



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING — AUGUST 2017

Board of Education Meeting. The State Board of Education met on August 3, 2017, in Des Moines. The Board heard public comment on the postsecondary readiness metric outlined in the current draft of the statewide Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan.

Review of Rules. The Board reviewed changes to the following rules ready for adoption and filing:

- Chapter 21 – Community Colleges.
- Chapter 33 – Educating the Homeless.
- Chapter 61 – Iowa Reading Research Center.
- Chapter 62 – State Standards for Progression in Reading.

The Board reviewed changes to the following rules put forth under a notice of intended action:

- Chapter 83 – Teacher and Administrator Quality Programs.
- Chapter 98 – Financial Management of Categorical Funding.

Open Enrollment. The Board reviewed multiple decisions regarding late open enrollment applications. The State Board rejected one of the local school board rulings regarding an open enrollment request related to bullying that precipitated the open enrollment request. There will be a Board meeting to vote on the modified language in the ruling on August 10, 2017.

Approval of Programs. The Board approved the Buena Vista University (BVU) teacher preparation program, with additional follow-up reviews at six months and in-depth review in a year. Previously, BVU had a one-year conditional approval of its preparation program with 26 compliance concerns. Many of these concerns were related to oversight in the program. The university made significant changes to address the issues over the course of the last year.

Iowa Western Community College received its interim accreditation. Staff from the community college highlighted Pottawattamie Promise, a partnership with a local foundation that supports students meeting specific criteria by providing scholarships for tuition, fees, and books. This is a \$5.0 million commitment from the foundation over the first years of the program. The community college has dedicated over \$1.0 million to support the program over the first three years to provide additional wraparound support for students receiving scholarships.

The Board heard a report on the follow-up accreditation visits that occurred in the previous year for Cornell College, Wartburg College, Regents Alternative Pathway to Licensure, Kaplan University, and Maharishi University of Management. Paraeducator preparation programs at Prairie Lakes AEA, Iowa Western Community College, and Iowa Lakes Community College were also approved.

Statewide Assessment. The request for proposal (RFP) for the new Statewide assessment was posted in June, and the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Administrative Services, is in the process of finalizing the panel that will review the bids that are placed. The panel will consist of an odd number of people, with different stakeholders represented. Review criteria based on the requirements in [Senate File 240](#) (Statewide Assessment Act) are being finalized. Proposals were due on August 4, 2017. The Department intends to award the contract in September and sign a contract in October. Administrative rules will be promulgated based on the outcome of the RFP and will establish the Statewide assessment. Based on current legislation, all schools will move to the new assessment in spring 2019.

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