



HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	HF 2577	House Committee:	
Committee:	Appropriations/Education	House Floor:	
Floor Manager:	Representative Thompson	Senate Floor:	
Date:	March 29, 2022	Governor:	
Staff:	Kristin Rozeboom (1-3015)		

School District Transparency and Social Studies Instruction

- Requires school districts and charter schools to post the syllabus or written summary, who the classes meet or exceed educational standards, and all the instructional materials used in the classroom. Schools will satisfy the requirement by granting parental access to the classroom management platform.
- Requires districts to make a list of all school library books available. Schools will satisfy the requirement by posting their catalogues online on the district's website.
- Schools must have protocols in place for the review of instructional materials and school library books.
- School districts must post teacher professional development and trainings on their website.
- If schools don't comply, the Dept. of Ed. can withhold or place restrictions on school funding. School districts may also be fined between \$500 and \$5000.
- Adds that the Civics portion of the US Citizenship test be included in the curriculum of U.S. Government. The assessments shall be sent to the Dept. of Ed each year.

Section by Section Analysis

Division I: School District and Charter School Transparency

Section 1. Section 256.11(10)(c)(2)

The Department of Education shall recommend, and the board shall do one of the following within 14 days for noncompliance with transparency specifically: Impose conditions on funding provided to a school district or withhold payment of state or federal funds to a school district until noncompliance is corrected. (The sanctions are already in code, we change the amount of time from 30 days to 14 days just for these instances and state the board shall do one of those things instead of may do.)

Section 2. Section 256.11 New Subsection

If the department finds a school district is not in compliance with this section, the department must provide notice to the school board indicating noncompliance. The department shall allow the board at least 14 days to correct the violation prior to making any enforcement action. If the board fails to correct within 14 days, the department shall assess a civil penalty against the district in an amount not less than \$500 and not more than \$5000.

The Department shall provide notice to the BOEE indicating the licensed individual who violated this section.

Section 3 Section 256E.7(2) New Paragraph

Charter schools are subject to comply with the same standards as school districts.

Section 4. Section 279.76 New Section—Transparency and state standards

The school board shall adopt a policy describing the procedures for the parent or guardian of the student to review the instructional materials used in the student’s classroom. The policy shall include the process for the parent or guardian to request that the student not be provided with certain instructional materials. The policy shall also be prominently displayed on the district’s website. The board shall provide annually a written or electronic copy of the policy to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the district.

“Instructional materials” means either printed or electronic textbooks and related core materials that are written and published primarily for use in elementary and secondary school instruction and are required by a state educational agency or local education agency for use by students in the classroom by the teacher of record.

The district shall provide the parent or guardian with all of the following information related to the current school year:

- Course syllabus or written summary of the material that will be taught.
- How the student’s classes meet or exceed educational standards.
- A list of all instructional materials that will be used in the student’s classes.

The school district may satisfy the requirements of the above by allowing the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the district an option to electronically have view-only access to the classroom management software platform. By July 1, 2024 the school district shall satisfy the requirements the providing the view only access for the classroom management software platform.

If the materials are modified during the school year, the board shall update the information maintained within 7 days after the modification occurs to reflect the use of the new materials.

The school district shall make available to the parent or guardian of a student enrolled a comprehensive list of all books available to students in school libraries by providing a link on the district’s website to the electronic catalogue. For school years beginning prior to July 1, 2025, if the district does not use an electronic catalogue, they may request a waiver from this requirement from the Dept. of Ed.

The school district shall provide instructions on the district’s website showing the procedures or policies in effect for the parent or guardian to request the reconsideration or removal of a book that is available to students in a school library. The form for requesting reconsideration shall be displayed prominently on the district’s website.

The school board shall provide instructions related to how to access the information above.

The school district shall publish information related to the training and professional development courses and programs offered by the school district in which employees of the school district have participated during the current school year.

This section shall not be construed to require the board to do any of the following:

- Reproduce educational materials that were not created by a teacher employed by the district.
- Distribute any educational materials in a manner that would infringe on the intellectual property rights of any person.

Section 5. Section 279.77 New Section—Protocols for the selection, review, reconsideration, and removal of materials from libraries

The school board shall adopt protocols for the selection, review, reconsideration, and removal of materials from libraries operated by the district. The protocols shall require all of the following:

- A process for the selection, reconsideration, and removal of materials from school libraries.
- A process for a parent or guardian to request that specific library materials cannot be checked out by their student.
- The lawful and ethical use of information resources, including regarding plagiarism and intellectual property rights.
- A process that allows the parent or guardian to request reconsideration or removal of materials from a school library. The process shall be prominently displayed on the district's website and require all of the following:
 - Within 15 days after a submission of a request to reconsider or remove materials from district library the district shall conduct a review of materials described in the request. The district shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of the district's recommendation to the board.
 - The board shall act on the recommendation at the next regularly scheduled meeting but not later than 30 business days after the recommendation is received. The board shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of its decision to affirm or reverse the district's recommendation.
 - The parent or guardian may appeal the decision to the State Board of Education.
 - If the district fails to act on the request to reconsider or remove materials from a district library within the timeline provided, the parent or guardian may appeal to the State Board of Education on the school board's failure to act.

Section 6—Procedure for the Reconsideration or Removal of A Book from a School Library

The school board shall create a document that illustrates the procedure for the parent or guardian to request the reconsideration or removal of a book that is available to students in a district library.

Division II—Social Studies Instruction

Section 7. Section 256.11(5)(b)

The social studies standards are amended to include that the US Citizenship and Immigration civics test be used as part of the U.S. Government curriculum. Results of the assessment shall be sent to the Dept. of Ed. on or before June 30th of each year.

Amendment Analysis

H-8273 by Thompson—clarifies that only those teachers who, after having the opportunity to correct, still don't comply will be referred to the BOEE for discipline. Clarifies that the teacher of record is in charge of posting information online. In the event of a short term sub, the school district is responsible for making sure that the material is updated. (Ex: principal could update the course if needed.) Instead of 7 days, the material needs to be updated by the end of the school week. Special education teachers are exempt from the above.

H-8286 by Ingels—strikes requirement that the assessments on the civics test be sent to the Dept. of Ed.