

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 79, “Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This proposed amendment would allow prospective teaching candidates an alternate measure of testing to demonstrate their competence in pedagogy and content. The status quo would continue as an option, but this amendment would also allow for the inclusion of a second test, chosen by the Director, for prospective teaching candidates. With passage at that level, a candidate who passes either test would be eligible for Iowa licensure.

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

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendment by 4:30 p.m. on or before March 11, 2014. Comments on the proposed amendment should be directed to Mike Cormack, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-3399; or e-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov; or fax (515)242-5988.

A public hearing will be held on March 11, 2014, from 2 to 3 p.m. in the State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should advise the Department of Education of specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

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

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 256.16.

The following amendment is proposed.

Amend paragraph **79.15(7)“a”** as follows:

a. Content/subject matter specialization. The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structure of the discipline(s) the candidate teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the subject matter meaningful for students. This is evidenced by a completion of a 30-semester-hour teaching major which must minimally include the requirements for at least one of the basic endorsement areas, special education teaching endorsements, or secondary level occupational endorsements. ~~Each~~ The candidate must achieve either meet or exceed a score above the 25th percentile nationally on subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area as approved by the director of the department of education, or the candidate must meet or exceed the equivalent of a score above the 25th percentile nationally on an alternate assessment also approved by the director. The alternate assessment must be a valid and reliable subject area-specific, performance-based assessment for preservice teacher candidates that is centered on student learning. Additionally, each elementary candidate must also complete a field of specialization in a single discipline or a formal interdisciplinary program of at least 12 semester hours.

These requirements shall become effective January 2, 2013.