

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 79, “Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs,” Iowa Administrative Code.

2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2284, section 39, amended Iowa Code section 256.16 regarding pretesting of candidates for admission to teacher preparation programs.

Whereas presently teacher preparation programs are required to administer a “basic skills test” to admission candidates, the new legislation requires that the test be “a preprofessional skills test offered by a nationally recognized testing service.” The new legislation also imposes a new requirement that, prior to completion of the program, each student in a teacher preparation program achieve scores above the 25th percentile nationally on an assessment that measures pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area. The proposed amendments implement this legislation.

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

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before September 11, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Mike Cormack, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319–0146; telephone (515) 281-3399; E-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov; or fax (515)242–5988.

A public hearing will be held on September 11, 2012, from 2 to 3 p.m., at 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 contact and 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 2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2284, section 39, and Iowa Code section 256.16.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph 79.13(2)“c” as follows:

c. For teacher preparation programs, the system includes the administration of a basic preprofessional skills test offered by a nationally recognized testing service, with program admission denied to any applicant who fails to achieve the institution’s designated criterion score.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 79.15(1) as follows:

79.15(1) Prior to admission to the teacher preparation program, each teacher candidate attains the qualifying score determined by the unit on a basic preprofessional skills test of reading, writing, and mathematics administered pursuant to paragraph 79.13(2)“c.”

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph 79.15(7)“a” as follows:

a. Content/subject matter specialization. The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structure of the discipline(s)

the candidate teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the subject matter meaningful for students. This is evidenced by a completion of a 30-semester-hour teaching major which must minimally include the requirements for at least one of the basic endorsement areas, special education teaching endorsements, or secondary level occupational endorsements. Each elementary candidate must also complete a field of specialization in a single discipline or a formal interdisciplinary program of at least 12 semester hours and achievement of a score above the twenty-fifth percentile nationally on subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area.