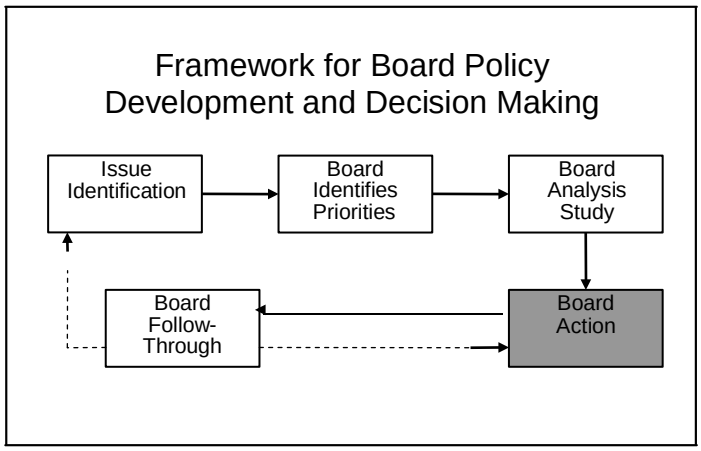
Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

March 6, 2014



Agenda Item: Rules: Chapter 64 – Child Development Coordinating Council (Shared Visions) (Notice)

Iowa Goal: Goal 1: All children will enter school ready to learn.
Goal 2: PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.

State Board Role/ Authority: Iowa Code section 256.7(5) gives the State Board of Education the statutory authority to adopt rules under chapter 17A.

Presenter: Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison
Division of Policy and Communications

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend chapter 64.

Background: The recommended changes in the current rules for Chapters 64 and 67 are a response to auditors' comments regarding the alignment of our practice with state code, specifically as it relates to competitive grants for the Shared Visions preschool programs. While most districts would not be interested in running a program that is uncertain beyond one year, we also realize that a more competitive grant process would allow new programs an opportunity to secure funds and existing programs to be held more accountable for outcomes. The goal in making these rule changes is to enhance the current program in a manner that continues the good work this program does with what we believe will be a more open process. We believe these rule changes will make the program more accountable, more transparent, more responsive to taxpayers and ultimately, produce a better product for those served by the program.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT [281]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 64, "Child Development Coordinating Council," Iowa Administrative Code.

These proposed changes to the rules concerning the actions of the Child Development Coordinating Council are related to the proposed changes being offered in the Shared Visions Program in Chapter 67. These corresponding rule changes seek to modify the parameters of the grant process and update the rules to reflect the new requirements for awarding and maintaining grant status for those in the program.

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

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before April 22, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Mike Cormack, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-3399; or E-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov.

A public hearing will be held on April 22, 2014, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Anyone who intends to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should advise the Department of Education of their specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

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

These amendments are intended to amend Iowa Code sections 256A and 279.

The following amendments are proposed.

Item 1. 281—64.6(256A,279) Eligibility identification procedures. In a year in which funds are made available by the Iowa legislature, the council shall grant awards to child development programs for at-risk three- and four-year-old children and public school child development programs for at-risk

three-, four-, and five-year-old children on a competitive basis. Competitive grants will be awarded with a renewal option for up to five years contingent upon meeting program requirements. If program requirements are not met, the department may discontinue grant funding at the start of the following fiscal year.

Item 2. 64.9(1) *Criteria points.* The following information shall be provided and points shall be awarded to applicants based on the following criteria as stated in the request for proposal:

1. Provision of a comprehensive child development program.

2. Limited class size.

3. Limited pupil-teacher ratios not less than one staff member per eight children.

4. Provision of parental involvement.

5. Demonstration of community support.

6. Utilization of services provided by other community agencies.

7. Use of qualified teachers.

8. Existence of a plan for program evaluation including, but not limited to, measurement of student outcomes.

9. Developmentally appropriate practices.

Item 3. 281—64.10(256A,279) Application process. The council shall advise the department to announce through public notice the opening of an application period.

Item 4. 281—64.11(256A,279) Request for proposals. Applications for the child development grants and public school grants shall be distributed by the department upon request. ~~The request for proposal for public school grants for at-risk three-, four-, and five-year-old children shall document all day, everyday kindergarten to serve at-risk five-year-old children, which may be a part-day combination of three- to five-year-old at-risk children.~~ Proposals not containing the specified information or not received by the specified date may not be considered. All applications shall be submitted in accordance with instructions in the requests for proposals. The proposals shall be submitted to the department.

Item 5. 281—64.12(256A,279) Grant process..

64.12(4) The council shall advise the department to notify successful applicants and ~~shall~~ provide to each of them a contract for signature. ~~This contract shall be signed by an official with authority to bind the applicant and shall be returned to the council prior to the award of any funds under this program.~~

Item 6. 281—64.13(256A,279) Award contracts. Administrative costs under these programs shall be limited to 10 percent of the total award.

Item 7. 281—64.14(256A,279) Notification of applicants. ~~Applicants shall be notified within 45 days following the due date for receipt of proposals as to whether their request shall be funded. Funds for grants approved by the council shall be awarded through a contract entered into by the department and the applicant.~~

Item 8. 281—64.15(256A,279) Grantee responsibilities.

64.15(1) The grantee shall maintain records which include but are not limited to:

a. Information on children and families served.

b. Direct services provided to children.

c. Record of expenditures.

d. Other appropriate information specified by the council necessary to the overall evaluation. Monitoring of such records will be conducted through the submission of annual reports by the Grantee and may include on-site review as determined necessary by the department.

64.15(2) New/expansion programs shall participate in the accreditation process of the National Association for the Education of Young Children during their first year of funding. New/expansion programs shall be granted a waiver of accreditation during their first year of funding and must attain accreditation during their second year of funding. Programs not able to attain accreditation during their second year may apply for a waiver of accreditation by March 15 of the current fiscal year. Waivers shall be granted at the discretion of the council. Programs not attaining accreditation or not receiving a waiver will not be funded. ~~Continuation programs shall participate in the Self-Study and Accreditation Program of the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. Programs shall have two years from the date of initial funding to complete the self-study process. Programs shall have three years from the date of initial~~

~~funding to attain accreditation. Programs unable to attain accreditation by the end of the three-year period may apply for a waiver of accreditation by March 15 of the third year. Waivers shall be awarded at the discretion of the council. Programs not attaining accreditation or not receiving a waiver of accreditation will be terminated.~~

64.15(3) Continuation programs shall participate in the renewal process and maintain accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Programs unable to maintain accreditation may apply for a waiver of accreditation. Waivers shall be awarded at the discretion of the council. Programs not maintaining accreditation or not receiving a waiver will not be funded. ~~New/expansion programs shall participate in the Self-Study and Accreditation Program of the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs during their first year of council funding. New/expansion programs shall be granted a waiver of accreditation during their first year of funding. New/expansion programs must complete self-study and attain accreditation during their second year of funding. Programs not able to attain accreditation during their second year may apply for a waiver of accreditation by March 15 of the current fiscal year. Waivers shall be granted at the discretion of the council. Programs not attaining accreditation or not receiving waivers will be terminated.~~

64.15(4) Grantees shall provide ~~quarterly~~ annual reports that include information detailing progress toward goals and objectives, expenditures and services provided on forms provided for those reports. Failure to submit reports by the due date shall result in suspension of financial payments to the grantee until the time that the report is received. No new awards shall be made for continuation programs where there are delinquent reports from prior grants.

Item 9. 281—64.18(256A,279) Contract revisions and budget reversions. The grantee shall immediately inform the department of any revisions in the project budget. The department and the grantee may negotiate a revision to the contract to allow for expansion or modification of services but shall not increase the total amount of the grant. The council may advise the department regarding ~~approve~~ revised contracts if the revision is in excess of 10 percent of a budget category. Grantees who revert 3 percent or

more of their program budget at the end of the 1998 budget year, and every budget year thereafter, will have that dollar amount permanently deducted from all subsequent grant awards.

Item 10. 281—64.20(256A,279) Termination for cause. The contract may be terminated in whole or in part at any time before the date of completion, whenever it is determined by the council that the grantee has failed to comply substantially with the conditions of the contract. The grantee shall be notified in writing by the department of the reasons for the termination and the effective date. The grantee shall not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date of termination and shall cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible. The department shall administer the child development grants and public school grants contingent upon their availability. If there is a lack of funds necessary to fulfill the fiscal responsibility of the child development grants and the public school grants, the contracts shall be terminated or renegotiated. The council may terminate or renegotiate a contract upon 30 days' notice when there is a reduction of funds by executive order. The contract may be terminated in whole or in part by June 30 of the current fiscal year in the event that the grantee has not attained accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children ~~Academy of Early Childhood Programs~~ or has not been awarded a waiver of accreditation by the council.