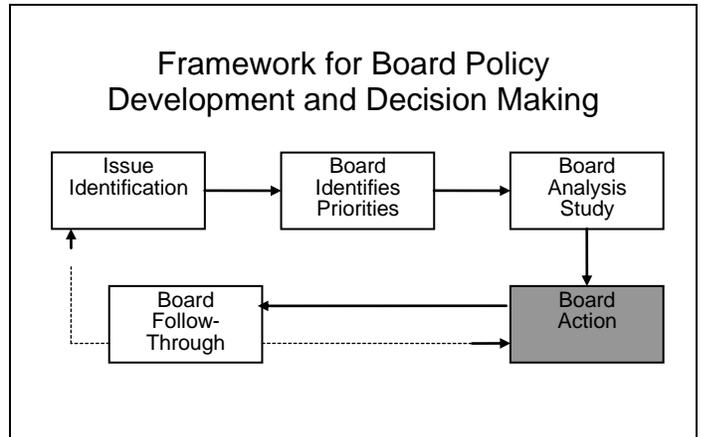


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

March 11, 2010



**Agenda Item:** Iowa Public Charter Schools: Approval for Charter Status – Storm Lake Community School District

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

**Equity Impact Statement:** Iowa Public Charter Schools are required to be open to all students in accordance with Iowa’s nondiscrimination policies.

**Presenter:** Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator  
Division of PK-12 Education

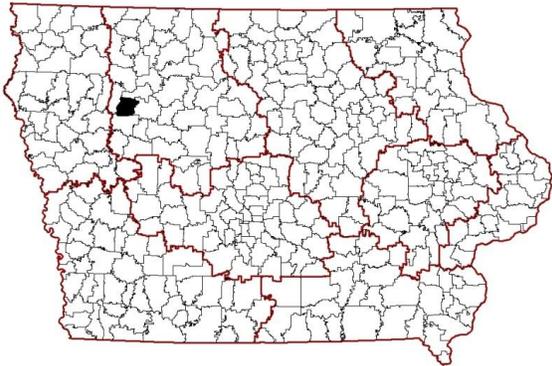
Paul Tedesco, Superintendent  
Storm Lake Community School District

Teresa Coenen, High School Principal  
Storm Lake Community School District

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended the Storm Lake / Iowa Central / Buena Vista Early College Charter High School charter for Storm Lake Community School District be approved through the end of the 2013-2014 school year. The charter school shall work with the Iowa Department of Education (Department) to refine measurable goals and align to newly emerging data systems at the Department.

**Background:** The State Board approved a one-year extension at its July 2009 meeting for the Storm Lake Charter School to address issues relating to the population to be served in the charter school and the “Super Senior Year.” The district has worked with the Department to clarify the terms of the charter and align its actions.



### **School/District Information**

Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School  
621 Tornado Drive  
Storm Lake, IA 50588-0638  
Administrator: Teresa Coenen, Principal  
October 2008 Enrollment - 89

Storm Lake Community School District  
621 Tornado Dr.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
Superintendent: Paul Tedesco  
October 2009 BED Enrollment – 2,180

### **Charter Mission**

To make higher education more accessible, affordable, and attractive to all students and especially those who do not see a college degree in their future due to language and / or economic barriers, and thereby help increase Storm Lake’s high school graduation and successful college completion rates for all of its graduates and especially a portion of its most disadvantaged youth.

### **Charter Description**

Established as a “school within a school” the Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School offers a five year high school, expanded dual credit educational program in collaboration with Iowa Central Community College and Buena Vista University. Students will graduate with their high school diploma and, in some instances, enough college credits to enter an associate degree or career diploma program, an applied science program with advanced standing, or a university/college baccalaureate program.

The ultimate goal is to enrich and enhance learning, accelerate progress, increase productivity, build a better-prepared workforce, and create a passion for lifelong learning enabling many more students to discover and develop their full potential leading to rewarding, fulfilling careers and lives.

**The Charter Snapshot**

Received a charter planning grant in 2004-2005 - \$50,000  
Received charter status in 2005-2006 and a status grant - \$350,000

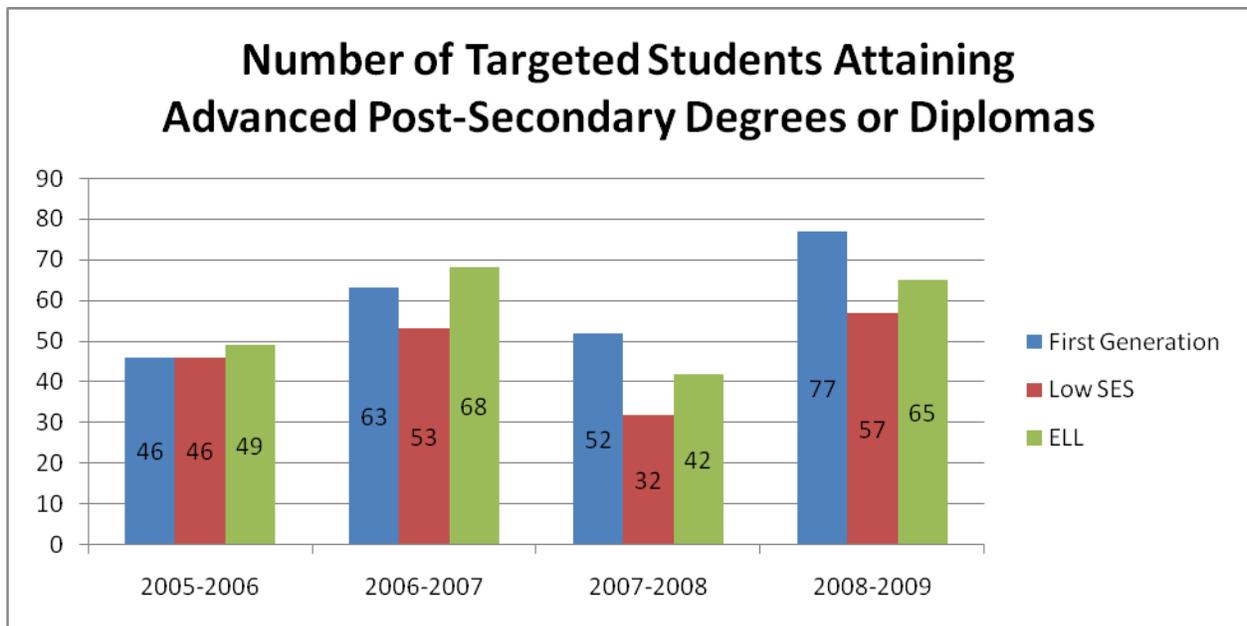
**Financial Stability**

The district does not have a negative unspent authorized budget.

**STORM LAKE/IOWA CENTRAL/BUENA VISTA EARLY COLLEGE CHARTER SCHOOL  
GOALS AND PROGRESS**

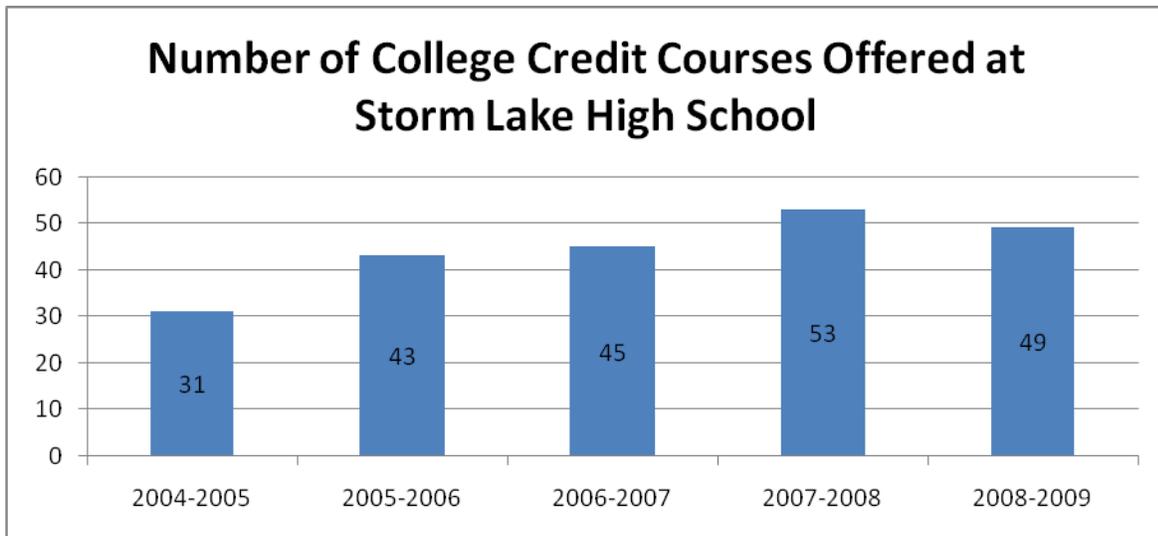
**GOAL 1:** Increase the number of first generation, low-income, English Language Learners, and non-Caucasian students attaining advanced post-secondary degrees or two years of college credit.

**PROGRESS:** The numbers in the charter school continue to grow. An increase in Caucasian/low SES students joining the charter is being observed. The school district is also observing an increase in low SES students of all ethnicities, and it is anticipated that trend will continue. Because of its success in improving English skills proficiencies, the district anticipates an increase in the number of students who will exit the ELL Program.



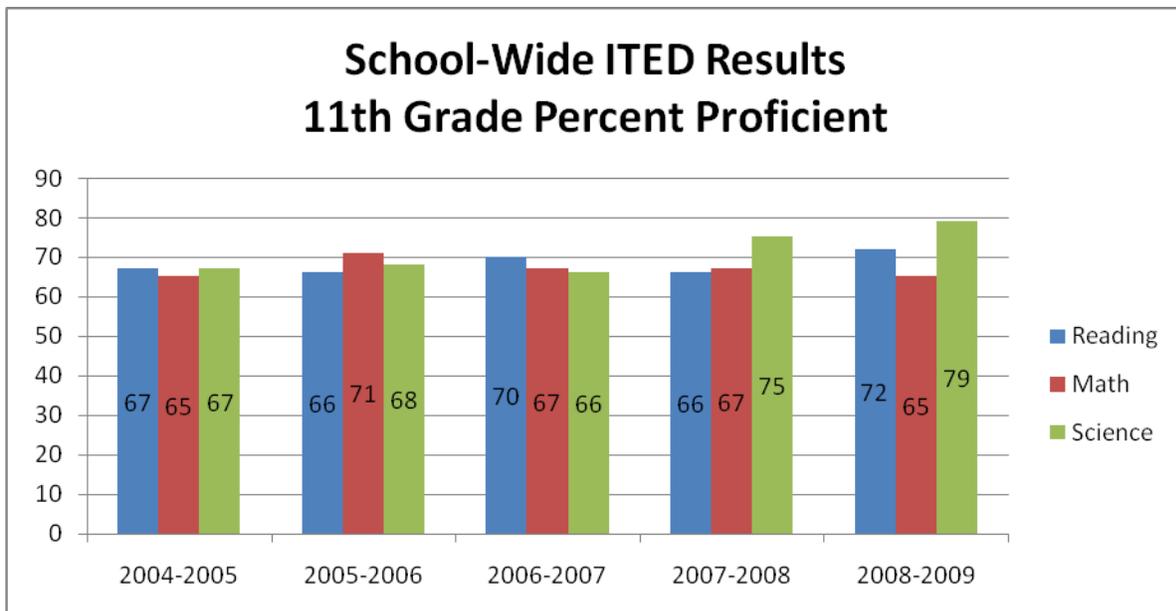
**GOAL 2:** Provide a more rigorous and relevant college/career preparation curriculum.

**PROGRESS:** Storm Lake High School offered 41 dual credit courses and 8 PSEO courses taught locally or through ICCC and BVU. Charter high school students attending the Fort Dodge campus can register for courses in 38 career/technical programs and 10 academic programs. The District has eliminated “developmental” classes from the roster of charter school classes to ensure rigorous and relevant college / career experiences. The charter school is preparing to collect post charter graduation data to determine if charter students have successfully completed a post secondary program in their career area and successfully obtained employment in their career area.

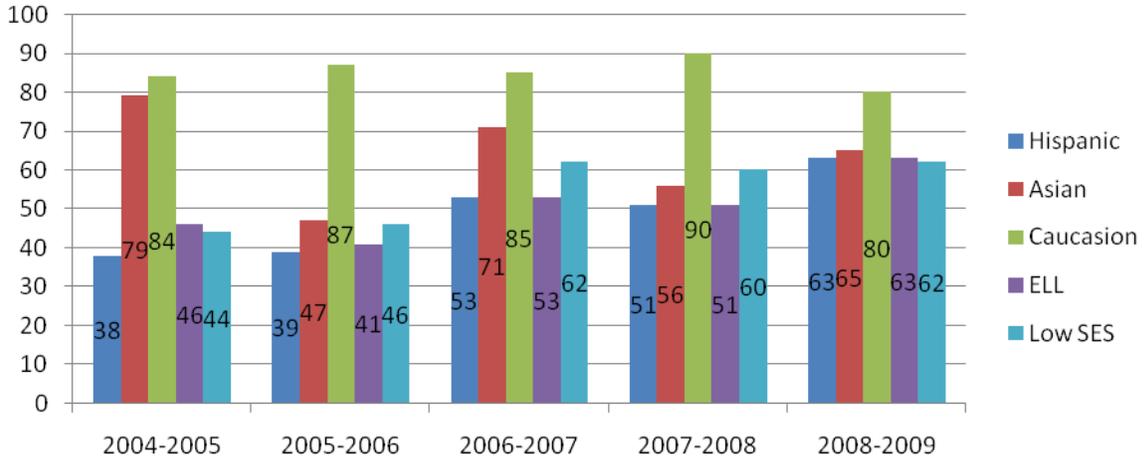


**GOAL 3:** Raise individual ITED scores in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science that will impact overall class performance.

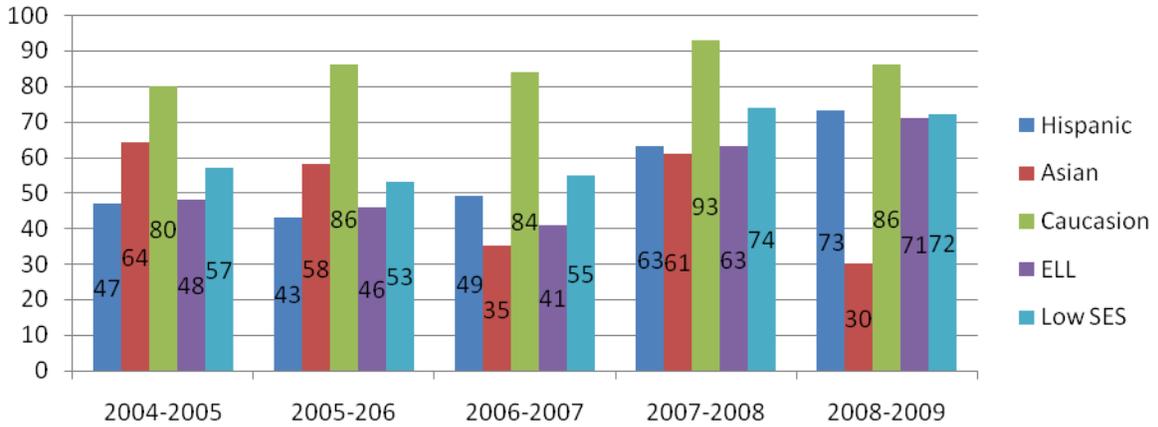
**PROGRESS:** The following charts show school-wide results (Storm Lake High School), as well as subgroup results from the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) for the areas of reading, mathematics, and science.

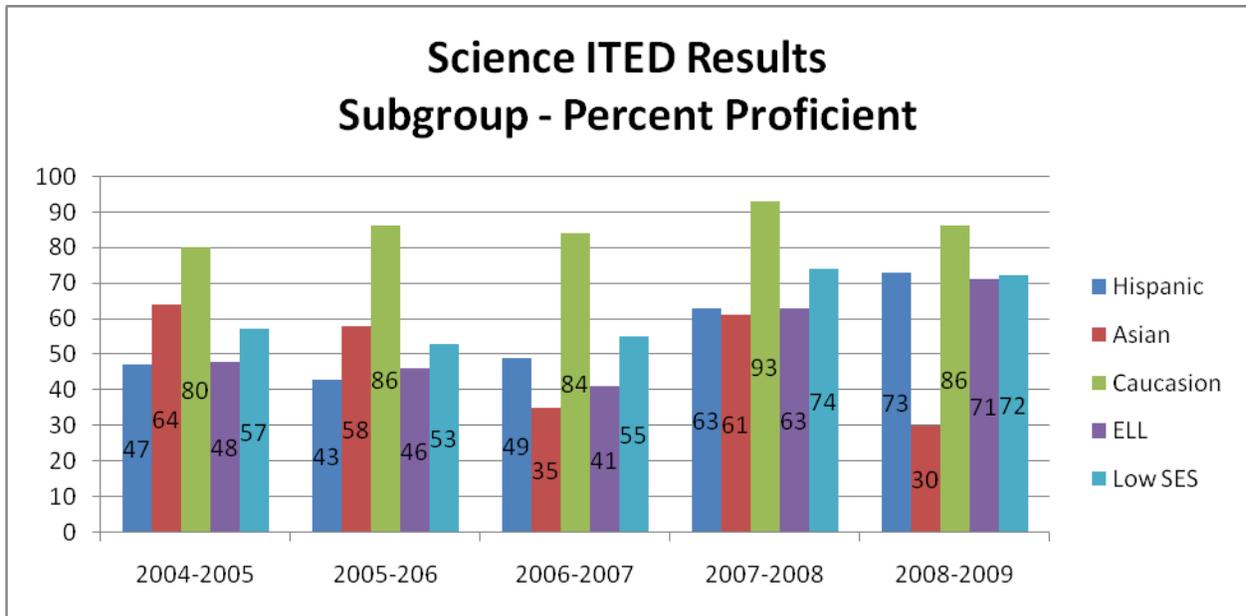


### Reading ITED Results Subgroup - Percent Proficient



### Math ITED Results Subgroup - Percent Proficient





**GOAL 4:** Increase the number of dual credit offerings and PSEO opportunities for all students, specifically monitor increased participation and performance of subgroups.

**PROGRESS:** The chart below provides a history of the number of college credit course offerings at Storm Lake High School. Each year the number of offerings increases until 2009-2009. In 2008-2009 all developmental classes were removed, while more non-developmental classes were added.

Number of College Credit Course Offerings at Storm Lake High School Including PSEO and Dual Credit				
2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
31	43	45	53	49

Beginning with the Charter School class of 2007-2008, the school began tracking the college credits earned during the traditional four years of high school as well as the credits earned after the traditional four years of high school.

Number of College Credits Earned after Four Years of High School (only charter students)			
2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
102	788	1664	1894
Number of College Credits Earned During Four Years of high School (All HS students)			
		1553	1716

NOTE: Beginning with the Charter School class of 2007-2008, we will begin tracking the college credit earned during the traditional four years of high school as well as the credit earned after the traditional four years of high school for charter only students. The data are not reported here.

The following lists the number of charter students enrolled in these ICCC programs at the Fort Dodge Campus.

Career/Technical

- Administrative Specialist (1)
- Auto Tech (7)
- Auto Collision (2)
- Carpentry (3)
- Computer Network (9)
- Criminal Justice (2)
- Culinary Arts (3)
- Dental Hygiene (1)
- Electrical Maintenance (4)
- Graphic Tech (1)
- Hospitality Mgmt (1)
- Industrial Maintenance (1)

Academic

- AA Degree (3)
- Accounting (1)
- Accounting/Business (1)
- Early Childhood Education (1)
- Engineering (2)
- Graphic Tech A. S (1)
- Nursing (1)

The following lists the number of charter students enrolled in these ICCC programs on the Storm Lake Campus.

Career/Technical

- Criminal Justice (4)

Academic

- AA Degree (11)
- Business/Accounting (1)
- Education (3)
- Nursing (7)
- Early Childhood (3)
- Pre-Law (1)

**GOAL 5:** All students will have an individual learning plan that is overseen by Storm Lake High School and the Charter Administration.

**PROGRESS:** All students at SLHS are involved in annual planning conferences with high school guidance staff. The students (and families) met with counselors to discuss their Individual Learning Plan (four-year plan).

It has been determined the Charter School students require continued support from guidance staff in implementing and progress monitoring the Four Year Plan. A full-time guidance counselor was hired to work with Charter students beginning in 2008-2009. In 2008-2009, all Charter students completed an individual plan of study and attended one or more workshops/classes about success in the Charter School.

	Department of Education	Department of Education
<b>GOAL 1:</b> Increase the number of first generation, low income, English Language Learners, and students of color attaining advanced postsecondary degrees and diplomas or two years of college credit.	The data are mixed when comparing year-to-year. If making a comparison using the base year of 2005-2006 (year 1 of the charter) and 2008-2009, the charter has increased the number of first generation, low income, English Language Learners attaining post secondary degrees, and / or college credit. It is also important to note that n sizes change from year-to-year making interpretations difficult.	Generally Met

	Department of Education	Department of Education
<b>GOAL 2:</b> Provide a more rigorous and relevant college/career preparation curriculum.	This is an action step. The data indicate the number of concurrent enrollment courses offered at Storm Lake High School increased from 2004-2005 (the year prior to charter status) to 2008-2009.	Met
<b>GOAL 3:</b> Raise individual ITED scores in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science that will impact overall class performance.	It is difficult to determine progress on this goal given the limited data. Since there are more than just 11 <sup>th</sup> grade students attending the charter, we might look at 11 <sup>th</sup> grade students as a sample of the population. There is some evidence suggesting an increase in ITED scores among the sample when comparing 2004-2005 data (the year prior to the charter status) and 2008-2009.	Generally Met
<b>GOAL 4:</b> Increase the number of dual credit offerings and PSEO opportunities for all students; specifically monitor increased participation and performance of subgroups.	This is an action step. The number of dual credit offerings and PSEO opportunities from 2004-2005 (the year prior to the charter status) and 2008-2009 has increased. Subgroup participation data is not currently available.	Met
<b>GOAL 5:</b> All students will have an individual learning plan that is overseen by Storm Lake High School and the Charter Administration.	This is an action step. The district reports the goal met for all students.	Met
Improve student learning §256F.1(3)"a"	See Goal 1, 2 and 3  The number of college credits earned <i>after</i> four years of high school has increased from 102 credits in 2005-2006 to 1,894 credits in 2008-2009. The number of college credits earned <i>during</i> four years of high school has increased from 1,553 credits in 2007-2008 to 1,716 in 2008-2009.  The number of students who successfully complete their charter program has increased from 2 in 2006-2007 to 9 in 2007-2008 to 35 in 2008-2009.	Met
Increase learning opportunities for students §256F.1(3)"b"	See Goal 4  The number of students who successfully complete their charter program has increased from 2 in 2006-2007 to 9 in 2007-2008 to 35 in 2008-2009.	Met
Encourage the use of different and innovative methods of teaching §256F.1(3)"c"	Storm Lake High School teachers have received training in early identification and programming using nationally research based Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies for incoming freshmen who are first	Met

	Department of Education	Department of Education
	generation college bound with potential to become part of the charter program. Charter teachers have been trained to use research-based instructional strategies targeted to English Language Learners as well as the inclusion of ELL supports needed to assure understanding and development of English Language skills.	
Require the measurement of learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes §256F.1(3)"d"	Plans are underway to disaggregate completed course grades (A,B,C,D,F,W) by course, program of study, gender, race/ethnicity, ELL, low income, and first generation. Data will be used to make programming decisions. Plans are also underway to gather 1/3/5-year post-charter data to determine the number of students who are able to find meaningful employment in the career area they received training.	Met
Establish new forms of accountability for schools §256F.1(3)"e"	Individual Learning Plans were one of the early innovations of this charter school.  Goal 5  The charter is working on more sophisticated post charter graduate data system to determine if completers have found and maintained successful employment in their identified career area.	Met
Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other educators, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site §256F.1(3)"f"	High school personnel have engaged in professional development around Marzano ELL strategies. AVID has provided new professional development opportunities. These two pieces have allowed a paradigm shift to occur creating shared leadership and responsibility for learning. Eight professional learning committees exist to study, monitor, and make recommendations for student learning and teacher instruction.	Met

### Actions Complete Since Last State Board Action

**Clearly define the charter school population:** The Storm Lake Community School District defines the potential Charter School population as any student enrolled in the District's High School as described in the application. The charter school will address the advanced educational needs of all of its students with the hope of encouraging, in particular, its educational disadvantaged student population and to close the high school achievement and post-high school educational completion gap for its increasing number of ELL and low-social economic clientele. The charter school will enroll up to 100 students in any given year.

**Clearly define “Super Senior Year”:** The Storm Lake Charter School will include only one additional high school year. This additional high school year will be a 5<sup>th</sup> year of high school referred to at Storm Lake Community School District as the “Super Senior Year”.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Storm Lake / Iowa Central / Buena Vista Early College Charter School be approved through the end of the 2013-2014 school year. The Charter School shall work with the Department to refine measurable goals and align to newly emerging data systems at the Department.