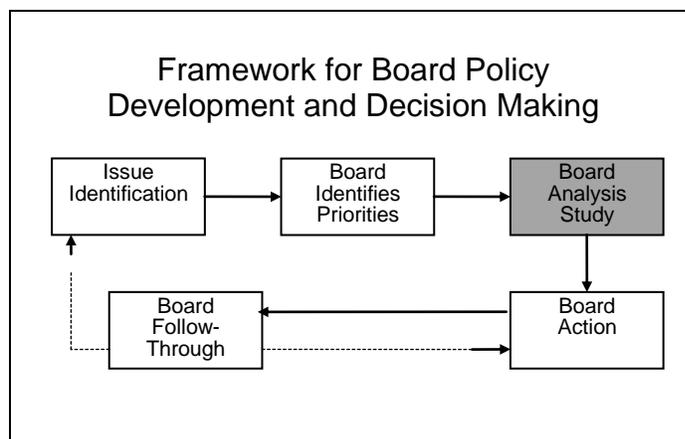


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

September 16, 2010



**Agenda Item:** Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

**Iowa Goals:** All

**Equity Impact Statement:** Research shows that high quality teachers and administrators are instrumental to improving student achievement.

**Presenter:** George Maurer, Executive Director  
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

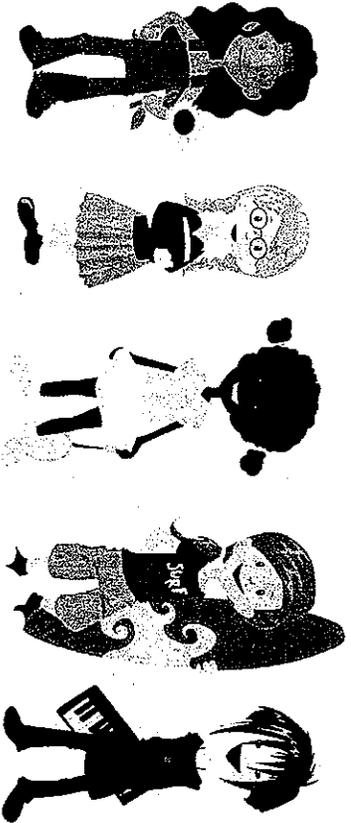
**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board of Education hear this information and discuss issues of mutual interest with representatives of the Board of Educational Examiners.

**Background:** The State Board of Education sets standards for and approves teacher and administrator preparation programs. The Board of Educational Examiners sets licensure standards and issues licenses to teachers and administrators wishing to practice in Iowa. Because of the interrelatedness of this work, communication is key to maintaining an effective and coordinated system that produces quality educators and school leaders.

During this session, information will be presented about the Board of Educational Examiners, their goals, how they work with higher education, and recent changes in licensure. This will provide an opportunity for representatives of the two Boards to discuss current issues and opportunities for increased collaboration.

## PROTECTING IOWA'S STUDENTS



To foster a safe environment for schoolchildren, teachers must follow ethical professional and personal behavior standards. Iowa's Administrative Code, Section 282, Chapter 25, spells out the comprehensive Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics. The Board determines violations and administers sanctions as governed by Section 282, Chapter 11. The Board considers approximately 30 educator discipline cases each year.

### Recent Accomplishments

The Board adapts to meet the profession's needs by providing:

- Public access to educators' online records.
- A web based licensure application for Iowa graduates
- An all-online license renewal process, including emailed renewal reminders.
- Online access to all application forms.
- Creation of a teacher intern license, an alternate route to a teaching position for non-education majors
- A short-term substitute teaching authorization for college graduates without an education degree.
- Electronic scanning of fingerprints to expedite background checks.

# Great schools begin with excellent teachers



### Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

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# THE IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS ENSURES EDUCATOR QUALITY

## Did you know?

\* The Board each year issues more than 23,000 licenses and certificates, ranging from initial teaching licenses to administrator licenses.

\* All license records of Iowa teachers can be viewed online at [www.boee.iowa.gov](http://www.boee.iowa.gov).

\* More than 3,000 license renewals are handled entirely online each year.

\* BOEE staff visit more than two dozen Iowa teacher preparation institutions to review licensing with soon-to-be graduates.

\* The BOEE stands ready to answer questions about licensing: At peak times (March – October), the Board handles up to 300 inquiries a day via telephone and email.

For more licensure details, see Chapters 14 – 22 of Iowa Administrative Code, Section 282, at [www.boee.iowa.gov](http://www.boee.iowa.gov).

The Board of Educational Examiners helps ensure educator quality through high licensing standards for pre-K through grade 12 teachers, administrators and other educators. The 12-member board serves as:

- An independent licensing agency, created in 1989, helping to safeguard schoolchildren by establishing professional and ethics standards for Iowa's educators.
- A self-financed agency that relies solely on revenues from licensing fees and receives no state appropriations.
- A resource to other professional education organizations, answering questions and concerns of teachers, school board members and administrators regarding licensure and ethics.



## Who Serves on the Board?

The Governor appoints the Board. By code, nine of the members must be licensed educators, four of whom are administrators. Two are public members, of which one must have school board experience.

## MISSION

The Board of Educational Examiners provides leadership in practitioner licensure, and practitioner rights, responsibilities, practices and ethics.



## The Path to Licensed Educator

### Initial license

New graduates from approved teacher preparation programs apply for a two-year initial license. An ambitious screening process -- including background checks by the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation -- ensures that new teachers meet Iowa qualifications.

### Standard license

Teachers with an initial license work closely with a trained mentor. After two years, they qualify for a standard license by meeting Iowa's teaching standards as verified through a comprehensive evaluation completed by a licensed evaluator.

## Other Board Services

- \* A majority of the Board's work concerns license renewals -- for experienced teachers and administrators.
- \* The agency reviews applications for licenses from educators moving to Iowa to ensure they meet state standards.

- \* The Board grants licenses to other educators:
  - Para-educators
  - Guidance counselors
  - Social workers
  - Audiologists
  - Speech/language pathologists
  - School psychologists
  - Coaches and administrators