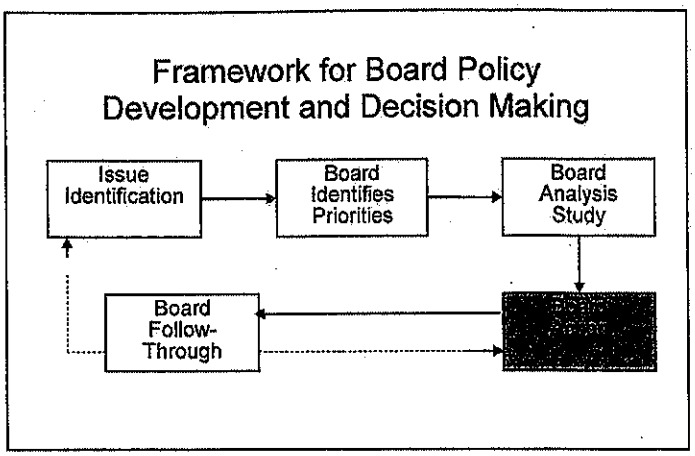
Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

September 9, 2009



Agenda Item: Request for General Accreditation Status

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

Equity Impact Statement: 281 IAC 12.5(8) requires that each school and school district incorporate multicultural and gender fair goals for the educational program into its comprehensive school improvement plan.

Presenter: None (consent agenda)

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the request to grant general accreditation status for grades K-6 to Ankeny Christian Academy, 1604 W. First Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50023-2525.

Background: Ankeny Christian Academy has provided evidence of general accreditation requirements pursuant to Iowa Code 281—IAC 12.5(3) and 12.5(4), including the following:

- Enrollment data by race, national origin, gender, and disability.
- Required school board policies, including adoption date, review date and revision dates within the past five years.
- School calendar (180 days of instruction).
- Elementary school program (i.e., all required content areas and required content specifications were verified).
- Curriculum documents and materials verifying standards and benchmarks for the curricular areas of

reading, mathematics, and science including the incorporation of multicultural and gender fair approaches, global education, and career education into the educational program.

- Professional development.
- School Improvement Advisory Committee.
- Personnel files.
- Employee health files.
- Student records (i.e., permanent and cumulative records).
- Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.
- Annual Progress Report, 2008-2009.
- The school has provided a written, signed letter from the local fire marshal that the school's facilities meet required codes.
- Julie Melcher, Department of Education School Improvement Consultant, visited the school on August 24, 2009, along with two additional Department School Improvement Consultants and verified the aforementioned.

Future Plans of Ankeny Christian Academy: Ankeny Christian Academy includes grades 7-12 which currently have specially accredited status. The school principal has indicated interest in gaining general accreditation status for grades 7 and 8 within the next year.

Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: September 9, 2009

TO: Members, State Board of Education

FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Director

RE: Request for Accreditation Approval, Ankeny Christian Academy, Grades K-6

I recommend that the State Board of Education approve the request for accreditation of Ankeny Christian Academy, grades K-6, located at 1604 W. First Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50023-2525.

Ankeny Christian Academy has received assistance from the Iowa Department of Education since April 27, 2008, regarding general accreditation. Feedback has been provided from Julie Melcher, School Improvement Consultant, about progress toward meeting compliance for general accreditation for the school's K-6 program.

A formal accreditation visit occurred August 24, 2009. Interviews were conducted with the principal, Board of Education, School Improvement Advisory Committee including parents, teaching staff, and students. The school has now satisfied accreditation requirements and has submitted a Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and an Annual Progress Report for the 2008-2009 school year.

Now that requirements have been completed, it is requested that this matter be approved by the State Board of Education.