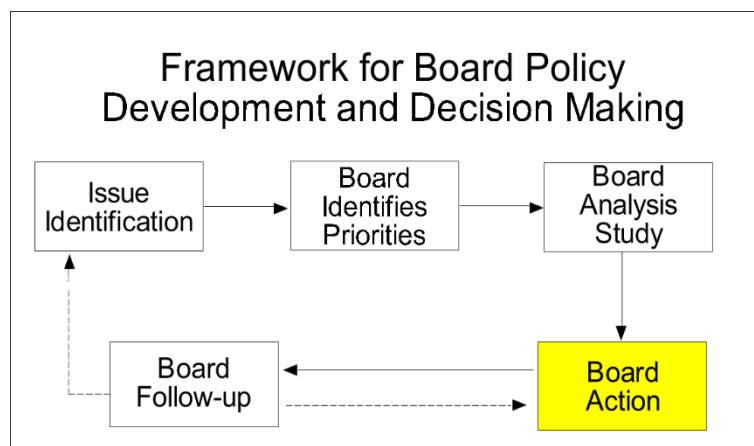


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

November 16, 2022



**Agenda Item:** Mount Mercy University (MMU) adding a Master of Science in Education with a Leadership and Administration emphasis and endorsement #189: PK-12 Principal/PK-12 Special Education Supervisor

**State Board Priority:** Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

**State Board Role/Authority:** The State Board of Education sets standards and approves practitioner preparation programs based on those standards. Iowa Code section 256.7(3) and 281 Iowa Administrative rule 79.5.

**Presenter(s):** Stephanie S. TeKippe, Program Consultant  
Bureau of Community Colleges

**Attachment(s):** One

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board award full approval to MMU to offer a Master of Science in Education with a Leadership and Administration emphasis that fulfills requirements for endorsement #189: PK-12 Principal/PK-12 Special Education Supervisor

**Background:** The IDOE educator preparation staff reviewed MMU's application for program change. MMU has met all Chapter 79 standards. The team recommends full approval until the next site visit in academic year 2027-28.



# **Educator Preparation Program Change Approval Report**

Board Report – Mount Mercy University Master’s of Science  
in Education with a Leadership and Administration  
Emphasis Leading to Fulfillment of Endorsement #189:  
PK-12 Principal/PK-12 Special Education Supervisor

State of Iowa  
Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

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## Overview

According to rule 281—79.9(256), upon application by an institution, the director is authorized to approve minor additions to, or changes within, the curricula of an institution's approved practitioner preparation program. When an institution proposes a revision that exceeds the primary scope of its programs, including revisions which significantly change the delivery model(s), the revisions shall become operative only after having been approved by the State Board of Education. Approval of any institution's application for adding the dyslexia specialist endorsement must include approval by the Iowa Reading Research Center.

## Mount Mercy University Background

Mount Mercy University's (MMU) teacher preparation program prepares candidates in the following undergraduate programs: Early Childhood Education; Elementary Education; Secondary Education (varying subject areas); K-12 Art Education; and K-12 Music Education. The unit also offers a Master of Arts in Education program with six areas of emphasis available (Early Childhood Inclusive Classroom, Effective Teaching, English as a Second Language, Reading, Special Education and Teacher Leadership) providing a pathway to a master's degree for candidates who possess a bachelor's degree in education or a related field.

## Description of Proposed Curricular Addition

Mount Mercy University plans to offer a new Master of Science in Education with a Leadership and Administration emphasis. The offering leads to fulfillment of endorsement #189: PK-12 Principal/PK-12 Special Education Supervisor. Several of the existing courses in the current Master of Arts in Education will be adapted and utilized in the Master of Science in Education program. Similar to their Master of Arts in Education program, the proposed curricular addition will be offered in an online format.

The program will be housed in the existing graduate education program. Mount Mercy University has committed to hiring a part-time program coordinator with administrative education and experience for oversight who will report to the graduate education program director. Mount Mercy collaborated with a practicing principal in Cedar Rapids to develop the curriculum and accompanying syllabi for the proposed program.

The program includes two rotations of three semesters (Fall, Spring and Summer). Each term, candidates will engage with coursework (one to two courses) and an internship (preschool, elementary, secondary and special education) totaling 400 hours at program completion. National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards are embedded alongside Mount Mercy's college-wide objectives, Iowa Teaching Standards, Iowa Standards for School Leaders and Iowa Core Standards within coursework/syllabi, internships and assessment.

To be admitted to this program, students must have a completed a bachelor's degree in education (if adding the endorsement), a valid teaching license or eligibility for a license (if seeking the endorsement) and a listing of past and current teaching or work experience.

## Approval Recommendation

Program is recommended for approval.

# Summary of the Department Review of Program Change Report

## **1. Chapter 79 Governance and Resources Standard, IAC 281-79.10 Is Met**

The established governance of the program will remain with the addition of a part-time coordinator for program oversight, teaching and reporting to the graduate education program director (PD) and the education program chair. Monetary resources have been allocated to the 2022-23 budget for hiring a program coordinator (PC) and qualified instructors.

## **2. Chapter 79 Diversity Standard IAC 281-79.11 Is Met**

Audiences for this program are adult learners who hold a bachelor's degree and have work experience. Candidates will engage with diverse student populations and learners through a minimum of four internships at varying school systems in four categories: preschool, elementary, secondary and special education.

## **3. Chapter 79 Faculty Standard IAC 281-79.12 Is Met**

Faculty management will be a shared responsibility between the PD and PC. Records for ensuring faculty have the appropriate preparation, knowledge, experiences and skills to teach within the program are held and maintained by the PD. Hired faculty will meet standards and criteria for education and experience (i.e., five years experience, appropriate licenses). Faculty in this program will be evaluated for their teaching prowess and engagement through the graduate education program office.

## **4. Chapter 79 Assessment Standard IAC 281-79.13 Is Met**

Students are assessed with National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards. The NELP Assessment Rubric Guidance and Reviewer Evaluation were used to develop candidate assessment. NELP standards are embedded in syllabi and utilized for assessment of clinical internships. The assessment system for the undergraduate program overlaps with the endorsements offered in the graduate program. The current assessment system will incorporate the new program to track performance and inform annual program evaluation.

## **5. Chapter 79 Clinical Standard IAC 281-79.14 Is Met**

Candidates will engage in a minimum of 400 hours of clinical practice with experienced and licensed administrators/supervisors in multiple educational settings, diverse populations and varying grade levels. Checkpoints are present and monitored to ensure candidates synthesize and apply knowledge and skills in authentic and purposeful experiences. Completed assignments and artifacts from clinical experiences will be collected and evaluated to provide feedback on knowledge, skills and dispositions.

## **6. Chapter 79 Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions Standard IAC 281-79.15 Is Met**

Program standards are aligned with NELP standards and meet the required knowledge, skills and dispositions in IAC 281-79.17 for principals. A curriculum map of NELP standards and Mount Mercy's college-wide objectives exhibit overlap of standards across courses. The required evaluator training is embedded in ED 584 Professional Culture and Capacity while the Iowa Core standards are embedded in ED 561 Instructional Design. Multiple courses include meeting the needs of all learners/teaching to diverse learners. Candidates will meet standards through assignments, artifacts and clinical experiences.