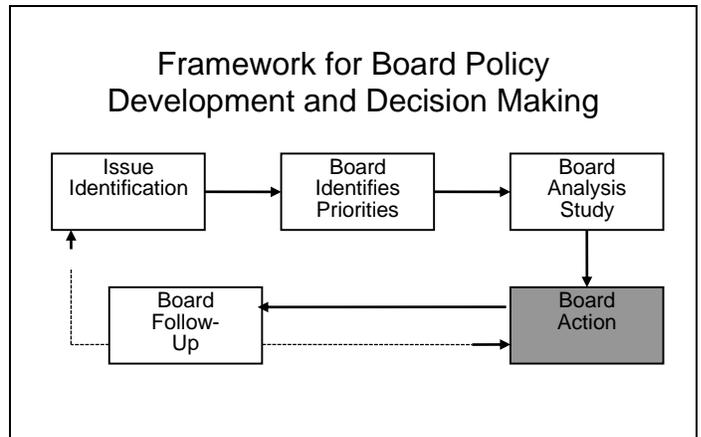


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 18, 2015



**Agenda Item:** Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 12 - General Accreditation Standards (Adopt)

**Iowa Goal:** All 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.

**Presenters:** David Tilly, Deputy Director

Phil Wise, Administrative Rules Co-Coordinator  
Division of Policy and Communications

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board amend Chapter 12, which deals with the accreditation of schools, in order to align that chapter with the requirements of Iowa Code section 256.7, subsection 21.

**Background:** On August 6, 2015, the State Board directed the Iowa Department of Education to present proposed rules for Notice of Intended Action adopting the recommendations of the Assessment Task Force convened pursuant to section 256.7(21).

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(21), the State Board is required to “adopt rules incorporating accountability for, and reporting of, student achievement into the standards and accreditation process described in section 256.11.” That subsection further requires that the rules adopted by the State Board, for the school year beginning July 1, 2016, provide for a statewide assessment that is aligned with Iowa academic standards in both content and rigor, and that provides valid, reliable, and fair measures of student progress toward college or career readiness.

A public hearing on the revisions to Chapter 12 was held on November 3, 2015. Seventeen persons attended the public hearing, and nine spoke at the hearing. Of those persons speaking, six supported the adoption of this rule, and three opposed its adoption.

Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on November 3, 2015. Twenty written public comments were received regarding this rule. Of those written comments, 13 supported the adoption of this rule, and six opposed its adoption. One individual expressed some concerns about the assessment developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, but did not articulate opposition to the Noticed rule.

In many cases, individuals spoke or wrote on their own behalf. In many other cases, individuals spoke or wrote on behalf of an organization. Those organizations formally expressing support for the adoption of this rule include the following: The School Administrators of Iowa; the Iowa Association of School Boards; the Urban Education Network of Iowa; the Rural School Advocates of Iowa; Reaching Higher Iowa; the Cedar Rapids Community School District; and the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. The only organization expressing opposition to adoption during the public comment period was the Iowa City Community School District.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

### Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(21), the State Board of Education hereby amends Chapter 12, “General Accreditation Standards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

On August 6, 2015, the State Board of Education directed the Iowa Department of Education to present proposed rules for Notice to incorporate the recommendations of the Assessment Task Force convened pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(21). The task force’s report is available at the following url: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/documents/boards-committees-councils-and-task-forces/2015/01/2014-12-31-iowa-assessment-task-force>. On September 17, 2015, the State Board of Education gave Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 12 to implement those recommendations.

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

Notice of Intended Action was published in the October 14, 2015, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 1285C**. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on November 3, 2015. A public hearing was held on that date. Seventeen persons attended the public hearing, and nine persons spoke at the hearing. Of those persons speaking, six supported the adoption of **ARC 1285C**, and three opposed its adoption.

Twenty written public comments were received regarding this amendment. Of those written comments, thirteen supported the adoption of **ARC 1285C**, and six opposed its adoption. One individual expressed concerns about the assessment developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, but did not articulate opposition to the rule.

In many cases, individuals spoke or wrote on their own behalf. In many other cases,

individuals spoke or wrote on behalf of an organization. Those organizations formally expressing support for adoption of **ARC 1285C** include the following: The School Administrators of Iowa; The Iowa Association of School Boards; The Urban Education Network of Iowa; The Rural School Advocates of Iowa; Reaching Higher Iowa; The Cedar Rapids Community School District; and the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. The only organization expressing opposition to adoption during the public comment period was the Iowa City Community School District.

The adopted amendment is identical to that published under Notice.

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

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 256.7(21).

This amendment will become effective on January 13, 2016.

The following amendment is adopted.

Adopt the following **new** paragraph **12.8(1)“h”**:

*h. Designation of “at least one districtwide assessment.”*

(1) For purposes of Iowa Code section 256.7, at least one of the districtwide assessments used to measure student progress in core academic indicators in reading and math shall be the assessment developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

(2) The department shall select a vendor to administer SBAC through a request-for-proposal process.

(3) The assessment task force shall review SBAC administration and make a recommendation pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(21)“b”(3) on or before June 30, 2020.