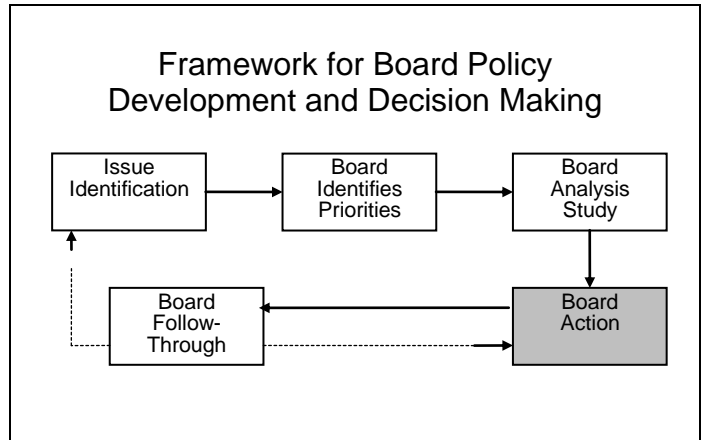


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

February 11, 2009



Agenda Item:

Rules: Chapter 16 - Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (Notice)

Iowa Goal:

All children will enter school ready to learn.

Equity Impact Statement:

All school districts are governed by rules promulgated by the State Board.

Presenter:

None (Consent agenda)

Attachments:

1

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend this chapter.

Background:

Legislation enacted this past session conditions a school district's continued participation in the statewide voluntary preschool program on the district's compliance with accountability provisions. These amendments provide a process for the Department and districts to utilize.

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 16, "Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program," Iowa Administrative Code.

2008 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1181, Section 69, predicated a school district's continued participation in the statewide voluntary preschool program that was created in 2007 Iowa Acts, Chapter 148 on the district's compliance with accountability provisions. These amendments implement the legislation, providing a process for the department and districts to utilize and clarifying that a district remains in the statewide voluntary preschool program while the district is working to become compliant.

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

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed rules on or before March 31, 2009. Comments should be directed to Carol Greta, Office of the Director, Grimes State Office Building, Second Floor, East 14th and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319–0146. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4122 or submitted by E-mail to carol.greta@iowa.gov.

These rules are intended to implement 2008 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1181, Section 69.

The following amendments are proposed.

Item 1. Amend rules **281--16.1(82GA, HF877)** to **281--16.15(82GA, HF877)**, parenthetical implementation, by striking "82GA, HF877" wherever it appears and inserting "256C" in lieu thereof.

Item 2. Add new paragraph "c" to subrule **16.11(1)** as follows:

c. Continuation of a school district's participation in the preschool program for a second or subsequent budget year is subject to the approval of the department based upon the school district's compliance with the accountability requirements in rule 16.3(256C), subrules 16.4(1) and 16.4(2), and the department's on-site review of the school district's implementation of the preschool program. The department shall follow the procedure set forth in subrule 16.13(3) if a district is found to not be in compliance with one or more of the accountability requirements.

Item 3. Add new subrule **16.13(3)** as follows:

16.13(3) *Noncompliance with program requirements.* If the department determines that a participating district does not meet one or more of the accountability requirements provided in rule 16.3(256C), the department shall inform the school district what appropriate actions shall be taken by the school district. The school district shall submit an action plan that is approved by the department. The action plan shall contain reasonable timelines for coming into compliance. The department shall facilitate technical assistance when requested. If the department determines that the school district is not taking the necessary actions in a timely manner, the director of the department may terminate the school district's contract as provided in subrule 16.8(2), final unnumbered paragraph thereof. Until such time as the school district's contract is terminated, the school district may continue to participate in the statewide voluntary preschool program.