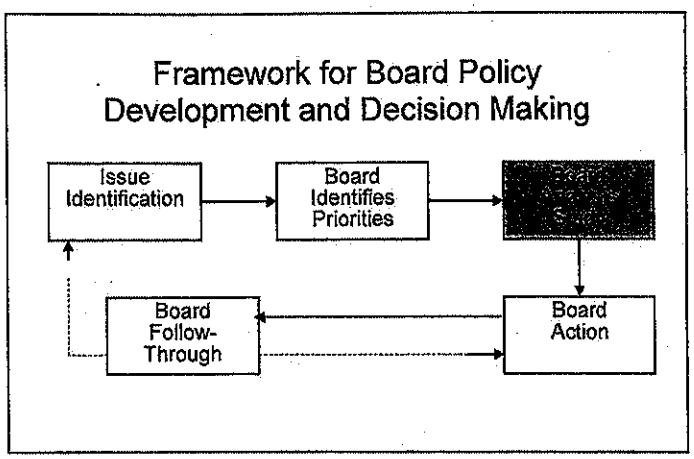
Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

September 9, 2009



Agenda Item: Update on the Iowa Core Curriculum

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

Equity Impact Statement: School districts have the responsibility to ensure that all students have access to high quality learning opportunities.

Presenters:

Kevin Fangman, Administrator
Division of PK-12 Education

Jeff Henderson, Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of Dubuque

Myra Hall, Associate Regional Administrator
Grant Wood Area Education Agency 10

Phyllis Anderson, Curriculum Consultant
Grant Wood Area Education Agency 10

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: This session will provide an update on the Iowa Core Curriculum including information from publications about implementation of the Core.

Vision for the Iowa Core Curriculum

- Each and every K-12 student will learn the essential concepts and skill sets identified in the Iowa Core Curriculum for life in the 21st Century.
- Each and every K-12 educator will embed the essential concepts and skill sets in rigorous and relevant instruction informed by ongoing formative assessment.
- Each and every educational leader will support and ensure an aligned system of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, focused on the Iowa Core Curriculum essential concepts and skill sets.
- The Iowa Department of Education (Department), Area Education Agencies (AEAs), local education agencies, and collaborative partners will work together to provide the necessary systems of support to establish and sustain structures as needed for the essential concepts and skill sets, instruction, and assessment.

Current Actions:

- **Continued work with the Iowa Core Curriculum Network:** The Iowa Core Curriculum Network, consisting of teams from each of the AEAs, is collaborating with the Department to ensure the full implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum by the legislated deadlines. The calendar of Network meetings has been established for the upcoming year.
- **Development of professional development, processes, and tools:** Teams are currently working to develop processes and materials needed to improve local practices in content, instruction, and assessment. The focus will be the alignment of the local enacted curriculum and the Iowa Core Curriculum and building awareness of the Characteristics of Effective Instruction (Teaching for Understanding, Rigor and Relevance, Student-Centered Classrooms, Teaching for Learner Differences, Assessment for Learning).
- **Continued articulation of the Iowa Core Curriculum:** Development work is being done in expanding 21st century skills to include learning competencies (critical thinking, collaboration, innovation, etc.), global literacy, and fine arts. A team is also revising example units to more clearly support the Characteristics of Effective Instruction.
- **Implementation Planning:** An Implementation Plan has been developed and Network members are supporting district leadership teams in identifying actions to meet the six outcomes of the Iowa Core Curriculum:
    - School leaders build and sustain system capacity to implement the Iowa Core Curriculum.
    - Community members and other supporting agencies work together to support the implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum.
    - A continuous improvement process to improve teaching and learning is used at the district and school level.
    - District leaders and other educators monitor and use data to increase the degree of alignment of each and every student's enacted curriculum and other relevant educational opportunities to the Iowa Core Curriculum.
    - Educators engage in professional development focused on implementing Characteristics of Effective Instruction and demonstrate understanding of essential concepts and skill sets.
    - Educators implement effective instructional practices to ensure high levels of learning for each and every student.