

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

September 17, 2026

Agenda Item: Iowa State University Literacy Educator Preparation

State Board Goal(s): Goal 3

State Board Role/Authority: The State Board of Education establishes standards and procedures as well as reviewing educator preparation programs. Iowa Code section 256.7(3).

Presenter(s):

Maryam Rod Szabo Administrative Consultant
Division of Teacher Quality and Innovation

Stephanie TeKippe, Education Program Consultant
Division of Teacher Quality and Innovation

Ann Gansemer-Topf, Director
Iowa State University's School of Education

Jaime Boeckman, Interim Director of Education
Preparation and Director of Teacher Education Services
Iowa State University's School of Education

Jennifer Stover, Teaching Professor
Iowa State University's School of Education

Connie Beecher, Associate Professor
Iowa State University's School of Education

Mollie Applegate, Associate Professor
Iowa State University's School of Education

Christina Moline, Assistant Teaching Professor
Iowa State University's School of Education

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation: It is recommended the State Board hear and discuss this information.

Background: Iowa State University will present the improvement in its Foundations of Reading Test passage rate from 40% in 2025 to 66% in 2025–26 and the programmatic changes that supported this growth. The presentation will highlight data-informed literacy curriculum revisions, increased investment in full-time literacy faculty, strengthened candidate support and expanded opportunities for candidates to apply evidence-based literacy practices. ISU will also share lessons learned, areas for continued improvement and next steps for sustaining gains in candidate literacy knowledge and performance.