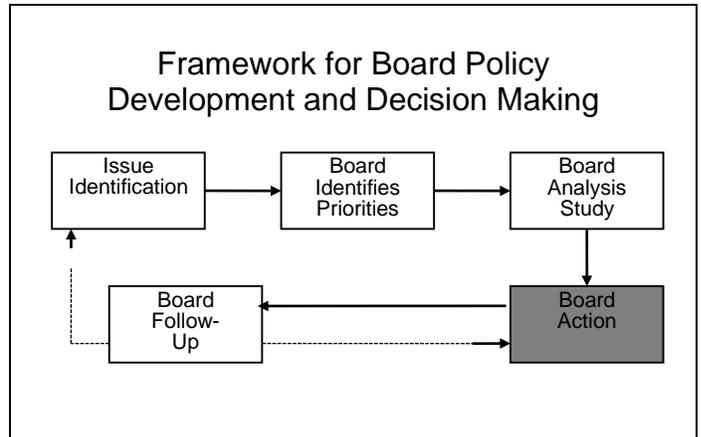


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

September 17, 2015



Agenda Item:	Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 25 - Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program (Notice)
Iowa Goal:	All PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.
State Board Role/Authority:	Iowa <i>Code</i> Section 256.7(5) gives the State Board of Education the statutory authority to adopt rules under chapter 17A.
Presenters:	Nicole Proesch, Administrative Rules Co-coordinator Phil Wise, Administrative Rules Co-coordinator
Attachments:	1
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 25.
Background:	The revised 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapter 25 incorporates changes to Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program and Gap Tuition Assistance Program included in House File 658, passed by the 2015 General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Changes associated with House File 658 include modifying the criteria to determine financial need by decreasing the family income requirement from twelve to six months, and adding two provisions which: (1) prioritize the provision of assistance to individuals earning income between 150 percent and 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and (2) bar individuals eligible from receiving assistance under the Gap Tuition Assistance Program if they are eligible for assistance under the federal Workforce Investment Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, unless all budgeted funds under these acts have been fully expended.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT [281]**Notice of Intended Action**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 25, “Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Revised Chapter 25 incorporates changes to the Gap Tuition Assistance Program included in House File 658, passed by the 2015 General Assembly. Changes as a result of House File 658 include modifying the criteria to determine financial need by decreasing the family income requirement from twelve to six months, and adding two provisions which: (1) prioritize the provision of assistance to individuals earning income between 150 percent and 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and (2) bar individuals eligible from receiving assistance under the Gap Tuition Assistance Program if they are eligible for assistance under the federal Workforce Investment Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, unless all budgeted funds under these acts have been fully expended.

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

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before November 3, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Nicole Proesch, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-8661; e-mail nicole.proesch@iowa.gov; or fax (515)242-5988.

A public hearing will be held on November 3, 2015, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any person who intends to attend the public hearing and has special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact and advise the Department of Education of specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

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

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 260H and 260I.

The following amendments are proposed.

Item 1. Amend 281 – IAC 25.21(1)(a) as follows:

a. Criteria to determine financial need shall include but not be limited to:

(1) The applicant's family income for the ~~42~~ six months prior to the date of application.

Item 2. Amend 281 – IAC 22.21(2) by adding the following new subsections:

g. Persons earning incomes between one hundred fifty percent and two hundred fifty percent, both percentages inclusive, of the federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the United States department of health and human services shall be given first priority for tuition assistance under this chapter. Persons earning incomes below one hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level shall be given secondary priority for tuition assistance under this chapter.

h. A person who is eligible for financial assistance pursuant to the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-220, or the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L. No. 113-128, shall be ineligible for tuition assistance under this chapter unless such funds budgeted for training assistance for adult, dislocated worker, or youth programs have been fully expended by a workforce region.