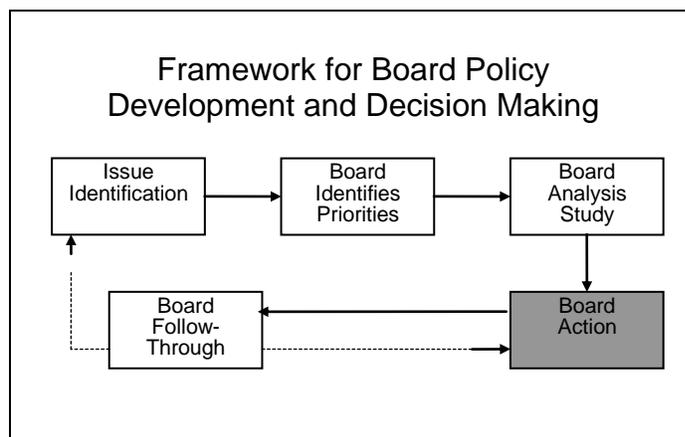


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

July 27, 2011



**Agenda Item:** Request for General Accreditation Status

**Iowa Goal:** All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

**Equity Impact Statement:** 281 Iowa Administrative Code 12.5(8) requires that each school and school district incorporate multicultural and gender fair goals for the educational program into its comprehensive school improvement plan.

**Presenter:** None (consent agenda)

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the request to grant general accreditation status to Valley Lutheran High/Middle School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, expanding accreditation from grades 9-12 to 6-12.

**Background:** Immanuel Lutheran School in Waterloo, Iowa is relinquishing its accreditation status for grades 6-8 through an agreement with Valley Lutheran. Valley Lutheran will be implementing the accredited Immanuel Lutheran educational program for grades 6-8. Both schools have provided evidence of general accreditation requirements pursuant to 281 Iowa Administrative Code 12.5(3) and 12.5(4), including the following:

- Enrollment data by race, national origin, gender, and disability;
- Required school board policies, including adoption date, review date and revision dates within the past five years;
- School calendar (180 days of instruction);

- Middle school and high school program (i.e., all required content areas and required content specifications were verified);
- Curriculum documents and materials verifying standards and benchmarks for all curricular areas, including the incorporation of multicultural/gender fair approaches, global education, and career education into the educational program;
- Professional development;
- School Improvement Advisory Committee;
- Personnel files;
- Employee health files;
- Student records (i.e., permanent and cumulative records); and
- Valley Lutheran has recently provided a written, signed letter from the local fire marshal that the school's facilities meet required codes.

**Future Plans of Immanuel Lutheran and Valley Lutheran Schools:**

Valley Lutheran will receive an accreditation site visit during the 2011-2012 school year according to the regular cycle of accreditation visits. The visit will encompass grades 6-12. Immanuel Lutheran wishes to maintain its current accreditation for its remaining grades, K-5. Immanuel Lutheran plans to close after the 2011-2012 school year. At that time, Valley Lutheran will submit an additional request to add Immanuel Lutheran's K-5 educational program to its accreditation status, thus becoming accredited K-12.



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: July 27, 2011

TO: Members, State Board of Education

FROM: Jason Glass, Director

SUBJECT: Request for Expanding Accreditation Approval, Valley Lutheran Middle/High School, Cedar Falls, Grades 6-12

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the request to grant general accreditation status to Valley Lutheran High/Middle School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, expanding accreditation from grades 9-12 to 6-12.

Valley Lutheran Middle/High School has collaborated with Immanuel Lutheran School in Waterloo to incorporate the educational program for grades 6-8. Both schools are currently accredited by the state of Iowa. Immanuel Lutheran is planning to retain its K-5 accreditation through the 2011-2012 school year, then turn over the K-5 educational program to Valley Lutheran. At that time, Valley Lutheran will again seek to expand its accreditation to include grades K-12.

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