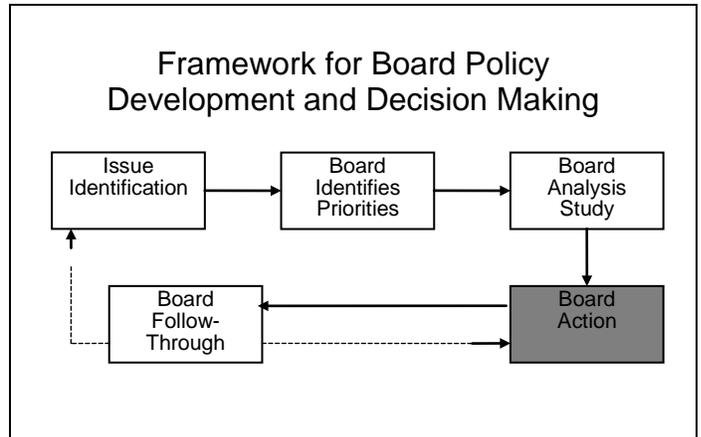


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 14, 2012



**Agenda Item:** State Board Legislative Agenda for 2013

**Iowa Goal:** All

**State Board Role/  
Authority:**

The State Board acts in an advocacy role to promote effective educational opportunities for all students in Iowa. In that capacity, they identify policy development priorities each year and advocate for legislative change as necessary to implement their priorities.

**Presenters:** Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison  
Office of the Director

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve this legislative advocacy platform for the 2013 legislative session.

**Background:** Each year the State Board develops a legislative priorities platform for the upcoming legislative session. This platform is used to communicate funding and policy priorities to legislators, the general public, and a variety of stakeholders.

During this session, the Board will have an opportunity to suggest changes to the draft legislative agenda that is attached.

# IOWA

# State Board of Education



**Rosie Hussey**  
*President*  
Clear Lake



**Charles C. Edwards, Jr.**  
*Vice President*  
Des Moines



**Diane Crookham-Johnson**  
Oskaloosa



**Sister Jude Fitzpatrick**  
West Des Moines



**Michael Knedler**  
Council Bluffs



**Valorie Kruse**  
Sioux City



**Mike May**  
Spirit Lake



**Max Phillips**  
Woodward



**LaMetta Wynn**  
Clinton



**McKenzie Baker**  
*Student Member*  
Forest City

Our **Mission** is to champion excellence for all Iowa students through leadership and service.



It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. § 1681-1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.) If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 East 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515-281-5295, or contact the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 1053, Chicago, IL 60606-7204.

[www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov)

## 2013 Legislative Advocacy Agenda

# Restoring Iowa as the Leader in Education



# IOWA

 | State Board  
of Education

The Iowa State Board of Education stands ready to work with policymakers in the executive and legislative branches to build the best educational system for our students. Our efforts are voluntary but our commitment is strong to the education of all Iowa students. We are an independent, bi-partisan group of Iowans who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate to work on educational issues. These issues can range from impacting young children in our earliest grades to policies impacting teacher preparation programs for our college students. We are charged in Iowa Code to adopt rules that establish policy for programs and services in accordance with legislation. We have been given the responsibility to prescribe standards and approve teacher preparation programs. We rule on appeals related to local board decisions. We have the authority to grant or deny charter school applications. In short, we have these responsibilities and more that help to enact the laws that are passed during the legislative process each year.

In working exclusively on educational issues, we strive to be an objective voice that provides a perspective that is unique in the process. We do our best to stay above the fray of politics, seeking to be a resource that provides policy-based insight on this important policy area. With our complete focus on education and our independent, experienced review of the issues, we seek to fill a needed niche in the educational dialogue in this state.

The Board believes that the status quo is not sufficient to meet the educational needs of our children. Education must be the top legislative priority in 2013, with new public policies and financial commitments to do just that.



**EDUCATION GOALS**

We believe strongly that the following key concepts must be addressed and advanced with positive support from the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly:

- Improve teacher and leader preparation in this state to produce quality professionals in every Iowa classroom and school setting.
- Support the expansion of online learning and the infusion of other technology in the classroom.
- Reduce the achievement gap that exists in our state so that all Iowa children are learning at a higher level of student achievement.
- Continue to build on the initial success and innovative opportunities that Competency-based Education has provided in Iowa education.

**2013 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The Iowa State Board of Education has four main policy development priorities to improve Iowa education. We encourage strong policy work in the following areas:

**Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation**

- Improve accountability with a reliance on student achievement data to demonstrate results
- Increase clinical practice included in the academic program
- Promote stronger efforts in recruitment, better teaching standards and performance assessments
- Align certification and graduation standards with the Board of Educational Examiners
- Study best practices in other states and nations in order to develop a revised program approval process
- Highlight exceptional methods for using technology in the classroom

**Competency-based Education**

- Build on the recent solid work of the Governor and the Iowa General Assembly in this area in Iowa Code
- Work with the task force that is studying this in 2013 to provide concrete proposals
- Monitor a school that is presently engaged in Competency-based Education and encourage replication of positive results shown in it
- Track the ongoing grassroots networking taking place in this area
- Establish a permanent state funding stream to support competency-based measures in schools

**Online Learning and Other Technological Advances**

- Expand Iowa Learning Online
- Collect data from present innovative practices in technology to measure success and learn from mistakes to build best practice models
- Require all Iowa students to take at least one class online
- Create a permanent funding source for quality technology in every classroom
- Be bold in embracing online learning as a state
- Put student interests first in all state policy discussions on this topic

**Reducing Achievement Gaps**

- Study root causes of and current efforts to address disparities
- Learn from schools that have been effective in closing the gap
- Provide collaboration toward eliminating achievement gaps
- Promote efforts that increase communication with shareholders and the public