

Legislative Report Charter Schools



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State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

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INTRODUCTION

AUTHORITY

In May 2021, Governor Reynolds signed two bills into law that affect the operations of new charter schools in Iowa. [House File \(HF\) 813](#) establishes new procedures for charter schools effective July 1, 2021. The new procedures are codified in Iowa Code chapter 256E, which replaces a rescinded chapter of Iowa code and represents a revision of prior Iowa charter school law. Division IX of [HF 847](#) modifies chapter 256E by clarifying charter school governing board requirements, chief administrator requirements, student enrollment deadlines, and requirement for submission of an annual report.

Included in 256E is the requirement for the Iowa State Board of Education (State Board) to prepare and file with the general assembly by December 1, annually, a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations relating to the charter school program in the state in compliance with Iowa Code subsection 256E.12(2) – *Reports. The state board shall prepare and file with the general assembly by December 1, annually, a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations relating to the charter school program in the state and whether the charter school program under this chapter is meeting the goals and purposes of the program. The report also shall contain, for each charter school, a copy of the charter school's mission statement, attendance statistics and dropout rate, aggregate assessment test scores, projections of financial stability, and the number and qualifications of teachers and administrators.*

REPORT SUMMARY

At this time no charter schools have been approved in accordance with 256E. Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 19 Charter Schools rules are in the proposed rule making process. Charter school application and approval processes/procedures for the State Board are being developed.