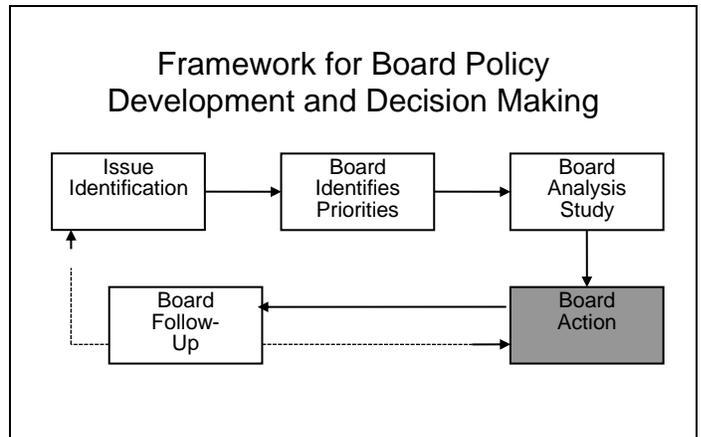


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 16, 2016



- Agenda Item:** Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 15 - Use of Online Learning and Telecommunications for Instruction by Schools (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.
- Presenter:** None (consent agenda)
- Attachments:** 1
- Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board amend Chapter 15.
- Background:** 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter 15 outlines the use of online learning and telecommunications for instruction by schools. The amendment to this chapter is to reflect legislative changes pursuant to Senate File 2200 adopted during the 2016 session of the General Assembly.

Senate File 2200 permits a school district to seek from the Department of Education a one-year waiver from educational standards for an offer and teach subject through an online course that is not available through the Iowa Learning Online (ILO) initiative. To qualify for such a waiver, the course content must be provided by an Iowa licensed teacher with online learning experience and must be aligned with Iowa content standards.

A public hearing was held on November 1, 2016. No one attended the public hearing and no written comments were received.

## **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]**

### **Adopt and File**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby amends Chapter 15, “Use of Online Learning and Telecommunications for Instruction by Schools,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 15 was promulgated to implement Iowa Code section 256.42, Iowa learning online initiative, and became effective January 16, 2013. Iowa Code section 256.42(7) was amended by 2016 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2200, during the 2016 session of the General Assembly. This amendment implements the changes to Iowa Code section 256.42(7).

2016 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2200, permits a school district or school to seek from the Department of Education a one-year waiver from the educational standards for high school programs in order for the school district or school to provide instruction for an offer-and-teach subject through an online course that is not available through the Iowa learning online (ILO) initiative pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.42. To qualify for such a waiver, the course content must be provided through an online learning platform by an Iowa licensed teacher with online learning experience and must be aligned with Iowa content standards. The course must be the sole course provided by the school district or school per semester under such a waiver.

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

Notice of Intended Action was published in the October 12, 2016, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 2760C**. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on November 1, 2016. No one attended the public hearing, and no written comments were received. This amendment is identical to that published under Notice of Intended Action.

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

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 256.42(7) as amended by 2016 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2200.

This amendment will become effective January 11, 2017.

The following amendment is adopted.

Amend rule 281—15.11(256) as follows:

**281—15.11(256) Inappropriate applications of ILO coursework; criteria for ~~waiver~~ waivers.**

**15.11(1) General.** ILO courses are not to be used by a participating school district or accredited nonpublic school as a long-term substitute for any course required to be offered and taught under 281—Chapter 12.

**15.11(2) Waiver of subrule 15.11(1): ILO coursework.** The department may grant for one year a waiver from the requirement to offer and teach a specific subject if the school district or accredited nonpublic school documents all of the following:

- ~~1.~~ a. The subject and grading period or periods for which waiver is requested.
- ~~2.~~ b. Reasons why the school district or accredited nonpublic school does not have a teacher employed who is appropriately licensed and endorsed for the educational level and content area being taught.
- ~~3.~~ c. The steps taken by the school district or accredited nonpublic school to employ a teacher who is appropriately licensed and endorsed for the educational level and content area being taught.

~~4.~~ d. Approval of the request by the local school board.

**15.11(3) Additional waiver of subrule 15.11(1): Coursework not available through**

ILO. In addition to the requirements of rule 281—15.7(256), the specified subject may alternatively be provided by the school district or school if all of the following requirements are met:

a. The course content is provided through an online learning platform by an Iowa licensed teacher with online learning experience.

b. The course content provided is aligned with school district or school standards and satisfies the requirements of rule 281—15.13(256).

c. The course is not offered by ILO pursuant to this chapter, or the course offered by ILO lacks the capacity to accommodate additional students.

d. The course is the sole course per semester that the school district or school is providing instead of ILO pursuant to this rule.