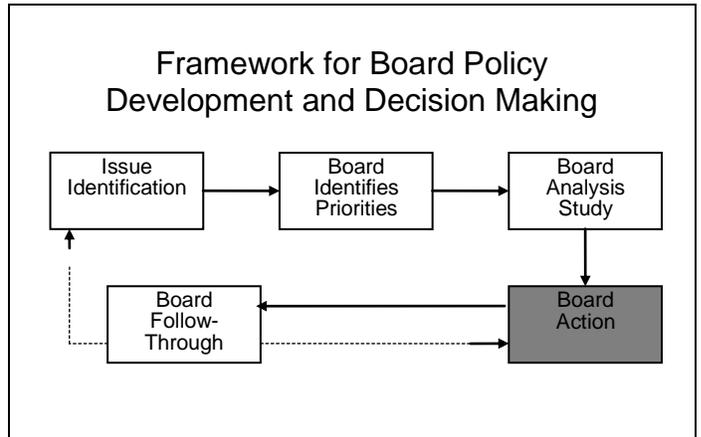


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

January 26, 2012



Agenda Item: The University of Phoenix Online Practitioner Preparation Programs: Teacher and Principal

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

Equity Impact Statement: Practitioner preparation programs support the improvement of instructional practices and strengthen the quality of educator preparation and professional development programs to give educators at all levels the skills they need to improve teaching and learning.

Presenter: None (consent agenda)

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the enrollment of Iowa residents in online practitioner preparation programs offered by the University of Phoenix.

Background: Iowa Code 281—79.5(256) grants authority to the State Board of Education to set standards and approve practitioner preparation programs based on those standards. The University of Phoenix has met the program approval requirements as approved by the State Board.

Recommendation for Approval of The University of Phoenix Online Practitioner Preparation Programs

Introduction

New federal Department of Education regulations (34 CFR § 600.9) require an institution that offers online courses and programs, including educator preparation programs, to be registered with each state in which students of the programs reside, if the state requires that the institution be registered in that state. Iowa Code Chapter 261B, as modified effective July 1, 2009, requires an institution that maintains or conducts a course of instruction in Iowa, including through distance education, to register with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission [“Commission”]. Thus, institutions offering distance education programs which have never been previously required to register in Iowa may now be required to do so.

The University of Phoenix has requested approval from the Iowa State Board of Education to offer the following practitioner preparation programs: teacher, principal. The institution is housed in, Phoenix, AZ but also hosts offices across the country. Candidates are recommended for licensure in Arizona (early childhood, elementary, secondary, special education – cross categorical, principal). The University of Phoenix programs are candidates for accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Requirements

Evidence has been provided and the following requirements have been met:

1. That the institution seeks to offer programs in Iowa via distance education only; the institution has no bricks-and-mortar presence in Iowa.¹ *Note: although there is a bricks and mortar presence in Iowa, this campus does not provide practitioner preparation programming.*
2. That a candidate graduating from the institution obtains initial educator licensure/certification from the state in which the candidate completed his/her preparation.²
3. That the candidates graduating from the institution receive prominent written disclosure from the institution in all published and Web-based materials that describe the educator preparation program(s) as follows (slight paraphrasing is permitted):
 - A student seeking an Iowa educator license is advised that successful completion of this institution’s program(s) of educator preparation does not qualify you for initial educator licensure by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners.
 - A candidate seeking licensure in the State of Iowa must first be licensed/certified as an educator in the state in which preparation was completed. This institution shall assist a candidate in contacting the appropriate licensing board in the state in which the candidate’s preparation was completed. This institution shall assist the

¹ An institution with a physical (“bricks-and-mortar”) presence in Iowa must have full chapter 79 review process.

² An institution whose candidates seek initial licensure from the Iowa BoEE must have full chapter 79 review process. The “state in which the candidate completed his/her preparation” means the state in which a majority of the candidate’s instruction originates.

candidate in understanding the requirements of the appropriate licensing board prior to the candidate's completion of this institution's program(s) of educator preparation.

- A candidate seeking subsequent licensure from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners must contact that Board (515/281-5849; <http://www.boee.iowa.gov/>) for licensure requirements in Iowa.

4. That the institution's educator preparation programs are regionally accredited.
5. That the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in the state in which the institution maintains its primary physical presence. [If the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in other states in which the institution maintains a physical presence, the institution is encouraged to present proof of the same to the Iowa State Board of Education.]

Recommendation

The Iowa Department of Education recommends The University of Phoenix approval to enroll Iowa residents into online practitioner preparation programs. Approval allows The University of Phoenix to offer these programs and register with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.