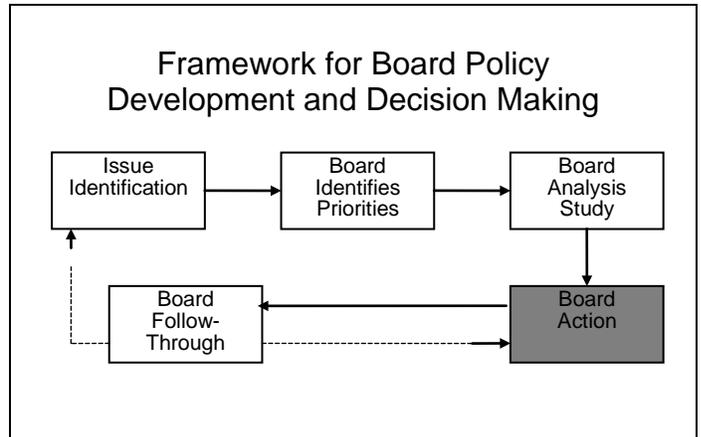


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 14, 2012



Agenda Item: State Board Legislative Agenda for 2013

Iowa Goal: All

**State Board Role/
Authority:**

The State Board acts in an advocacy role to promote effective educational opportunities for all students in Iowa. In that capacity, they identify policy development priorities each year and advocate for legislative change as necessary to implement their priorities.

Presenters: Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison
Office of the Director

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve this legislative advocacy platform for the 2013 legislative session.

Background: Each year the State Board develops a legislative priorities platform for the upcoming legislative session. This platform is used to communicate funding and policy priorities to legislators, the general public, and a variety of stakeholders.

During this session, the Board will have an opportunity to suggest changes to the draft legislative agenda that is attached.



Rosie Hussey
President
Clear Lake



Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
Vice President
Des Moines



Diane Crookham-Johnson
Oskaloosa



Sister Jude Fitzpatrick
West Des Moines



Michael Knedler
Council Bluffs



Valorie Kruse
Sioux City



Mike May
Spirit Lake



Max Phillips
Woodward



LaMetta Wynn
Clinton



McKenzie Baker
Student Member
Forest City

Our **Mission** is to champion excellence for all Iowa students through leadership and service.



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2013 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

Restoring Iowa as the Leader in Education



The Iowa State Board of Education stands ready to work with policymakers in the executive and legislative branches to build the best educational system for our students. Our efforts are voluntary but our commitment is strong to the education of all Iowa students. We are an independent, bi-partisan group of Iowans who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate to work on educational issues. These issues can range from impacting young children in our earliest grades to policies impacting teacher preparation programs for our college students. We are charged in Iowa Code to adopt rules that establish policy for programs and services in accordance with legislation. We have been given the responsibility to prescribe standards and approve teacher preparation programs. We rule on appeals related to local board decisions. We have the authority to grant or deny charter school applications. In short, we have these responsibilities and more that help to enact the laws that are passed during the legislative process each year.

In working exclusively on educational issues, we strive to be an objective voice that provides a perspective that is unique in the process. We do our best to stay above the fray of politics, seeking to be a resource that provides policy-based insight on this important policy area. With our complete focus on education and our independent, experienced review of the issues, we seek to fill a needed niche in the educational dialogue in this state.

The Board believes that the status quo is not sufficient to meet the educational needs of our children. Education must be the top legislative priority in 2013, with new public policies and financial commitments to do just that.



EDUCATION GOALS

We believe strongly that the following key concepts must be addressed and advanced with positive support from the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly:

- Improve teacher and leader preparation in this state to produce quality professionals in every Iowa classroom and school setting.
- Support the expansion of online learning and the infusion of other technology in the classroom.
- Reduce the achievement gap that exists in our state so that all Iowa children are learning at a higher level of student achievement.
- Continue to build on the initial success and innovative opportunities that Competency-based Education has provided in Iowa education.

2013 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Iowa State Board of Education has four main policy development priorities to improve Iowa education. We encourage strong policy work in the following areas:

Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

- Improve accountability with a reliance on student achievement data to demonstrate results
- Increase clinical practice included in the academic program
- Promote stronger efforts in recruitment, better teaching standards and performance assessments
- Align certification and graduation standards with the Board of Educational Examiners
- Study best practices in other states and nations in order to develop a revised program approval process
- Highlight exceptional methods for using technology in the classroom

Competency-based Education

- Build on the recent solid work of the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly in this area in Iowa Code
- Work with the task force that is studying this in 2013 to provide concrete proposals
- Monitor a school that is presently engaged in Competency-based Education and encourage replication of positive results shown in it
- Track the ongoing grassroots networking taking place in this area
- Establish a permanent state funding stream to support competency-based measures in schools

Online Learning and Other Technological Advances

- Expand Iowa Learning Online
- Collect data from present innovative practices in technology to measure success and learn from mistakes to build best practice models
- Require all Iowa students to take at least one class online
- Create a permanent funding source for quality technology in every classroom
- Be bold in embracing online learning as a state
- Put student interests first in all state policy discussions on this topic

Reducing Achievement Gaps

- Study root causes of and current efforts to address disparities
- Learn from schools that have been effective in closing the gap
- Provide collaboration toward eliminating achievement gaps
- Promote efforts that increase communication with shareholders and the public