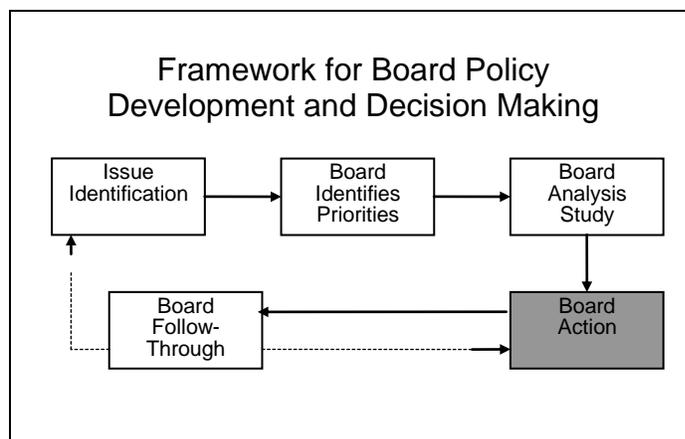


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 16, 2011



**Agenda Item:** Rules: Chapter 12 - Accreditation Standards (Notice)

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

**Equity Impact Statement:** All school districts are governed by these rules.

**Presenters:** Carol Greta, Attorney  
Office of the Director

Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator  
Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 12.

**Background:** This chapter sets accreditation standards for all Iowa school districts and accredited nonpublic schools. A brief description of the five items and the rationale for the rule-making in each item are as follows:

Item 1 strikes a reference to a statute (Iowa Code section 272.33) that has been repealed.

Item 2 adds a clarification that one individual may not simultaneously serve as superintendent, secondary principal, and elementary principal. This proposal conforms to Iowa Code section 280.14(2). The clarification is already in subrule 12.4(4), and is added in subrule 12.4(6) as a convenience for the reader.

Item 3 rescinds the rule that required a certification of fitness because this is not an accreditation requirement. School bus drivers are still subject to a physical examination requirement.

Item 4 implements 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 453, by adding terms and conditions under which schools and school districts may award secondary credit to non-secondary students.

Item 5 defines the components of twenty-first century learning skills to comply with Iowa Code section 256.7(26)(a).

## **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 12, “General Accreditation Standards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter sets accreditation standards for all Iowa school districts and accredited nonpublic schools. A brief description of the five items and the rationale for the rule-making in each item are as follows:

Item 1 strikes a reference to a statute (Iowa Code section 272.33) that has been repealed.

Item 2 adds a clarification that one individual may not simultaneously serve as superintendent, secondary principal, and elementary principal. This proposal conforms to Iowa Code section 280.14(2). The clarification is already in subrule 12.4(4), and is added in subrule 12.4(6) as a convenience for the reader.

Item 3 rescinds the rule that required a certification of fitness because this is not an accreditation requirement. School bus drivers are still subject to a physical examination requirement.

Item 4 implements 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 453, by adding terms and conditions under which schools and school districts may award secondary credit to non-secondary students.

Item 5 defines the components of twenty-first century learning skills to comply with Iowa Code section 256.7(26)(a).

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

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendment on or before January 3, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendment should be directed to Del Hoover, Iowa Department of Education, Third Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-8402; E-mail [del.hoover@iowa.gov](mailto:del.hoover@iowa.gov); or fax (515)242-6025.

A public hearing will be held on January 3, 2012, from 1 to 2 p.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 persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should advise the Department of Education of their 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 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 453 and Iowa Code sections 256.7(26) and 280.14(2).

The following amendments are proposed.

**ITEM 1.** Amend rule **281—12.3(3)** as follows:

**12.3(3) *Personnel evaluation.*** Each board shall adopt evaluation criteria and procedures for all contracted staff. The evaluation processes shall conform to Iowa Code sections ~~272.33~~, 279.14, and 279.23A.

**ITEM 2.** Amend rule **281—12.4(6)** as follows:

**12.4(6) *Staffing policies—secondary schools.*** The board operating a secondary school shall develop and adopt staffing policies designed to attract, retain, and effectively utilize competent personnel. Each board operating a secondary school shall employ at least one

secondary principal. This position may be combined with that of elementary principal or with a teaching assignment at the elementary or secondary level, provided the individual holds the proper licenses/certificates and endorsements. This position ~~cannot~~ may be combined with that of superintendent, but one person may not serve as elementary principal, secondary principal, and superintendent.

**ITEM 3.** Rescind and reserve rule **281—12.4(14)**.

**ITEM 4.** Adopt the following new paragraph **12.5(4)“1”**:

*1. Secondary credit.* An individual pupil in grade 7 or 8 may be allowed to take a course for secondary credit if all of the following are true:

1. The pupil satisfactorily completes the course.
2. The course is in the curricular area of English or language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies.
3. The course is taught by a teacher licensed by the Iowa board of educational examiners for grades 9 – 12 and endorsed in the subject area.
4. The course meets all components listed in subrule 12.5(5) for the specific curricular area.
5. The board of the school district or the authorities in charge of the nonpublic school has developed enrollment criteria that a student must meet to be enrolled in the course.

Neither school districts nor accredited nonpublic schools are mandated to offer secondary credit under this paragraph. If credit is offered under this paragraph, the credit must apply toward graduation requirements of the district or accredited nonpublic school.

**ITEM 5.** Adopt the following new subrule **12.5(17)**:

**12.5(17) *Twenty-first century learning skills.*** Twenty-first century learning skills include civic literacy, health literacy, technology literacy, financial literacy, and employability skills. Schools and school districts shall address the curricular needs of students in kindergarten through grade twelve in these areas. In doing so, schools and school districts shall apply to all curricular areas the universal constructs of critical thinking, complex communication, creativity, collaboration, flexibility and adaptability, and productivity and accountability.

*a. Civic literacy.* Components of civic literacy include rights and responsibility of citizens; principles of democracy and republicanism; purpose and function of the three branches of government; local, state, and national government; inherent, expressed, and implied powers; strategies for effective political action; how law and public policy are established; how various political systems define rights and responsibility of the individual; the role of the United States in current world affairs.

*b. Health literacy.* Components of health literacy include understanding and using basic health concepts to enhance personal, family and community health; establish and monitor health goals; effectively manage health risk situations and advocate for others; demonstrate a healthy lifestyle that benefits the individual and society.

*c. Technology literacy.* Components of technology literacy include creative thinking; development of innovative products and processes; support of personal learning and the learning of others; gathering, evaluating, and using information; use of appropriate tools and resources; conduct of research; project management; problem solving; informed decision-making.

*d. Financial literacy.* Components of financial literacy include developing short-and long-term financial goals; understanding needs verses wants; spending plans and positive cash flow; informed and responsible decision-making; repaying debt; risk management options; saving, investing, and asset building; understand human, cultural, and societal issues; legal and ethical behavior.

*e. Employability skills.* Components of employability skills include different perspectives and cross cultural understanding; adaptability and flexibility; ambiguity and change; leadership; integrity, ethical behavior, and social responsibility; initiative and self-direction; productivity and accountability