

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

June 18, 2026

Agenda Item: Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency Accreditation Report

State Board Goal(s): Goal 2

State Board Role/Authority: Iowa Code section 273.10 and Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281—72 requires the Iowa Department of Education to determine the accreditation status of the area education agency (AEA).

Presenter(s): Angelisa Fynaardt, Administrator
Division of Special Education

Dan Mart, Chief Administrator
Prairie Lakes AEA

Kris Ahrens, Administrator of Student and Family Services
Prairie Lakes AEA

Tabitha DeMey, Education and Media Services Facilitator
Prairie Lakes AEA

Jennifer Sammons, Administrator of Special Education Related Services
Prairie Lakes AEA

Chris Wells, Administrator of Special Education Instructional Services
Prairie Lakes AEA

Attachment(s): Four

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board grant full accreditation to Prairie Lakes AEA through the next review period.

Background: On July 16, 2025, the State Board granted Prairie Lakes AEA conditional accreditation status. The conditional accreditation status obliged the AEA to engage in several required corrective actions, consider completing recommended improvement actions, mandated quarterly progress reports to the State Board

and prescribed another accreditation visit in the 2025-2026 academic year. Prairie Lakes AEA representatives will provide the final progress report.