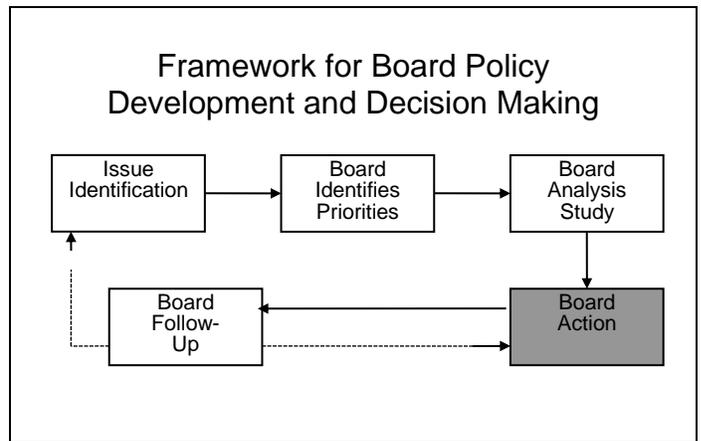


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 16, 2016



Agenda Item: Green Hills Area Education Agency Early Childhood Paraeducator Certification Program

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: 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 State Board approve the Green Hills AEA Early Childhood Paraeducator Certification Program submitted by Green Hills AEA. This program approval will extend through May of 2021.

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

Program Recommended for Approval
November 16, 2016

Green Hills AEA Early Childhood Paraeducator Certification Program to include:

Early Childhood Area of Concentration

Iowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements set forth in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. 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 evidence 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:

- A strong curriculum taught by experienced instructors.
- Excellent communication with districts intended to meet district needs.
- Collaboration with a local community college.

Recommendation:

Based upon a review of the evidence submitted for consideration, Green Hills Area Education Agency Early Childhood Paraeducator Certification Program is recommended for approval. This approved status will continue through May 2021.