ARC 0724D

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to general accreditation standards

The State Board of Education hereby amends Chapter 12, "General Accreditation Standards," Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 256.7 and 256.11.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 256.11.

Purpose and Summary

This rulemaking conforms the requirements to offer and teach fine arts at the secondary level to the enabling statutory text and modernizes language regarding reporting for students based on student groups.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 2, 2026, as **ARC 0551D**. A public hearing was held on the following date(s):

- September 22, 2026

No one attended the public hearing. No public comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the State Board on October 15, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the State Board for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 7—Chapter 2504.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on December 16, 2026.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind the definition of "Subgroups" in rule **281—12.2(256)**.

ITEM 2. Adopt the following **new** definition of "Student groups" in rule **281—12.2(256)**:

"Student groups" (formerly known as "subgroups") means a subset of the student population that has a common characteristic. Student groups include but are not limited to gender, race, students with disabilities, and socioeconomic status.

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **12.5(5)"g"** as follows:

g. Fine arts (two units). Fine arts instruction ~~will~~ may include ~~at least two~~ any of the following:

(1) to (4) No change.

ITEM 4. Amend subparagraph **12.8(1)"b"(5)** as follows:

(5) Annual improvement goals. The board, with input from its school improvement advisory committee, will adopt annual improvement goals based on data from at least one districtwide assessment. The goals will describe desired annual increase in the curriculum areas of, but not limited to, mathematics, reading, and science achievement for all students, for particular ~~subgroups of students~~ student groups, or both. Annual improvement goals may be set for the early intervention program as described in subrule 12.5(18), other state indicators, locally determined indicators, locally established student learning goals, other curriculum areas, future student employability, or factors influencing student achievement.

ITEM 5. Amend paragraph **12.8(2)"a"** as follows:

a. State indicators. A school or school district will collect data on the following indicators for reporting purposes:

(1) The percentage of all ~~fourth~~ fourth-, ~~eighth~~ eighth-, and ~~eleventh grade~~ eleventh-grade students achieving proficient or higher reading status using at least three achievement levels and by gender, race, socioeconomic status, students with disabilities, and other ~~subgroups~~ student groups as required by state or federal law.

(2) The percentage of all ~~fourth~~ fourth-, ~~eighth~~ eighth-, and ~~eleventh grade~~ eleventh-grade students achieving proficient or higher mathematics status using at least three achievement levels and for gender, race, socioeconomic status, students with disabilities, and other ~~subgroups~~ student groups as required by state or federal law.

(3) The percentage of all ~~eighth~~ eighth- and ~~tenth grade~~ tenth-grade students achieving proficient or higher science status using at least three achievement levels.

(4) The percentage of students considered as dropouts for grades 7 to 12 by gender, race, students with disabilities, and other ~~subgroups~~ student groups as required by state or federal law.

(5) to (7) No change.

ITEM 6. Amend subparagraph **12.8(2)"b"(1)** as follows:

(1) Baseline data on at least one districtwide assessment for the state indicators described in subrule 12.8(3). Every year thereafter the school or school district will compare the annual data collected with the baseline data. A school or school district is not to report to the community about ~~subgroup~~ student group assessment results when a ~~subgroup~~ student group contains fewer than ten students at a grade level. A school or school district will report districtwide assessment results for all enrolled and tuitioned-in students.

[Filed 10/20/26, effective 12/16/26]
[Published 11/11/26]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 11/11/26.