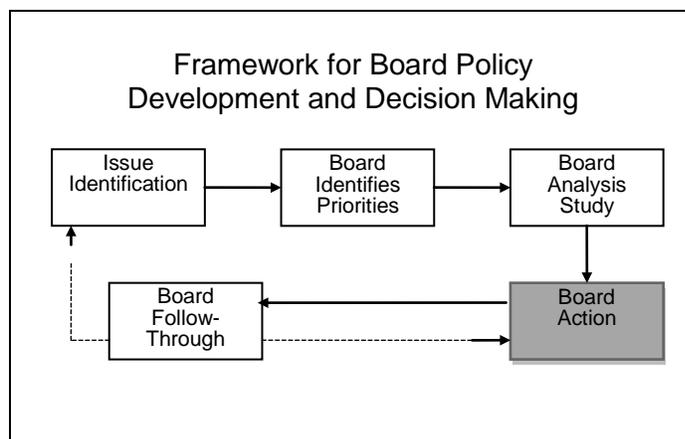


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

May 15, 2014



- Agenda Item:** Iowa Central Community College Paraeducator Preparation Program Status
- Iowa Goal:** Goal 1: All children will enter school ready to learn.
Goal 2: All PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.
- State Board Role/Authority:** Iowa Administrative Code section 281—80 grants authority to the State Board of Education to set standards and procedures for the approval of programs for individuals who seek a paraeducator certification issued by the Board of Educational Examiners.
- Presenter:** Marietta Rives, Consultant
Bureau of Educator Quality
- Attachments:** 1
- Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Iowa Central Community College Paraeducator Certification Program approval status be rescinded by the State Board.
- Background:** Legislation originally passed in 1998 and revised in 2000 created a voluntary paraeducator certification. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well-trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. Licensure rules were established by the Board of Educational Examiners. The State Board of Education approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

Paraeducator Program

- Iowa Central Community College prekindergarten through grade 12 paraeducator generalist certification program.

Iowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements set forth in No Child Left Behind. An additional benefit of this program is that certification will establish realistic opportunities for upward mobility through a career ladder pathway for paraeducators.

The institution named above has submitted a request for approval or re-approval of its program to certify paraeducators in the listed content areas. The program has been reviewed. In reviewing the program, it was important to look for three major components:

1. Verification that each of the standards included in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 have been met.
Little, if any, evidence of having met the standards was provided. Although plans to meet the standards were submitted, there was no follow through.
2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
Very few of the competencies were present in current coursework and no effort to do an alignment study was undertaken.
3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.
There was no evidence submitted to verify that evaluation of the standards is present.

The application that was submitted contained a significant number of blanks where descriptions of evidence was requested. This decision was made after numerous phone and email contacts have been made and extensive assistance has been offered.

Recommendation:

Based upon the review of the program submitted for consideration, it is recommended that the approved status of the Iowa Central Community College Paraeducator Certification Program be rescinded.