachments: DOC030724-03072024101426.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Iowa Department of Education Guidance for Senate File 496 - see page 10 of attachment.

Peggy Epstein

Executive Assistant to Superintendent & School Board Secretary
West Des Moines Community Schools
3550 Mills Civic Parkway
WDM, IA 50265
515-633-5025



February 13, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Peggy Epstein
Board Secretary
West Des Moines Community Schools
3550 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50265
epsteinp@wdmcs.org

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Custodian of Public Records:

Pursuant to the Iowa Public Records Law, Iowa Code, Ch. 22, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that West Des Moines Community Schools produce the following records promptly, or as soon as feasible:

1. Any paperwork, forms, draft language, or other template records used or intended to be used in the administration of the reporting and investigative provisions that teachers, administrators, or other school employees are required to complete in order to ensure compliance with Iowa Code § 279.78, or Section 14 of Senate File 496 (SF496), titled "Parental Rights in Education."¹

To be clear, American Oversight does not request—and this request specifically excludes—any personal information regarding students reported for matters related to their gender, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

2. All guidance or other materials received from any state agency—including, but not limited to, the Iowa State Board of Education—regarding the process by which West Des Moines Community Schools is to administer Iowa Code § 279.78.
3. All guidance or other materials provided by the Superintendent's Office—or any other office in West Des Moines Community Schools responsible for compliance with Section 14 of SF496—to principals or any other local school officials regarding the administration of Iowa Code § 279.78.

¹ For further identifying information, see Senate File 496 (2023), <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=90&ba=SF496>.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from May 26, 2023, through the date the search is conducted.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fee.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind.² We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Public Records Law.³
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

² See Iowa Code § 22.1(3).

³ See *Linder v. Eckard*, 152 N.W.2d 833, 835 (Iowa 1967) (“It is the nature and purpose of the document, not the place where it is kept, which determines its status” as a public record); *Chapter 22 Frequently Asked Questions*, Iowa Public Information Board, <https://ipib.iowa.gov/faq/if-email-report-or-other-document-composed-received-or-stored-my-personally-owned-electronic> (“If a government official or employee uses privately owned electronic devices or services, such as cell phones, computers, email accounts, smart phones, or such to conduct official government business, then the record generated is a public record.”).

- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.com.⁴

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not

⁴ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 111,400 followers on Twitter.com. American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Feb. 12, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter.com, <https://twitter.com/weareoversight> (last visited Feb. 12, 2024).

understand any part of this request, please contact Taylor Stoneman at records@americanoversight.org or (202) 848-1319.

Sincerely,

/s/ Taylor Stoneman
Taylor Stoneman
on behalf of
American Oversight



July 2023

2023 Legislative Session Summary of Changes Affecting Schools

Overview

Dear Colleagues,

The General Assembly passed and Governor Reynolds signed several pieces of legislation from the 2023 legislative session impacting K-12 education. Please find a summary of these legislative changes below.

The Department looks forward to continuing to partner with you to embrace high expectations for every child, engage families in their children's education, and support teachers in doing their best work. Thank you for all you do to ensure all children receive a great education that inspires and prepares them for the future.

Sincerely,

McKenzie Snow
Director
Iowa Department of Education

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[House File 68](#) - Students First Act

Division II: establishes the Education Savings Account program.

Modifies and increases the base enrollment for the calculation of the teacher salary supplement, professional development supplement, early intervention supplement, and teacher leadership supplement to include the number of resident pupils within the school district that received an education savings account payment in the prior school year.

Establishes the Education Savings Account program under Iowa Code section 257.11B, including:

- Program definitions,
- Initial and ongoing student eligibility criteria,
- Funding mechanisms, and
- Waste, fraud, and abuse prevention measures.

Additional information, including the State Board of Education adopted administrative rules, is available on the Department's [website](#).

Division III: modifications to school district categorical funding.

Provides flexibility for the use of Teacher Leadership and Compensation funds for teacher salaries. The Department issued [guidance](#) in April 2023 regarding Teacher Leadership and Compensation choices.

Extends the supplementary funding weights for school districts with shared operational functions, which were set to expire June 30, 2024, through June 30, 2035. Maintains the current funding structure and weightings for such shared functions.

[House File 256](#) - Minimum Age of Applicants for Licensure

Amends Iowa Code chapter 272 by striking a provision requiring the Board of Educational Examiners to disqualify an applicant for a license if the applicant is less than 21 years old.

[House File 430](#) - Investigation of Complaints against School Employees

Modifies Iowa Code section 232.69 related to reporting of cases of child abuse.

- Requires any class of persons identified under the section to report abuse of a child, where a child is defined as a person under eighteen years of age.
- Adds to the class of persons required to report abuse of a child a school employee who is eighteen years of age or older, which is in addition to a licensed school employee, certified paraeducator, holder of a coaching authorization, or an instructor employed by a community college.

- Requires the identity of a licensed school employee believed to be responsible for the injury to the child to be included in an oral or written report of abuse of a child.

Establishes new Iowa Code section 256.9, subsection 66, including investigation and reporting procedures to be developed by the Department for any incident that arises that may reasonably lead to the conclusion that any school district, accredited nonpublic school, or charter school employee has committed a felony or any individual with a board of educational examiners license, endorsement, certification, authorization, or statement of recognition has engaged in conduct described in section 272.15, subsection 1, paragraph subparagraph (1), subparagraph divisions (a) through (d). The board of directors of a school district, authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school, and governing board of a charter school (subsequently referred to as specified institutions) shall follow the procedures established by the Department. The reporting and investigative procedures will cover any individual that is employed by a specified institution.

The process will prohibit the following practices:

- Written or oral agreements that prevent the specified institutions from discussing an incident, past performance or actions, allegations leading to discipline or adverse employment action, or employee resignation with government agents, officers, or potential employers.
- Written or oral agreements that waive liability for a licensed individual stemming from an incident, past performance or action, or past allegations of wrongdoing.

The process will require that the specified institutions:

- Provide all documentation and information related to such an incident involving a licensed practitioner to the Board of Educational Examiners for investigation, if the licensed practitioner resigns or the practitioner's contract is terminated during the course of the local investigation.
- Finalize such an investigation into an incident involving a non-licensed school employee, regardless of whether the employee resigns or the employee's contract is terminated during the course of the investigation.
- Conduct a review of the applicant's employment history prior to hiring an applicant for any position, including contacting previous employers specified on the employment application and reviewing publicly available information regarding pending cases before the Board of Educational Examiners with probable cause or sanctions determined by the Board of Educational Examiners. Specified institutions shall maintain, on forms prescribed by the Department, information on employees of the school district that must be made available to a potential employer upon request. Specified institutions shall be immune from any civil liability arising from discussing an incident, past performance or actions, past allegations leading to discipline or adverse employment action, or employee resignation with any governmental agent, governmental officer, or any potential employer.

If the Department or Board of Educational Examiners discover that a specified institution intentionally failed to follow the investigation and reporting procedures, and/or intentionally concealed, or attempted to conceal a founded incident involving a school employee, the Board of Educational Examiners shall conduct a hearing following the investigative process involving any administrator who failed to insure compliance or assisted with concealing a founded incident.

The investigation and reporting procedures required by House File 430 are forthcoming from the Department.

House File 595 - Related to the Administration of Opioid Antagonists

Division II. Authorizes the distribution and possession of an opioid antagonist by a school district or other secondary distributor, defined in Iowa Code section 135.190.

House File 602 - Student I.D. Cards

Requires a school district that issues identification cards to students in grades 7 through 12 to include on the card the crisis hotline telephone number, text number, and website address for Your Life Iowa, or any successor program. The inclusion of this information is optional for identification cards issued to students in grades 5 and 6.

The information to include on the student I.D. cards is:

Telephone number: (855) 581-8111

Text number: (855) 895-8398

Website: yourlifeiowa.org

A school district must include this information on identification cards issued after July 1, 2023.

More information and resources regarding Your Life Iowa is available at yourlifeiowa.org.

House File 604 - Student Behavior and Discipline

Authorizes the [Office of the Ombudsman](#) to investigate, upon receipt of a complaint by a practitioner licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners, instances involving violence in the classroom or on school property. The school district board of directors may not take disciplinary action against an individual that submits a complaint or discloses information to any public official, including the Office of the Ombudsman, if the individual reasonably believes the information constitutes evidence of a violation of law or rule, mismanagement, a gross abuse of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial or specific danger to public health and safety.

Expands the reporting requirements under Iowa Code section 279.51A requiring a classroom teacher to report any threat of violence or incident of violence made by a student that results in injury, property damage, or assault.

- The classroom teacher is required to report in these instances to the principal or lead administrator of the school, and may notify the parent or guardian of the student(s) involved in the threatened or perpetrated violence. Notification must be within 24 hours of the event.
- The principal or lead administrator of the school is required to notify the parent or guardian of the student(s) who threatened or perpetrated an act of violence, and the parent or guardian of the student(s) to whom the threatened or perpetrated violence occurred. Notification must be within 24 hours of receiving the report from the classroom teacher. A classroom teacher may notify a parent or guardian in addition to the principal or lead administrator.

New Iowa Code section 279.79 requires school districts and charter schools to adopt and publish grade-appropriate policies that detail how a student may be disciplined for threatening or perpetrating an act of violence that results in injury, property damage, or assault. The policies must address the following:

- Strategies intended to correct the student's behavior.
- Parent or guardian conferences, counseling sessions, or mental health counseling sessions, if appropriate.
- Compliance with special education law including the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, federal Rehabilitation Act, and Iowa Code chapter 256B. An individualized education program (IEP) meeting is required if the student who threatened or perpetrated an act of violence has an IEP.
- Escalating levels of discipline for repeated instances of threatened or perpetrated violence.
- Discretion to select the appropriate level of discipline based on the severity of the threatened or perpetrated act of violence, including suspension, permanent removal from a class, expulsion, or placement in an alternative learning environment, if appropriate.

The Department is required by House File 604 to develop and distribute model policies that may be used by school districts and charter schools to meet the student discipline procedural requirements.

Modifies Iowa Code section 280.21, requiring a school district or area education agency to provide a copy of [section 280.21](#) with each initial or renewed employment contract. Section 280.21 relates to corporal punishment and school employee immunity from civil or criminal liability for use of reasonable physical contact with a student if the physical contact is reasonable under the circumstances and involves situations specified in the section.

For required professional development, a school district must provide the employee required to attend the professional development with a notice indicating the section of Iowa Code or administrative rules adopted by the State Board of Education or Board of Educational Examiners that mandates participation. The Department shall develop and distribute to schools a list of professional development and training programs required by federal and state law.

The model policies required by House File 604 are forthcoming from the Department.

House File 614 - Out-of-state or Out-of-country License Applicants

Establishes the evidence that may be provided by an out-of-state or out-of-country applicant for a license issued by the Board of Educational Examiners that demonstrates the applicant has met the Board's requirements for licensure. Evidence includes any of the following:

- A full license from another state or country, excluding a temporary or emergency license.
- Verification from an institution in another state that the applicant has completed all program licensure requirements with the exception of any assessments required by that state.
- Transcripts indicating the applicant completed an educator preparation program located in another country.

House File 672 - License Renewal Requirements, Background Investigations

Exempts any practitioner who has been employed as a practitioner for at least 10 years and possesses a master's or doctoral degree from Board of Educational Examiners renewal credit requirements, except for individuals with an evaluator approval endorsement which must be renewed at least once every 10 years.

Specifies that an accredited nonpublic school is subject to the background check requirements under Iowa Code section 279.13 that must be completed prior to entering into an initial contract with a teacher who holds a license other than an initial license issued by the Board of Educational Examiners.

Specifies that an accredited nonpublic school is subject to the school employee background investigation requirements under Iowa Code section 279.69. This includes:

- Prior to hiring a school employee, reviewing [Iowa court system records](#), [sex offender registry information](#), child abuse information registry, and dependent adult abuse registry.
 - The Department of Health and Human Services maintains the child and adult dependent abuse registries. Under Iowa Code section 235A.15 school districts and nonpublic schools are authorized to access information in the registries for purposes of a volunteer or employment background check. A [request](#) form must be completed to check for individual records included in the registries. There is no fee for requesting information using these forms through DHHS.
 - Alternatively, schools can request to create a Single Contact Repository (SING) account through the Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer. SING expedites the process of checking backgrounds of employees and volunteers by providing streamlined access to the Iowa criminal history, sex offender, and child and adult dependent abuse registry. There are fees associated with requesting access through SING. More information, including an application to create a SING account, is available on the OCIO [website](#).
- Implementing a consistent system to review these systems for information related to school employees at least once every five years. This review is to be completed at no cost to the school employee.
- Maintaining appropriate documentation demonstrating compliance with these provisions.

Under the section, "school employee" is defined as an individual employed by the school district or accredited nonpublic school, including part-time, substitute, and contract employees. Under this section, "school employee" does not include individuals seeking initial licensure from the Board of Educational Examiners, a licensed teacher applicant for initial employment with a school, or an initial applicant for a school bus driver position.

Specifies that a charter school established under Iowa Code section 256E is subject to the background check requirements under Iowa Code sections 279.13 (licensed teachers) and 279.69 (school employees).

Senate Files (in numerical order)

Senate File 192 - Public School Funding

Establishes the fiscal year (FY) 2024 state and categorical percent of growth at 3 percent. The net total state foundation school aid for FY2024 amounts to [\\$3,690,660,043](#).

Provides for the FY2024 school district property tax replacement payment.

Funding totals for each revenue stream are included in the [fiscal note](#) for SF192 provided by the Legislative Services Agency.

Senate File 250 - Computer Science Professional Development Fund

Allows a recipient of a grant under the Computer Science Professional Development Fund to receive funds for a fiscal year through September 30 of the following fiscal year. This applies to all awards made by the Department starting on or after July 1, 2023.

Senate File 318 - Iowa Registered Apprenticeship Act

Establishes the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship within the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, which is authorized to serve as the state's apprenticeship registration agency and establish standards and rules for apprenticeship programs. Creates the Iowa Apprenticeship Council as an advisory board to the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship, consisting of not less than five but not more than nine members appointed by the Governor.

Senate File 391 - School Accreditation and Flexibility Provisions

Includes changes impacting school operations related to instruction, curriculum, and operations.

- Division I: eliminates various reporting requirements and strikes references to the comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP) for all school districts. This does not impact the federal requirement under the *Every Student Succeeds Act* for schools identified for improvement to locally develop and implement a comprehensive support and improvement plan for the school to improve student outcomes.
- Division II: modifies provisions related to school libraries, including qualifications for school librarians by specifying that a master's degree shall not be a condition for licensure. Allows a school district to employ as a school librarian an individual who is a qualified teacher librarian or a person previously employed as a librarian in a public library. Specifies that standards for guidance counselor programs must ensure counselors are positioned to work collaboratively with students, teachers, staff, and administrators to support the curricular goals of the school through responsive services focused on the growth and development needs of students.

- Division III: clarifies use of online instruction to meet the minimum 180 day or 1,080 hour instruction requirement. A school district may count up to five days or 30 hours of instruction primarily delivered online toward the minimum instructional time required under Iowa Code section 279.10.
- Division IV: provides greater flexibility under Iowa Code section 279.50A to allow a school district to use a course offered by a community college or taught by a community college-employed instructor to meet any required offer-and-teach unit.
- Division V: permits a school district to authorize a single teacher to provide instruction in two or more sequential units of one subject area in the same classroom at the same time.
- Division VI: modifies required offer-and-teach instructional requirements for the following subjects:
 - World language, reducing total units from four to two and striking the waiver process.
 - Fine arts, reducing total units from three to two and providing flexibility in subjects that may be used to meet the unit requirement.
 - Physical education, streamlining the process through which a student may request to be excused from the physical education requirement due to participation in certain academic coursework, extracurricular activities, or athletics.
 - Personal finance, allowing the half-unit of required instruction to be delivered through coursework used to meet English, science, social studies, mathematics, or career and technical education offer-and-teach requirements. Strikes the half-unit personal finance literacy graduation requirement.
 - Technology literacy, striking its reference from the core content standards established pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7, subsection 26.

Senate File 482 - Single and Multi-occupancy Changing Areas and Restrooms

Requires elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools to designate multiple occupancy restrooms and changing areas only for use by persons of the corresponding biological sex. Multiple occupancy restrooms and changing areas are areas in a school building used by more than one person at a time in which students may be in various stages of undress in the presence of other students.

Prohibits individuals from entering a single occupancy restroom or changing area that has been designated by sex that does not correspond with the person's biological sex.

Allows school officials to provide alternative facilities to a student upon request with written consent of the parents and provides that reasonable accommodations may include any of the following:

- Access to a single occupancy restroom or changing area,
- Access to a unisex single occupancy restroom or changing area by only one student at a time, and/or
- Controlled use of faculty multiple occupancy restroom or changing area or a single occupancy restroom or changing area.

Provides multiple rules of construction primarily relating to health, medical care, maintenance, and safety.

The Act was signed by the Governor on March 22, 2023, and was effective upon enactment.

Senate File 496 - Education Omnibus, Parental Rights in Education

States a parent or guardian bears the ultimate responsibility, and has the fundamental, constitutionally protected right, to make decisions affecting the parent's or guardian's minor child, including decisions related to the minor child's medical care, moral upbringing, religious upbringing, residence, education, and extracurricular activities.

Requires schools to secure prior written parent or guardian consent before administering:

- A formal examination or survey designed to assess a student's mental, emotional, or physical health not required by federal or state law.
- Any survey, analysis, activity, or evaluation that may reveal information on the student or the student's family, including political affiliations and beliefs; mental or physiological problems; sexual behavior, orientation, or attitudes; illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of others with whom the child has familial relations; legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, religious practices, affiliations, and beliefs; and income, except as provided by law.

Establishes a procedure for intra-district enrollment in response to proven instances of bullying and harassment. Provisions of Senate File 496 implementing the intra-district enrollment process became effective upon signature by the Governor.

Requires a school official to notify the parents or guardians of a student enrolled in a school district within twenty-four hours after the school official receives a report that the student may have been the victim of conduct that constitutes harassment or bullying.

Clarifies that a student under competent private instruction may dual enroll in a school district to receive special education services. Removes the requirement that the Director of Special Education of an Area Education Agency approve the special education placement of a student under competent private instruction.

Modifies education requirements related to age-appropriate and research-based human growth and development instruction in grades kindergarten through grade twelve. Prohibits a school district from providing any program, curriculum, test, survey, questionnaire, promotion, or instruction related to gender identity or sexual orientation in kindergarten through grade six.

Expands standards for school district kindergarten through grade 12 library programs which ensure programs contain only age-appropriate materials as defined in new Iowa Code section 256.11, subsection 19, established in the Act. Authorizes the Department to investigate allegations of noncompliance and provides a multi-step process should a school district or employee knowingly violate the law.

Requires a school district to publish policies and procedures on its website, including those related to:

- Requests for the removal of educational materials available to students in a school classroom or school library.
- Requests for review of decisions made by the board of directors of the school district, and the petition process under Iowa Code section 279.8B.
- The review of instructional materials, which does not include lesson plans, used in a classroom.

Requires that a school district make available on its website a comprehensive list of all books available to students in a library operated by the school district.

Prohibits students from serving on any committee that determines, or provides a recommendation related to, whether materials should be removed from a school library.

Prohibits a school district from knowingly providing false or misleading information to a parent or guardian regarding a student's gender identity or intention to transition to a gender other than that specified on the student's birth certificate. Requires that a parent or guardian be informed if a student requests an accommodation intended to affirm a gender identity other than that assigned to the student on the school district's registration forms or records. Authorizes the Department to investigate allegations of noncompliance and provides a multi-step process should a school district or employee knowingly violate the law.

Senate File 514 - Government Alignment

Modernizes the structure of state government. Aligns the following entities within the Iowa Department of Education:

- Governor's STEM Advisory Council,
- Iowa Board of Educational Examiners,
- Iowa College Student Aid Commission,
- Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and
- Iowa School for the Deaf.

Aligns the following division and programs within the Iowa Department of Workforce Development:

- Adult Education and Literacy,
- Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and
- Work-based Learning Intermediary Network Fund.

Aligns the Division of Library Services within the Department of Administrative Services.

Senate File 542 - Youth Employment

Modifies provisions related to permitted work-activities for youth under the age of 18.

Permits the Director of the Iowa Department of Education or the Iowa Department of Workforce Development to grant an exemption from restricted work-activities for youth 16- and 17-years of age if the work activities are part of a work-based learning or school or employer-administered, work-related program that is approved by the Department of Iowa Workforce Development. The programs must meet certain provisions specified in the statute.

Establishes employer liability provisions applicable to students participating in a work-based learning program.

Senate File 560 - Education Appropriations

Provides funding for education agencies and programs, including the Iowa Department of Education, community colleges, Board of Regents, state postsecondary financial assistance programs, and others. The Act reflects the new government organizational structure passed through Senate File 514 (government alignment).

Notable provisions include the following:

- Transfers appropriations of aligning entities within the Iowa Department of Education, including Governor's STEM Advisory Council, Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, Iowa College Student Aid Commission, Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Iowa School for the Deaf.
- Provides an additional \$7,200,000 in state general aid to the 15 community colleges. Total state funding is \$228,858,161.
- Increases funding for the Iowa Reading Research Center, for a total appropriation of \$1.5 million.
- Appropriates \$200,000 for the LEAD-K program administered by the Department to provide mentoring services to deaf and hard of hearing students and their families.
- Eliminates the appropriation for the nonpublic textbook services program.

Expands student eligibility and program eligibility, including credit training programs, for the Gap Tuition Assistance program. The Gap Tuition Assistance program provides tuition assistance to individuals enrolled in short-term, high-demand training programs through a community college.

Requires the Department to convene a work group to study programming and funding for at-risk students, including the effectiveness of the current programs.

Eliminates funding for the Teach Iowa online job posting system. Strikes the section of statute that requires the Department to maintain an online job posting system. Requires the Department, school districts, charter schools, and Area Education Agencies to post all job vacancies to an online job posting system developed by the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, which is IowaWORKS. Nonpublic schools may use IowaWORKS.

As of July 1, 2023, all required education-related job postings shall be posted on the IowaWORKS platform. Iowa Workforce Development is providing a number of resources, including outreach to all school districts and training which can be found on their new Iowa Education Jobs [webpage](#).

Funding totals for each revenue stream are included in the [Notes on Bills and Amendments](#) for Senate File 560 provided by the Legislative Services Agency.

Senate File 578 - Standing Appropriations*

Establishes a maximum appropriation of \$8,997,091 for nonpublic school pupil transportation reimbursement payments and specifies that the Department shall prorate funds if approved claims for reimbursement exceed this amount. This is no change from fiscal year (FY) 2023.

Continues to suspend funding to the Department for the instructional support program for FY2024. This is no change from FY2023.

Instructs the Department of Management to reduce the FY2024 Area Education Agency state aid and the portion of the combined district cost associated with these agencies by \$22,057,131. This is in addition to the statutory reduction of \$7,500,000 for a combined reduction of \$29,557,131. Total state funding for all Area Education Agencies is \$244,857,014, which, after the total reduction of \$29,557,131, is an overall increase from \$241,465,645 in FY2023.

Funding totals for each revenue stream are included in the [Notes on Bills and Amendments](#) for SF578 provided by the Legislative Services Agency.

* The Department is authorized annual standing appropriations to support state foundation school aid (Iowa Code 257.16), nonpublic school transportation reimbursement (Iowa Code 285.2), Sac and Fox Settlement education (Iowa Code 256.30), Education Savings Accounts (Iowa Code 257.11B), and charter schools (Iowa Code 256E.8).

The 90th General Assembly, for FY2024, authorized changes to the standing appropriations in the following bills:
SF 192 - State Foundation School Aid,
SF 578 - Nonpublic School Transportation Reimbursement, and
HF 68 - Education Savings Accounts.