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SENATE FILE 46  
BY BRUNKHORST

EDUCATION

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to a secondary school core curriculum, including  
2 requiring the state board of education to set a statewide core  
3 curriculum completion rate goal and requiring school districts  
4 and schools to report core curriculum completion percentages  
5 annually.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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EDUCATION

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 21, unnumbered  
2 paragraph 1, Code 2005, is amended to read as follows:

3 Develop and adopt rules incorporating accountability for,  
4 and reporting of, student achievement into the standards and  
5 accreditation process described in section 256.11. The state  
6 board shall set a goal of increasing the number of students  
7 graduating from secondary school who have successfully  
8 completed a core curriculum, by July 1, 2009, to eighty  
9 percent of all students graduating from secondary schools in  
10 this state. For purposes of this subsection, "core  
11 curriculum" means the minimum number of specific high school  
12 courses that the American college testing program, inc.,  
13 recommends a student take in preparation for career and  
14 vocational purposes. The rules shall provide for all of the  
15 following:

16 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code  
17 2005, is amended to read as follows:

18 c. A requirement that all school districts and accredited  
19 nonpublic schools annually report to the department and the  
20 local community the district-wide progress made in attaining  
21 student achievement goals on the academic and other core  
22 indicators and the district-wide progress made in attaining  
23 locally established student learning goals. The school  
24 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall demonstrate  
25 the use of multiple assessment measures in determining student  
26 achievement levels. The school districts and accredited  
27 nonpublic schools shall also report the number of students who  
28 enter ninth grade but do not graduate from the school or  
29 school district; and the number of students who are tested and  
30 the percentage of students who are so tested annually; and the  
31 percentage of students who graduated during the prior school  
32 year and completed a core curriculum. The board shall develop  
33 and adopt uniform definitions consistent with the federal No  
34 Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 and any  
35 federal regulations adopted pursuant to the federal Act. The

1 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools may report  
2 on other locally determined factors influencing student  
3 achievement. The school districts and accredited nonpublic  
4 schools shall also report to the local community their results  
5 by individual attendance center.

6 EXPLANATION

7 This bill requires the state board of education to set a  
8 goal of reaching, by July 1, 2009, a minimum statewide core  
9 curriculum completion rate of 80 percent of graduating  
10 seniors. The bill also requires school districts and  
11 accredited nonpublic schools to report to the department and  
12 the local community the percentage of students who graduated  
13 during the prior school year and completed a core curriculum.  
14 Under the bill, a "core curriculum" consists of the minimum  
15 number of high school courses the American college of testing  
16 programs, inc., (ACT) recommends a student take to prepare for  
17 career and vocational purposes. Currently, ACT recommends  
18 four years of English and three years each of mathematics,  
19 science, and social studies.

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