

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

March 21, 2024



Agenda Item: Religiously Exempt Schools

State Board Priority: All

State Board Role/Authority: Iowa Code section 299.24 provides for an exemption from compulsory attendance law and the educational standards law for members of established religious denominations which profess tenets that differ substantially from these laws, and who have been in existence for more than ten years.

Presenter(s): None (Consent Agenda)

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is the recommendation that the State Board of Education approve the exemption renewal requests for the attached list of ten religious groups.

Background: In the past, religious groups in Iowa are exempt from the compulsory education and school standards laws under Iowa Code section 299.24. A one-year renewal of the initial two-year exemption may be requested annually by each religious group desiring to do so. These renewal requests may be granted by the Director of the Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education.

Ten religious groups have submitted requests including an appropriate list of names, ages and post office addresses of children of compulsory age as required by Iowa Code section 299.24.

Each of these religious groups has complied with requests for information.

County	School Name	Denomination	Contact person	Address	City, State	Zip Code	Enrollment
Allamakee/Clayton	Bais Sholom	Jewish, Hassidic	Rabi Gavriel Levin	331 W Tilden St,	Postville, IA	52162	41
Allamakee/Clayton	Bais Chaya Mushka	Jewish, Hassidic	Rashi Rakes	PO Box 1025	Postville, IA	52162	60
Davis	Driftwood Gems	Old Order Amish	Erwin Jay Yoder	21475 Ice Avenue	Bloomfield, IA	52572	27
Davis	Echo Ridge	Old Order Amish	Erwin Jay Yoder	21475 Ice Avenue	Bloomfield, IA	52572	27
Davis	Meadow Land	Old Order Amish	Erwin Jay Yoder	21475 Ice Avenue	Bloomfield, IA	52572	22
Davis	Pioneer Trails	Old Order Amish	Erwin Jay Yoder	21475 Ice Avenue	Bloomfield, IA	52572	24
Ringgold	Timber View	Old Order Amish	Paul Troyer	3161 170th Ave	Redding, IA	50860	11
Van Buren	Lebnon Parochial School	Old Order Amish	Mark Yoder	22778 Route V64	Milton, IA	52570	37
Van Buren	Sunnyside Parochial	Old Order Amish	John Lengacher	22984 Heather Rd	Keosauqua, IA	52565	20
Washington	Sharon Bethel	Beachy Amish Mennonite	Matt Petersheim	1831 Johnson Washington Rd	Kalona, IA	52247	29
TOTAL							298