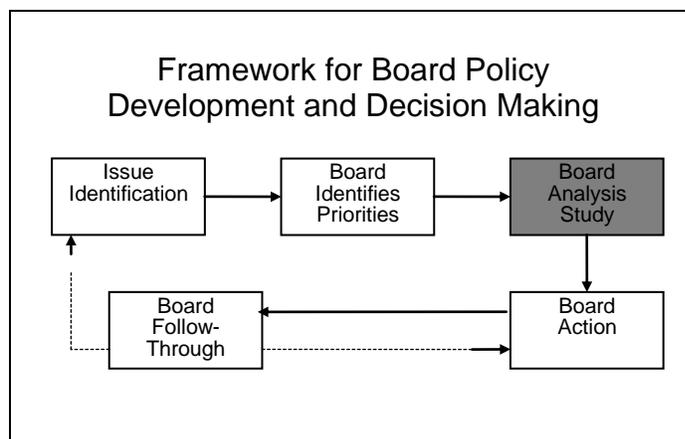


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

May 10, 2012



**Agenda Item:** Celebrating Innovation: Spirit Lake Community School District

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

**Equity Impact Statement:** All students need to graduate college and career ready.

**Presenters:** Dave Smith, Superintendent  
Spirit Lake Community School District

Kari Webb, Academic Dean  
Spirit Lake High School

**Attachments:** 1

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

**Background:** Spirit Lake High School is a public high school in a rural Iowa community, serving approximately four hundred students in grades nine through twelve. The district will share their experiences with interdisciplinary project based learning, online courses, workplace internships, and creating competency based pathways, while increasing student engagement in the learning process and facilitating academic work at high levels of rigor.

A team from Spirit Lake Community School District will share their vision, progress, and plan for transforming education.

# SPIRIT LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

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FROM TRADITION TO  
TRANSFORMATION

*“School  
within a School”*  
Pilot Project  
Spring 2011

*“All School”*  
Project Based  
Learning  
January 2012

*“Whole Grade”*  
CBE-Pathways  
Core Academy  
*anticipated*  
Fall 2012

*“School  
within a  
School”*

Pilot Project

Spring 2011



## 1:1 Technology Launches “School within a School”

The Pilot Project was designed to investigate three strands of emerging, educational initiatives. Twenty students volunteered to participate in the “school within a school”, dedicating four of eight periods each day to the action research project.

### **Interdisciplinary Project Based/Blended Class**

Students earned 1.0 credit in science and 1.0 credit in English Language Arts while participating in project based learning. The core content was delivered using open source online modules. Student projects were self-defined and integrated across the disciplines.

### **Online Courses**

Each student in the pilot was enrolled in one online course from a wide variety of sources including Iowa Learning Online, University of Nebraska, BYU, e-2020 and others.

### **Workplace Internships**

Students earned 1.0 vocational credit by completing off-campus internships with a variety of workplace mentors.



“January Term”  
2012

All School  
Immersive  
Project Based  
Learning



In January 2012, the teachers and students of Spirit Lake High School experienced Project Based Learning, and Competency Based Education Pathways. Traditional classes were set aside to allow every learner a chance to engage, create, build, explore...and to become a part of the global conversations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

# Spirit Lake's January Term: Competency Based Education Pathways



OFF CAMPUS  
EXPEDITIONARY  
LEARNING



REAL WORLD  
LEARNING



PROJECT BASED  
SENIOR INTERNS



FOCUS ON WHOLE  
PERSON WELLNESS



CREDIT EARNING  
BASED UPON  
MASTERY



APPLICATION OF  
UNIVERSAL  
CONSTRUCTS



MEANINGFUL AND  
POSITIVE  
ASSESSMENTS OF  
LEARNING



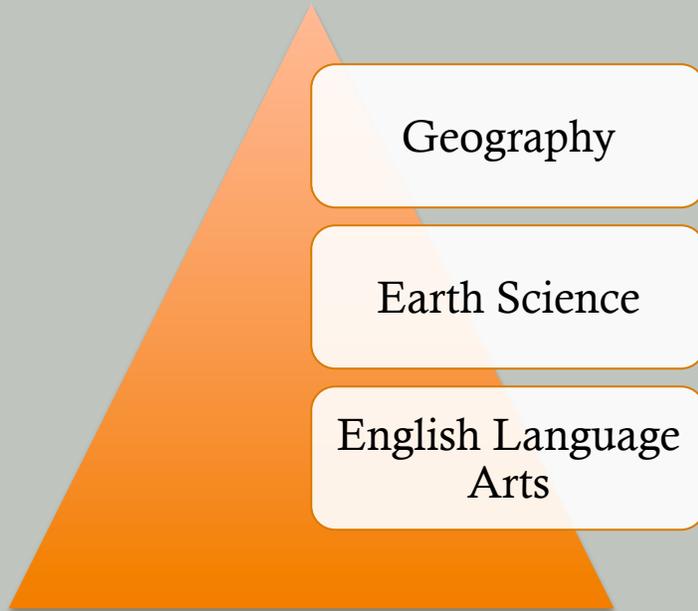
CREATION AND  
APPLICATION OF  
KNOWLEDGE



TEACHER AS  
COACH, MENTOR  
AND GUIDE

# The Core Academy

*Coming This Fall  
2012*



**THE CORE ACADEMY** is designed to allow each student to develop a personalized learning pathway to achieve the standards, concepts and skills prescribed by the Iowa Core in Earth Science, Geography, and ELA.

	<b>TRADITIONAL CLASSROOMS</b>	<b>THE CORE ACADEMY</b>
<b>STUDENT ROLE</b>	Passive, consumer of information	Student choice and voice
<b>TEACHER ROLE</b>	Stand alone content delivery.	Educator. Mentor. Coach. Assessor.
<b>CONTENT</b>	Separate disciplines taught in isolation	Trans-disciplinary
<b>CREDIT EARNING</b>	Time based	Learning outcomes and mastery
<b>PACING</b>	Whole group pacing	Personalized pacing
<b>ACADEMIC RIGOR</b>	Lower levels of Bloom's Taxonomy	All levels of Bloom's Taxonomy required for credit
<b>GRADES</b>	A, B,C,D,Fail	A,B, C, or NYC or IWS

*“January Term taught us new ways to learn and a different way to look at things....Maybe one day the whole points system can be done away with, and everyone can learn what is being taught.”*

----11<sup>th</sup> grade student