

**282—18.11 (272) Director of special education of an area education agency.**

**18.11(1) Authorization.** The holder of this endorsement is authorized to serve as a director of special education of an area education agency. Assistant directors are also required to hold this endorsement.

**18.11(2) Program requirements.**

*a. Degree—specialist or its equivalent.* An applicant must hold a master's degree plus at least 32 semester hours of planned graduate study in administration or special education beyond the master's degree.

*b. Endorsement.* An applicant must hold or meet the requirements for one of the following:

- (1) PK-12 principal and PK-12 supervisor of special education (see rule 282—18.9(272));
- (2) Supervisor of special education—instructional (see rule 282—15.5(272));
- (3) Professional service administrator (see 282—subrule 27.3(5)); or
- (4) A letter of authorization for special education supervisor issued prior to October 1, 1988.

*c. Content.* An applicant must have completed a sequence of courses and experiences which may have been part of, or in addition to, the degree requirements to include the following:

- (1) Knowledge of federal, state and local fiscal policies related to education.
- (2) Knowledge of school plant/facility planning.
- (3) Knowledge of human resources management, including recruitment, personnel assistance and development, evaluations and negotiations.
- (4) Knowledge of models, theories and philosophies that provide the basis for educational systems.
- (5) Knowledge of current issues in special education.
- (6) Knowledge of special education school law and legislative and public policy issues affecting children and families.
- (7) Knowledge of the powers and duties of the director of special education of an area education agency as delineated in Iowa Code section 273.5.
- (8) Practicum in administration and supervision of special education programs.

*d. Experience.* An applicant must have three years of administrative experience as a PK-12 principal or PK-12 supervisor of special education.

*e. Competencies.* Through completion of a sequence of courses and experiences which may have been part of, or in addition to, the degree requirements, the director of special education accomplishes the following:

- (1) Facilitates the development, articulation, implementation and stewardship of a vision of learning that is shared and supported by the school community.
- (2) Advocates, nurtures and sustains a school culture and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth.
- (3) Ensures management of the organization, operations and resources for a safe, efficient and effective learning environment.
- (4) Collaborates with educational staff, families and community members; responds to diverse community interests and needs; and mobilizes community resources.
- (5) Acts with integrity and fairness and in an ethical manner.
- (6) Understands, responds to, and influences the larger political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context.
- (7) Collaborates and assists in supporting integrated work of the entire agency.

**18.11(3) Other.**

*a. Option 1: Instructional.* An applicant must meet the requirements for one special education teaching endorsement and have three years of teaching experience in special education.

*b. Option 2: Support.* An applicant must meet the practitioner licensure requirements for one of the following endorsements and have three years of experience as a:

- (1) School audiologist;

- (2) School psychologist;
- (3) School social worker; or
- (4) Speech-language pathologist.

NOTE: An individual holding a statement of professional recognition is not eligible for the director of special education of an area education agency endorsement.  
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