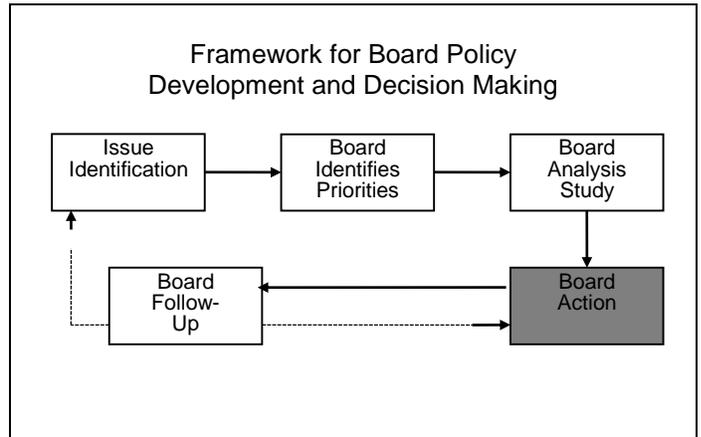


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 18, 2015



**Agenda Item:** Iowa Central Community College Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval

**Iowa Goals:** 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:** 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 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 State Board approve a conditional, one-year paraeducator preparation program submitted by Iowa Central Community College. This program approval will extend through November 2016.

**Background:** In May of 2014, the State Board rescinded the paraeducator program approval of Iowa Central Community College based on the lack of evidence of meeting the program standards. Since that time, Iowa Central Community College has worked diligently to develop a sophisticated curriculum and practicum experience to develop high-quality paraeducators.

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 approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

**Program Recommended for Approval  
November 18, 2015**

Iowa Central Community College Paraeducator Program to include:  
Generalist, Level 1

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 programs to certify paraeducators in each of the listed content areas. Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are benefits to having paraeducators certified.

1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement teacher/provider programs.

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.
2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.

**Strengths of the program:**

- All certification competencies are aligned to specific course assessments.
- Iowa Central Community College has developed an extensive practicum experience for paraeducator candidates.

**Recommendation:**

Based upon the review of Generalist, Level 1 program components submitted for consideration, the Iowa Central Community College paraeducator program is recommended for a conditional approval until additional artifacts are submitted for review. This conditional approval will expire on December 1, 2016.