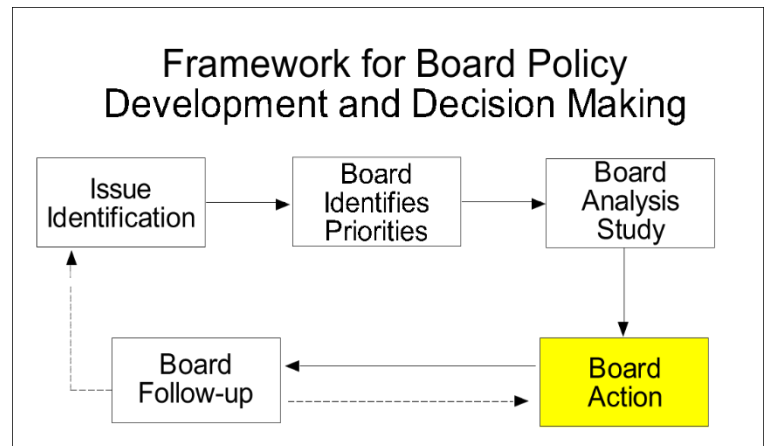


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 16, 2022



**Agenda Item:** Area Education Agency (AEA) Accreditation Overview

**State Board Priority:** Eliminating Achievement and Opportunity Gaps  
Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

**State Board Role/Authority:** Iowa Code section 273.11 (1) directs the State Board to develop standards and rules for the accreditation of AEAs. The Department of Education is directed to develop and establish, in consultation with the AEAs, an accreditation process for AEAs. Iowa Code section 273.10 (1-3) states the State Board shall determine whether a program of an AEA shall receive initial accreditation or remain accredited...based upon the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Education after a study of the factual and evaluative evidence...in terms of the accreditation standards adopted by the State Board.

**Presenter(s):** Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant  
Bureau of School Improvement

**Attachment(s):** One

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

**Background:** Iowa Code section 273.10 requires the State Board to approve AEA accreditation for a term up to five years. The process requires the use of an accreditation team

appointed by the Director of the Department of Education to conduct an evaluation, including an on-site visit of each AEA.

The AEA accreditation team shall determine whether the accreditation standards for a program have been met and shall make a report to the Director and the State Board, together with a recommendation as to whether the programs of the AEA should receive initial accreditation or remain accredited.

The accreditation team shall report strengths and weaknesses, if any, for each accreditation standard and shall advise the AEA of available resources and technical assistance to further enhance the strengths and improve areas of weakness.