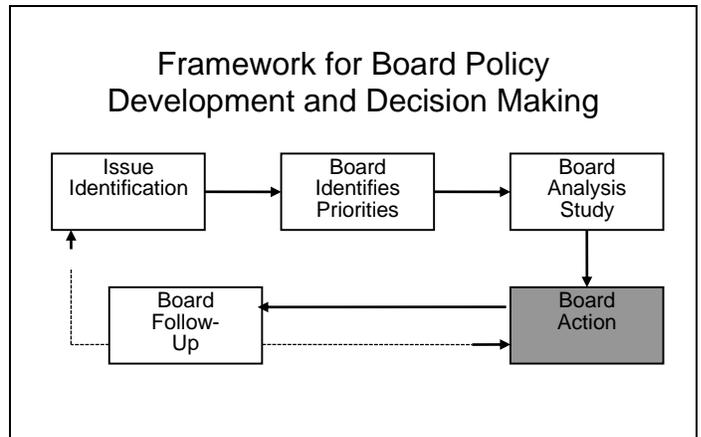


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

March 31, 2016



**Agenda Item:** Loras College – Approval of Significant Change to Preparation Program to add Professional School Counselor Preparation

**Iowa Goal:** All PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.

**State Board Role/Authority:** The State Board of Education sets standards and approves practitioner preparation programs based on those standards. Iowa Code section 256.7(3) and 281 Iowa Administrative Code rule 79.5.

**Presenters:** Lawrence R. Bice, Administrative Consultant  
Bureau of Educator Quality

Carole J. Richardson, Consultant  
Bureau of Educator Quality

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the Loras College application for approval of substantial change for addition of a Professional School Counselor (PSC) Program.

**Background:** 281 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 79.9 requires substantial program changes to be approved by the State Board. Department consultants reviewed the Loras College application and determined the changes to be substantial. The application for a PSC program was evaluated for compliance with Chapter 79 standards. The Department review report is attached. Based on this review, the Department recommends the State Board approve the Loras College PSC program. Approval will be valid until the 2018-2019 academic year, when the PSC program will be reviewed as a component of the Loras College educator preparation program

**Iowa Department of Education Review of the  
Application for Approval of Substantial Changes to  
Loras College Educator Preparation Program**

**Background:**

Standards for Educator Preparation Program approval are contained in Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 281, Chapter 79. Standards require significant program changes to be approved before the program can operate under the changes. Specifically in IAC 281, chapter 79: *281—79.9(256) Approval of program changes. Upon application by an institution, the director is authorized to approve minor additions to, or changes within, the curricula of an institution's approved practitioner preparation program. When an institution proposes a revision which exceeds the primary scope of its programs, including revisions which significantly change the delivery model(s), the revisions shall become operative only after having been approved by the state board.*

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) accreditation consultants have instituted a documented process for proposed changes to preparation programs. If proposed changes are minor, the Director of the DE is asked for approval. If the proposed change exceeds the primary scope of the program, a process of examination, similar to the program accreditation process, is invoked. This process culminates with a report to the Iowa State Board of Education for a decision on approval of the change.

Loras College submitted an application for program change to the DE. DE consultants reviewed the initial application and determined it represents a significant change. Loras College then submitted an application for significant change, providing documentation on how the program will meet all requirements of IAC 281, chapter 79.

Loras College has operated a teacher education program for many years. The program was most recently fully approved by the Iowa State Board of Education in 2012. Approval was for a program in teacher preparation only. This request for approval of a Professional School Counselor (PSC) Preparation Program represents a significant change from the Loras College teacher preparation program, warranting approval by the Iowa State Board of Education.

**Proposed Timeline for Implementation:**

Loras College plans to begin the first cohort of students in the fall 2016 semester.

**Recommendation:**

DE consultants recommend the Iowa State Board of Education provide conditional approval to the Loras College PSC program. Conditional approval should be for a term of two years. The reason for conditional approval is that several aspects of the program will require evolution once the program is initiated. Conditional approval will allow DE consultants to monitor the progress of the program and re-examine the program after it has been in operation for a period of two years. The reason for a two year time period will allow the Loras College PSC program to be examined for full approval at the same time as the Loras College teacher preparation program in 2018-2019, fully aligning the approval timeframe for all Loras College programs.

**Program Change Rationale (provided by Loras College):**

Loras College personnel conducted a research focused needs assessment for adding a School Counseling program to the existing unit. Results indicated a need for a School Counseling program in the tri-state geographical region. Given the fact that adding this program could make use of existing resources in productive and meaningful ways, administration and relevant faculty agreed to support the addition of a School Counseling program.

**Results of DE consultants review of application by standard:**

**79.10(256) Governance and resources standard.**

Standard Met

**79.11(256) Diversity standard.**

Standard Met – DE consultants will monitor the addition to planned course content of issues specific to preparation to meet the needs of students with diverse emotional, behavioral, and academic needs.

**79.12(256) Faculty standard.**

Standard Met – DE consultants will monitor learning specific to professional school counseling with one faculty member with specific PSC preparation.

**79.13(256) Assessment system and unit evaluation standard.**

Standard Met – DE consultants will monitor the assessment of candidates regarding standards specifically targeted for preparation of professional school counselors.

**79.20 Clinical Practice Standard**

Standard Met

**79.21 (256) Candidate Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions Standard.**

Standard Met – DE consultants will verify approval by the Board of Educational Examiners of the curriculum exhibit for PSC. DE consultants will monitor counseling coursework applicability to PSC candidates.