

Bill of the Week

Video Cameras in Special Ed Classes (HF 2681)

This bill requires all school districts install video cameras in special education classrooms. The cameras are required to follow all state and federal laws and meet the standards outline in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

✔ Facts at a Glance

- This bill would require public, charter, and innovation schools to have cameras in special education classrooms.
- Although the bill speaks about requiring cameras in all special education classrooms, the bill does not define “special education classroom,” leaving it up to each school’s interpretation.
- The bill does not say the recordings are part of the student’s confidential educational record, violating FERPA’s privacy protections.
- The bill does not mention when a video can be destroyed, how long it must be kept, and other protocols.
- The bill lacks clarity on limits where recordings are inappropriate (bathrooms, changing area). Some students have disrobing behaviors when dysregulated.
- This bill would not create any new funding for a program like this—it would have to be taken out of the budget for spending per school from aid.
- Students with disabilities are not only taught in special education classrooms. As of 2020, most students with disabilities were educated in general education classrooms for [80% or more of the day](#).



About the Sponsor

Rep. Brooke Boden is from Indianola. She represents Warren County and part of Marion County. She chairs the Local Government Committee and serves on the Government Oversight, Education, and Ways & Means Committees.

🔊 Key Points & Impacts

- Some parents want cameras in classrooms to keep their children safe. Others say it is an invasion of their privacy.
- Having cameras only in special education classrooms (and not all classrooms) could further stigmatize students in special education. Some parents think this will reduce bullying.
- The bill may result in members of the public with no connection to the students in the videos obtaining the recording of students with disabilities for use in whatever way they choose.
- Students with disabilities are already subject to disciplinary action more frequently than their peers, including use of restraints and seclusion. Recordings in classrooms could multiply this effect.
- Since cameras are only used in special education settings, this may unintentionally incentivize schools to keep students with disabilities segregated in a more restrictive environment than necessary to meet their needs (violating federal law).

