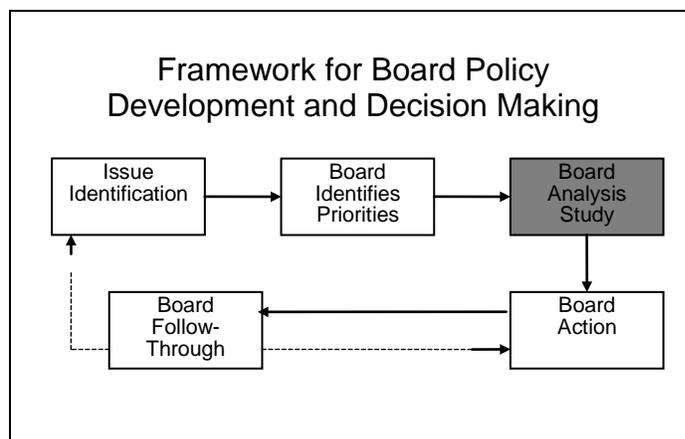


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

March 28, 2013



Agenda Item: Update on Activities Related to Online Learning and Virtual Academies

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. In that capacity, they identify policy development priorities each year and advocate for change as necessary to implement those policies.

Presenters: Amy Williamson, Chief
Bureau of School Improvement

Gwen Nagel, Consultant
Bureau of Standards and Curriculum

Attachments: None

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

Background: With the passage of Senate File (SF) 2284, Iowa Learning Online (ILO), the Iowa Department of Education's (Department) virtual learning initiative was codified and "established within the department to partner with school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to provide distance education to high school students statewide." ILO was also granted permission to serve school districts in an "offer and teach" capacity. Additionally, the Department was charged with creating a Model Online Learning Program and creating guidance for school districts to use when selecting online learning resources.

Additionally under SF 2284, partnerships between two of Iowa's public school districts and two private providers were declared "pilots" and given permission to operate through June 30, 2015. The Department was charged with oversight, as well as the determination of "whether students were receiving educational instruction and course content primarily over the Internet or were students who were receiving competent private instruction from a licensed practitioner provided through a school district."