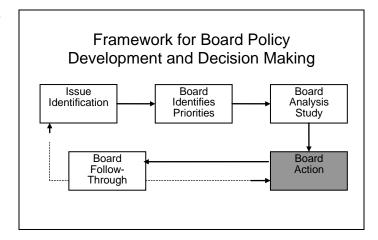
Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

July 27, 2011



Agenda Item: Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Paraeducator

Preparation Program Approval

lowa Goal: All K -12 students will achieve at a high level.

Equity Impact Statement:

The administrative rules governing this process require

preparation programs to address diversity issues.

Presenter: Marietta Rives, Consultant

Bureau of Student and Family Support Services

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the

paraeducator preparation programs submitted by Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. The next review will be during

the 2016-17 school year.

Background: Legislation originally passed in 1998 and revised in 2000

created a voluntary paraeducator certification. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. Licensure rules were established by the Board of Educational Examiners. The State Board of Education approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in

Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

Programs Recommended for Approval July 27, 2011

Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Paraeducator Programs to include:

Generalist Level I Paraeducator Early Childhood Paraeducator Library, Media, Technology Paraeducator Special Needs Paraeducator

lowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements set forth in No Child Left Behind. An additional benefit of this program is that certification will establish realistic opportunities for upward mobility through a career ladder pathway for paraeducators.

The institution named above has submitted a request for approval or re-approval of programs to certify paraeducators in each of the listed content areas. Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are several benefits to having paraeducators certified.

- 1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
- 2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement teacher/provider programs.

The programs have been reviewed. In reviewing the programs, it was important to look for three major components:

- Verification that each of the standards included in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 have been met.
- 2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
- 3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.

Strengths of the programs:

- Syllabi for each course were submitted as part of the program.
- Program and candidate performance data are collected.

Areas for improvement:

- The agency provides examples of assessment of candidate performance in relation to the content
 competencies of the program. It is recommended that this component of evaluation be revised
 with the intent to increase rigor. Paraeducator candidates must be given opportunities to
 communicate their knowledge as well as demonstrate their skill in the competencies of the
 courses.
- Unit directors as well as course instructors are expected to find purposeful reasons to make
 planned and unplanned visits to the actual school setting where Mississippi Bend Area Education
 Agency certified paraeducators are employed.
- It is recommended that Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency continue to explore ways to add to the diversity of your paraeducator candidate pool, the diversity of the unit staff and recruitment of diverse candidates.

Recommendation:

Based upon the review of programs submitted for consideration, approval for the Generalist Level I Paraeducator; Early Childhood Paraeducator; and Library, Media, Technology Paraeducator; and Special Needs Paraeducator programs through Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency is recommended.