

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 97, “Supplementary Weighting,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments conform to 2011 Iowa Acts, House File 645, section 15. A regional academy may serve students in grades seven and eight. A new provision of statute requires school districts that participate in a regional academy to agree on how the funds received under rule 281—97.4(257) shall be used, and to submit the agreement to the Department of approval.

An agency-wide waiver provision is provided in 281—chapter 4.

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before January 3, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-3968; E-mail jeff.berger@iowa.gov; or fax (515)242-5988.

A public hearing will be held on January 3, 2012, from 2 to 3 p.m., in the State Board Room on the second floor of the 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 person who intends to attend the public hearing and has special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should advise the Department of Education of 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, House File 645, section 15.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend the definition of “Regional academy” in rule **281—97.1(257)** as follows:

“Regional academy” shall mean an educational program established by a school district to which multiple school districts send students in grades 9 7 through 12. The curriculum shall include advanced-level courses and, in addition, may include career-technical courses, Internet-based courses, and coursework delivered via the ICN. Regional academy courses shall not qualify as concurrent enrollment courses and do not generate any postsecondary credit. School districts participating in regional academies are eligible for supplementary weighting as provided in Iowa Code section 257.11, subsection 2.

Item 2. Amend paragraph **97.4(1)“c”** as follows:

c. The grade levels include one or more grades ~~nine~~ seven through twelve.

Item 3. Adopt new paragraph **97.4(1)“h”** as follows:

d. The school districts participating in a regional academy shall enter into an agreement on how the funding generated by the supplementary weighting received shall be used and shall submit the agreement, as well as a copy of the minutes of meetings of the local school district boards of directors in which the boards approved the agreement, to the department for approval by October 1 of the year in which the districts intend to request supplementary weighting for the regional academy.