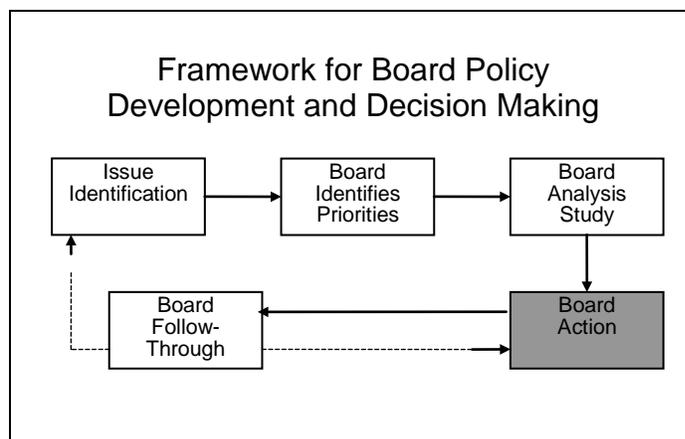


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 14, 2012



Agenda Item: Rules: Chapter 12 – General Accreditation Standards (Adopt)

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

State Board Role/ Authority: The State Board acts in an advocacy role to promote effective education opportunities for all students in Iowa. One of the policy development priorities identified by the State Board is “Competency-based Education.” The legislature addressed this policy during the last session allowing school districts to award high school credit to students based on their ability to demonstrate competency in a subject. Iowa Code section 256.7(5) gives the State Board of Education the statutory authority to adopt rules under chapter 17A for implementation of this legislation.

Presenter: None (consent agenda)

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board adopt Chapter 12.

Background: Chapter 12- General Accreditation Standards are modified to facilitate what is commonly known as “Competency-based Education” and allows Iowa schools to award high school credit to students based on their proven ability to demonstrate competency in a subject matter. In the past, schools were required to fill out a waiver request form from the Department of Education and get permission to award credit in this manner. With this change, schools have permission to do this without seeking such a waiver.

Authority for this is granted under recently passed legislation, Senate File 2284, section 1. These rules conform to that legislation. There were no public comments on this item.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby amends Chapter 12, “General Accreditation Standards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter sets accreditation standards for all Iowa school districts and accredited nonpublic schools. The proposed amendment conforms to 2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2284, section 1, by adding that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools have authority to award high school credit to a student who demonstrates mastery of course content regardless of time spent by the student in the course (the traditional concept of “seat time”).

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the August 22, 2012, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as ARC #297C. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on September 11, 2012. A public hearing was held on that date at which no person appeared. No written or oral comments were received.

This amendment is identical to that published under Notice.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

This amendment shall become effective January 16, 2013.

This amendment is intended to implement 2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2284, sections 1 and 4.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend subrule 12.5(15) as follows:

12.5(15) Credit. A student shall receive a credit or a partial credit upon successful completion of a course which meets one of the criteria in subrule 12.5(14). The board may award high school credit ~~on a performance basis through the administration of an examination, provided the examination covers the content ordinarily included in the regular course~~ to a student who demonstrates required competencies for a course or content area in accordance with assessment methods approved by the local board.