

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

September 14, 2023



Agenda Item: Rules: 281 IAC Chapter 1 – DE Organization (Notice of Intended Action)

State Board Priority: All priorities

State Board Role/Authority: This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 256.1, and 256.7.

Presenter(s): None (consent agenda)

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board give notice of its intent to amend Chapter 1.

Background: As part of the Department’s review of rules under Executive Order 10, the Department identified several instances where the current rules chapter duplicates statutory language, as well as containing a dated organizational structure. This text is removed in the proposed rule.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

The State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 1, “Organization and Operation,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 256.1, and 256.7.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 256.

Purpose and Summary

As part of the Department’s review of rules under Executive Order 10, the Department identified several instances where the current rules chapter duplicates statutory language, as well as containing a dated organizational structure. This text is removed in the proposed rule.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the State Board for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 281—Chapter 4.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department of Education no later than 4:30 p.m. on October 24, 2023. Comments should be directed to:

Thomas A. Mayes

Grimes State Office Building; 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319

Thomas.Mayes@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows on the following two dates:

Hearing 1: October 24, 2023, 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.; Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room, Second Floor, Des Moines.

Hearing 2: October 24, 2023, 5:00 to 5:30, Davenport, LOCATION TBA.

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department of Education and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 281—Chapter 1 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 1
ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

281—1.1(17A,256) State board of education. The state board of education, authorized by Iowa Code chapter 256, is the governing and policy-forming body for the department of education.

1.1(1) *Membership.* The state board’s membership is governed by Iowa Code sections 256.3 and 256.4.

1.1(2) *Meetings.* The board’s meetings are governed by Iowa Code section 256.6. The majority of the board’s meetings are held in the state board room, Grimes State Office Building, 400 East 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. By notice of the regularly published meeting agenda, the board may hold meetings in other areas of the state. The board may hold special meetings as provided in Iowa Code section 256.6.

1.1(3) *Compensation.* All voting members will receive compensation and reimbursement as provided in Iowa Code section 256.5. A student member will receive compensation pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.5A(6). If a student member’s parent or guardian provides supervision pursuant to subrule 1.2(4), the parent or guardian will receive necessary expenses but not a per diem.

281—1.2(17A,256) Student member of the state board of education. The governor will appoint a public high school student to serve as a nonvoting member of the state board of education pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.5A.

1.2(1) *Term.* The nonvoting student member will serve a term from May 1 to April 30. The student member may serve a second year as the nonvoting student member without

having to reapply for the position if the student has another year of high school eligibility remaining before graduation. A vacancy in the membership of the nonvoting student member will not be filled until the expiration of the term.

1.2(2) *Qualifications.* At the time of making application, a qualified nonvoting student member is to meet all of the following criteria:

a. The student is a full-time, regularly enrolled tenth or eleventh grade student in an Iowa school district.

b. The student has been regularly enrolled as a full-time student in the district of present enrollment for at least two consecutive semesters or the equivalent thereof.

c. The student has a minimum cumulative grade point average in high school of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (3.75 on a 5.0 scale).

d. The student demonstrates participation in extracurricular and community activities, as well as an interest in serving on the state board.

e. The student has the consent of the student's parent or guardian, as well as the approval of the student's district.

1.2(3) *Application process.* The application process for the nonvoting student member is as follows:

a. The department will, on behalf of the state board, prepare and disseminate application forms to all school districts in Iowa. In addition to the application itself, the student will submit all of the following:

(1) A consent form signed by the student's parent or guardian.

(2) An approval of the application signed by the superintendent of the student's district of enrollment or the superintendent's designee.

(3) A letter of recommendation from a high school teacher from whom the student received instruction.

(4) A letter of recommendation from a person in the community familiar with the student's community activities.

b. The number of applicants in a year from any one district is limited as follows:

(1) If district enrollment for grades 10 through 12 is less than 400 students, there may be no more than one applicant from the district.

(2) If district enrollment for grades 10 through 12 is between 400 and 1,199 students, there may be no more than two applicants from the district.

(3) If district enrollment for grades 10 through 12 is 1,200 students or more, there may be no more than three applicants from the district.

c. All applications are to be submitted on or before February 1 of the year in which the term is to begin. Applications may be hand-delivered or postmarked on or before February 1 to the Iowa department of education.

d. All applications will be initially screened by a committee to be appointed by the director of the department. The initial screening committee will select not more than 20 semifinalists. If fewer than a total of 20 applications are received, the initial screening process may be omitted at the discretion of the director of the department.

e. The applications of the semifinalists will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the president of the state board. The committee will submit a list of two to five finalists to the governor, who will appoint the student member from the list submitted.

1.2(4) *Participation of student member in official board activities.*

a. Upon appointment to the board, the student member is to, at a minimum, fulfill the

following qualifications to remain eligible to serve:

(1) Maintain enrollment as a full-time student in an Iowa public school district (if the student moves or transfers from the district of application, the student will obtain the approval of the superintendent or the superintendent's designee in the student's new district of enrollment).

(2) Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average in high school of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or 3.75 on a 5.0 scale.

(3) Attend regularly scheduled board meetings as required of voting board members.

As a nonvoting member, the student will not participate in any closed session of the board.

b. The student member's absences from school to participate in official state board activities will be excused absences. The student member's participation in board activities outside the regularly scheduled meetings of the state board will be approved by the president of the board and the student's superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

c. If the student member is a minor, the student's parent or guardian will accompany the student while the student is participating in official state board activities at a location other than the student's resident community, unless the parent or guardian submits to the state board a signed release indicating that the parent or guardian has determined that such supervision is unnecessary.

d. The nonvoting student member is not considered for purposes of constituting the board's necessary quorum.

281—1.3(17A,256) Director of the department of education. The director is appointed pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.8 and performs such duties as assigned by the Iowa

Code or the Iowa Administrative Code, including Iowa Code section 256.9.

281—1.4(17A,256) Department of education. The department of education is established by Iowa Code section 256.1 to perform the functions and duties set forth in that section, in other Iowa Code provisions, and in the Iowa Administrative Code. The department is organized into such divisions as established by statute or the director. The mailing address for the state board of education, the director, and all divisions of the department is Grimes State Office Building, 400 East 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.3.