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: None (consent agenda)

Attachments: One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board adopt changes to 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 March 21, 2016, the Assessment Task Force issued its recommendation for a new science assessment for Iowa that aligns with the new science standards adopted by the State Board of Education. This amendment to Chapter 12 implements the recommendation of the Assessment Task Force pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(21).

This amendment also makes clear that the designation by the State Board of statewide assessments is for a period of time ending on June 30, 2020, and that the Assessment Task Force will review and make recommendations regarding statewide assessments before that date. On or before that date, the State Board will again exercise its statutory authority to designate statewide assessments as a part of its responsibilities for general accreditation standards.

A public hearing was held on January 6, 2017. One person attended the public hearing. No public comments were received. These rules are nearly identical to the rules noticed.
Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(21), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 12, “General Accreditation Standards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

In August 2015, the State Board of Education directed the Iowa Assessment Task Force, convened pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(21), to reconvene to recommend a statewide science assessment. On March 21, 2016, the Iowa Assessment Task Force made its recommendation regarding a statewide science assessment. This proposed rule making complies with that directive and reflects that recommendation. The Task Force’s report is available on the Web site of the Iowa Department of Education.

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

Notice of Intended Action was published in the December 7, 2016, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as ARC 2854C. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on January 6, 2017. A public hearing was held on January 6, 2017. One person attended the public hearing. No comments were received. These rules are nearly identical to the rules that were noticed.

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).

These rules will be effective on March 22, 2017.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend paragraph 12.8(1)“h” as follows:

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

(1) For purposes of Iowa Code section 256.7, and for a period ending on June 30, 2020, 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), and at least one of the districtwide assessments used to measure student progress in science shall be the science assessment recommended by the assessment task force established pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.7(21)“b.”(3).

(2) In implementing subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, the department shall select a vendor
to administer the SBAC assessment or any other assessment that is capable of administration by multiple vendors through a request-for-proposal process.

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