

281—77.2 (256) Definitions. For purposes of clarity, the following definitions are used throughout the chapter:

“*AEA*” means area education agency.

“*BOEE*” means the board of educational examiners, the board responsible for establishing licensure requirements and issuing licenses.

“*Clinical experiences*” means a candidate’s direct experiences in PK-12 schools. “Clinical experiences” includes field experiences and internships.

“*Cooperating teachers*” means classroom teachers who provide guidance and supervision to teacher candidates during the candidates’ field experiences in the schools.

“*Department*” means the department of education.

“*Director*” means the director of education.

“*Diverse groups*” means one or more groups of individuals possessing certain traits or characteristics, including but not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.

“*Educator preparation program*” is a synonym for practitioner preparation program.

“*ELPS*” means Educational Leadership Policy Standards, the national standards for educational administration.

“*Institution*” means a four-year college or university in Iowa offering teacher intern preparation and seeking state board approval of its teacher intern preparation program.

“*InTASC*” means Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium, the source of national standards for teachers.

“*Intern*” means an individual who is enrolled in a teacher intern preparation program and is currently employed as an intern by an Iowa school district.

“*Iowa teaching standards*” represents a set of knowledge and skills that reflects the best evidence available regarding effective teaching as listed in rule 281—83.4(284). The standards shall serve as the basis for comprehensive evaluations of teachers and as a basis for professional development plans.

“*Mentor*” means an individual, employed by a school district or area education agency as a classroom teacher, or a retired teacher, who holds a valid license issued under Iowa Code chapter 272. The individual must have a record of four years of successful teaching practice with at least two of the four years on a nonprobationary basis and must demonstrate professional commitment to both the improvement of teaching and learning and the development of beginning teachers or teacher interns.

“*Practitioner*” means a teacher, administrator, or other school personnel holding a license issued by the board of educational examiners.

“Program” means the program for teacher intern preparation at colleges and universities leading to licensure of teacher interns.

“School district” means a school corporation as defined in Iowa Code chapter 290. A school district is also referred to as a “local education agency” or “LEA.”

“State board” means the state board of education.

“Teacher intern candidate” means an individual who is enrolled in a teacher intern preparation program leading to teacher intern licensure and who has not yet begun employment as an intern.

“Teacher intern preparation program” means the program for teacher intern preparation at colleges and universities leading to licensure of teacher interns.

“Unit” means the organizational entity within an institution with the responsibility of administering the teacher intern preparation program.

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