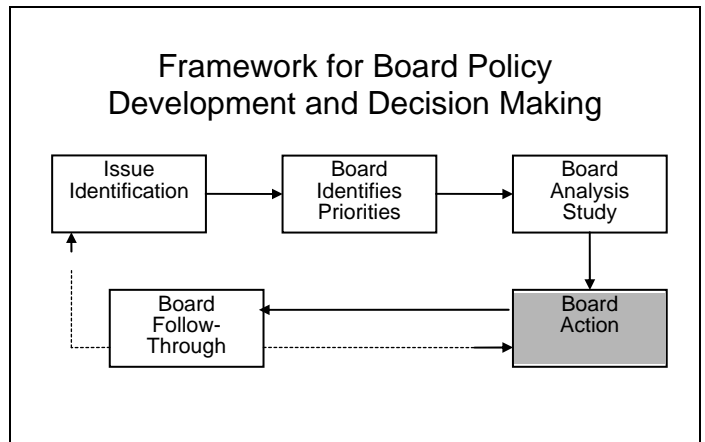


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

February 6, 2008



**Agenda Item:** Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

**Iowa Goal:** All K-12 students will achieve at high levels, prepared for success beyond high school.

**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 that the State Board approve the request to expand accreditation from grades K-6, to include PreK.

**Background:** Grades K-6 are currently accredited at Gehlen Catholic Elementary School in LeMars. Documentation and an on-site visit by a school improvement consultant from the Department confirmed the school to be in compliance with the accreditation standards as identified in 281—IAC Chapter 12.

The following has been verified:

- The school employs an appropriately licensed teacher for the pre-kindergarten assignment.
- The school is incorporating the required content specifications for pre-kindergarten as verified through an examination of curriculum compared to the elements required in 281—IAC 12.5(1).
- The school has standards and grade level benchmarks for all grades PreK-6.
- The school has included pre-kindergarten in its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

DATE: January 24, 2008  
TO: Members, State Board of Education  
FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Director  
SUBJECT: Request for Accredited Nonpublic School to Add a Grade

Please consider the request of the Board of Education of Gehlen Catholic Elementary School in LeMars to expand accreditation from grades K-6, to include PreK.

Julie Melcher, school improvement consultant, visited the school on October 25, 2007, and has verified the following:

- The school employs an appropriately licensed teacher for the PreK assignment.
- The school is incorporating the required content specifications for PreK as verified through an examination of curriculum compared to the elements required in 281—IAC 12.5(1).
- The school has standards and grade level benchmarks for all grades PreK-6.
- The school has included PreK in its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

During the October 25 school visit, Ms. Melcher met with the school's administrator and pre-kindergarten teacher, as well as the Diocesan curriculum director. All points of nonpublic school accreditation have been verified.