



HF 370/ SF 390 Summary – IASB’s Flexibility and Deregulation Proposal

Division I: Bond Sales

Section 1: Notice of Sale

This section allows districts to list bond sales in a national media outlet used by bond buyers or their county newspaper

Section 2: Electronic Bidding

This section gives boards the flexibility in how they handle bids received to purchase bonds. Boards would have the option to accept only electronic bids, which is the primary method the bond market uses.

Division II: School Board Officers – Duties and Responsibilities

Section 3. School librarians

This section maintains the requirement that schools have a qualified teacher librarian but eliminates outdated code language inserted into code when this requirement was first instituted.

Sections 4-5. School board vacancies

These sections allow a district to publish notice of its intent to fill a vacancy on either the district’s website or in the newspaper of general circulation. This additional flexibility provides more timely notification and saves taxpayer dollars.

Section 6. General rules – bonds of employees

This section eliminates language requiring boards to have rules for loading and unloading of students during inclement weather. This language is not appropriate here and is already covered in 285.1 which requires boards to establish policy for the transportation of students.

Section 7: Superintendent – term – employment of support personnel

This section allows the superintendent to use electronic signatures on contracts or use faxed copies of contracts to hire personnel if the board approves a policy.

Section 8: Background check fees

This section allows a district to charge an existing employee the cost of the background check which is required every 5 years after employment. Current law already allows districts to charge this amount to teachers. This change aligns with that code section and gives districts local control to determine whether to charge. Background checks range from \$20 - \$40 depending on the level of detail.

Section 9: Display of United States Flag and Iowa State Flag – Pledge of Allegiance

This section clarifies that the school district will recite the pledge, not the board members. It is more appropriate that this be the district's responsibility.

Section 10: President – Duties

This section allows the use of electronic signatures by the board president and/or superintendent.

Section 11: President, Secretary and Treasurer of Board – Oath

This section eliminates code language 1862 that required school board members to take out surety bonds. This was a time when there was little surety in the insurance market and policies weren't as well backed as now. In addition, school board members no longer directly touch money.

Division III: Responsibilities and requirements related to health

Section 12: Environmentally friendly cleaning products

This section eliminates the requirement that school districts evaluate the use of environmentally friendly cleaning product, makes it easier for local boards/districts to make decisions about the products they use and eliminates the requirement that they use environmentally preferable cleaning products without notifying the DE of the decision to use other products.

Section 13. School nurses

This section maintains the requirement of that districts hire a school nurse but eliminates the goal language of one nurse for every 750 students enrolled in the district.

Section 14. Vision cards

This section eliminates the requirement that the DE and districts provide a vision screening card to districts to be distributed to students. 135.39D already provides DPH to provide guidance on appropriate screening tools. This is a redundant requirement that is specific to one organization.

Section 15. Department of Education – health care related training

This section creates a work group to examine how to prioritize and consolidate health care-related training to help reduce the amount of training time negatively impacting instruction time for students.

Division IV: Statewide School Infrastructure

Section 16 - 20: Use of Revenues

- Eliminates outdated language as there are no longer outstanding revenue bonds issued under the local option sales tax for school infrastructure and ensures that the default in a school reorganization if a new revenue purpose statement is not approved is to pay off existing bonds, not go to property tax relief.. (Sec. 16)
- Deletes language on joint projects with community colleges, moving the language to the definition of school infrastructure in 423F.3(6) to clarify that definition of school infrastructure. (Sec. 17)
- Conforming change with the elimination of the language per Section 16. (Sec. 18)
- Moves language from 423E.1 to clarify the definition of school infrastructure. (Sec. 19)

- Adds two paragraphs (transferred from 423E) to define school infrastructure but does not change any other existing definitions of school infrastructure in 423F (Sec. 20)

Section 21: Borrowing Authority for School Districts

The changes to this code section accomplish multiple things:

- Changes the code section clarify that the ability to issue bonds is guided by 423F
- Eliminates the reference to 423E as that section is repealed on June 30, 2023
- Exempts districts from holding a public hearing on the refinancing on revenue bonds to allow for districts to garner the best interest rate and save taxpayer funds.
- Ensures that the repeal of 423E does not affect the validity of any outstanding bonds or debt.
- Moves the exact language from 423E.5 that authorizes districts to issue revenue bonds and moves it to 423F as 423E is repealed as of June 30, 2023 and to enter into agreements with a city, county community college or another school district.

Division V: County Conference Board

Section 22: Conference Board

This section ensures that school boards have adequate representation on the county conference board by allowing any elected school board member to participate in the conference board as is the case with representatives of counties.

Division VI: Children’s Residential Facilities

Section 23: This section ensures that residential child facilities must also submit Medicaid documents to the home (resident) school district of the child so the home district can submit for reimbursement and reduce the burden on local property taxpayers.

Division VII: Area Education Agency Boards – Posting of Notice of Proposed Budget

Section 24. AEA budgets

This section gives the AEAs the flexibility to publish their proposed budgets on their website or in the newspaper of general circulation, eliminating the requirement that each AEA publish their proposed budget in each county in their service territory. The 9 AEAs now publish in 90 newspapers (may be some overlap) costing nearly \$11,000.

Division VIII: Election Commissioners

Section 25: Election Dates – Conflicts – Public Measures

This clarifies that the controlling county in a school board special election makes the determination of placing an item on the ballot.