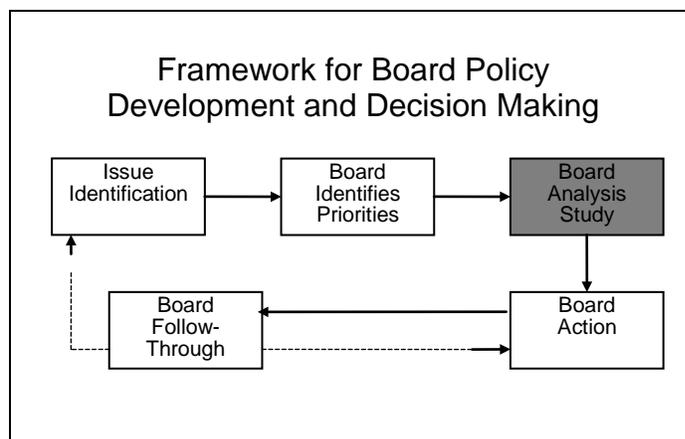


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

January 31, 2013



**Agenda Item:** Special Education Advisory Panel Report

**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 for all students. One of the State Board's priorities is reducing the achievement gap. This presentation addresses that issue.

**Presenters:** Ellen McGinnis-Smith, Consultant  
Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports

Kelly Von Lehmden, Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Panel

Karen Thompson, Vice-Chairperson  
Special Education Advisory Panel

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

**Background:** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state to "establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the state." (CFR 300.167) 281-41.167-169

Iowa's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) has identified priorities to address current, unmet needs related to serving students with disabilities in Iowa. One of these priorities is closing the achievement gap between students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers.

SEAP agrees with the Governor's concern regarding the need for more rigorous teacher preparation and applauds these state efforts. As parents and educators, however, we have some specific concerns that do not appear to be addressed in current proposals. One of our major concerns is the lack of high quality instruction received by students with disabilities as a result of: (1) Personnel preparation for both general education and special education teachers; (2) Lack of qualified special education teacher applicants; (3) Lack of collaboration among institutions of higher education, area education agencies, districts, and the Department of Education to improve the quality of personnel preparation; and (4) Lack of planning and implementation of professional development for current general and special educators, administrators, parents, and others.

# Special Education Advisory Panel

State Board of Education

January 31, 2013

Ellen McGinnis-Smith, Ph.D., Consultant, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports

Kelly Von Lehmden, Chairperson, Special Advisory Panel

Karen Thompson, Vice-Chairperson Special Advisory Panel



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

- ▶ Agree with more rigorous teacher preparation.
- ▶ Close the achievement gap.
- ▶ **Four** specific concerns that do not appear to be currently addressed.



# Concern 1. Personnel preparation for both general education and special education teachers.



**Concern 2. The shortage of special education teachers results in many teachers without adequate knowledge and skills teaching students with disabilities.**



**Concern 3. Higher Education, AEA's and Department of Education often function in silos.**



**Concern 4. Professional Development related to special education for teachers and administrators needs to be a state priority.**



# Questions

