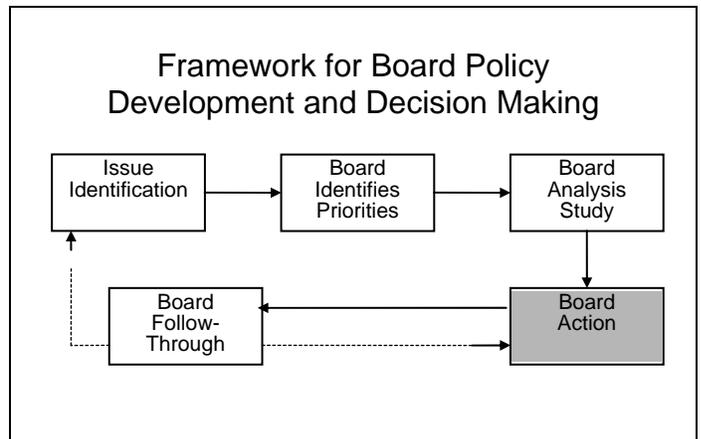


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

April 3, 2008



**Agenda Item:** Accredited Nonpublic School (Concordia Lutheran School) Request to Add a Grade

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

**Equity Impact Statement:** 281 IAC 12.5(8) requires that each school and school district incorporate multicultural and gender fair goals for the educational program into its comprehensive school improvement plan.

**Presenter:** Consent Agenda

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended the State Board of Education approve the request to add and grant general accreditation approval for 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Concordia Lutheran School (Storm Lake, Iowa), currently accredited grades K-7.

**Background:** Concordia Lutheran School has provided evidence of general accreditation requirements pursuant to Iowa Code 281—IAC 12.5(1). The following has been verified:

- The school has hired an appropriately licensed teacher for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade assignment.
- The school is incorporating the required content specifications for 8<sup>th</sup> grade as verified through an examination of curriculum compared to the elements required in 281—IAC 12.5(1).
- The school implements content standards and grade level benchmarks for all grades K-8.
- The school has included 8<sup>th</sup> grade in its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).

The school was visited February 13, 2008. DE School Improvement Consultant, Julie Melcher, met with the school's

principal and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. All points of nonpublic school accreditation were verified and included a review of required content specifications for each required content area.

**Future Plans of Concordia Lutheran School:** The addition of 8<sup>th</sup> grade to its general accreditation status completes the school's plan for accreditation.

**DATE:**                   **March 24, 2008**

**TO:**                   Members, State Board of Education

**FROM:**               Judy Jeffrey, Director

**SUBJECT:**   Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

I recommend that the State Board of Education approve the request of the Board of Education of Concordia Lutheran School (Storm Lake, Iowa) to expand accreditation from grades K-7, to include grade 8.

Julie Melcher, school improvement consultant, visited the school February 13, 2008 and has verified the following:

- The school has hired an appropriately licensed teacher for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade assignment.
- The school is incorporating the required content specifications for 8<sup>th</sup> grade as verified through an examination of curriculum compared to the elements required in 281—IAC 12.5(4).
- The school has standards and grade level benchmarks for all grades K-8.
- The school has included 8<sup>th</sup> grade in its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).

During the February 13 school visit, Mrs. Melcher met with the school's administrator and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. All points of nonpublic school accreditation have been verified.