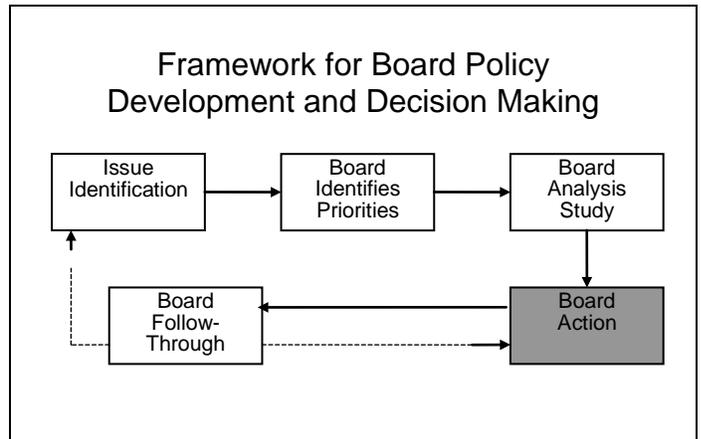


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

March 28, 2013



**Agenda Item:** Grant Wood Area Education Agency Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval

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

**State Board Role/ Authority:** Iowa Code section 256.7(22) gives the State Board the authority to set standards and approve paraeducator preparation programs.

**Presenter:** Marietta Rives, Consultant  
Bureau of Educator Quality

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the paraeducator preparation programs submitted by Grant Wood Area Education Agency. The next review will be during the 2018-19 school year.

**Background:** Legislation originally passed in 1998 and revised in 2000 created a voluntary paraeducator certification. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well-trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. Licensure rules were established by the Board of Educational Examiners. The State Board of Education approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

## **Programs Recommended for Approval March 28, 2013**

Grant Wood Area Education Agency Paraeducator Programs to include:  
Generalist Level I

Iowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements set forth in No Child Left Behind. An additional benefit of this program is that certification will establish realistic opportunities for upward mobility through a career ladder pathway for paraeducators.

The institution named above has submitted a request for approval or re-approval of programs to certify paraeducators in each of the listed content areas. Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are several benefits to having paraeducators certified.

1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement teacher/provider programs.

The programs have been reviewed. In reviewing the programs, it was important to look for three major components:

1. Verification that each of the standards included in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 have been met.
2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.

### **Strengths of the programs:**

- Syllabi for each course were submitted as part of the program.
- Course instructors create authentic experiences for paraeducator candidates by working with them in the actual employment environment.
- This program fills a need for non-traditional students in the region.

### **Areas for improvement:**

The agency provides examples of assessment of candidate performance in relation to the content competencies of the program. There is also evidence that at the conclusion of each course, the program and its delivery is evaluated by the participants. It is recommended that this data be assessed by the program advisory committee for the purpose of program improvement. The program can be greatly enhanced by establishing rigorous expectations, evaluating candidate knowledge and program components, and analyzing the information for program adjustments.

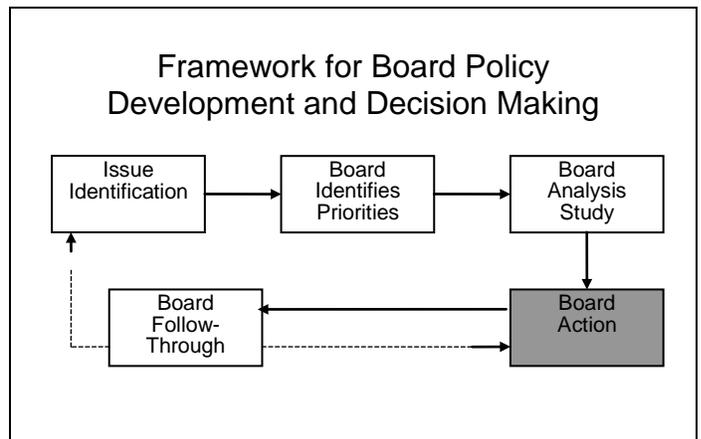
### **Recommendation:**

Based upon the review of programs submitted for consideration, approval for the Generalist Level I Paraeducator program through Grant Wood Area Education Agency is recommended.

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

March 28, 2013



**Agenda Item:** Area Education Agency 267 Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval

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

**State Board Role/ Authority:** Iowa Code section 256.7(22) gives the State Board the authority to set standards and approve paraeducator preparation programs.

**Presenter:** Marietta Rives, Consultant  
Bureau of Educator Quality

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the paraeducator preparation programs submitted by Area Education Agency 267. The next review will be during the 2017-18 school year.

**Background:** Legislation originally passed in 1998 and revised in 2000 created a voluntary paraeducator certification. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well-trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. Licensure rules were established by the Board of Educational Examiners. The State Board of Education approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

## **Programs Recommended for Approval March 28, 2013**

Grant Wood Area Education Agency Paraeducator Programs to include:  
Generalist Level I

Iowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements set forth in No Child Left Behind. An additional benefit of this program is that certification will establish realistic opportunities for upward mobility through a career ladder pathway for paraeducators.

The institution named above has submitted a request for approval or re-approval of programs to certify paraeducators in each of the listed content areas. Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are several benefits to having paraeducators certified.

1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement teacher/provider programs.

The programs have been reviewed. In reviewing the programs, it was important to look for three major components:

1. Verification that each of the standards included in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 have been met.
2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.

### **Strengths of the programs:**

- Syllabi for each course were submitted as part of the program.
- Course instructors create authentic experiences for paraeducator candidates by working with them in the actual employment environment.
- This program fills a need for non-traditional students in the region.

### **Areas for improvement:**

The agency provides examples of assessment of candidate performance in relation to the content competencies of the program. There is also evidence that at the conclusion of each course, the program and its delivery is evaluated by the participants. It is recommended that this data be assessed by the program advisory committee for the purpose of program improvement. The program can be greatly enhanced by establishing rigorous expectations, evaluating candidate knowledge and program components, and analyzing the information for program adjustments.

### **Recommendation:**

Based upon the review of programs submitted for consideration, approval for the Generalist Level I Paraeducator program through Grant Wood Area Education Agency is recommended.