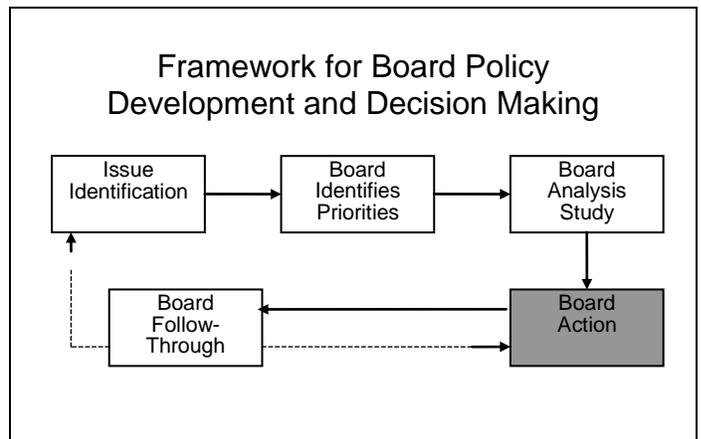


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

May 9, 2013



**Agenda Item:** Northwest Area Education Agency Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval

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

**State Board Role/ Authority:** Iowa Code section 256.7(22) gives the State Board the authority to set standards and approve paraeducator preparation programs.

**Presenter:** Marietta Rives, Consultant  
Bureau of Educator Quality

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the paraeducator preparation programs submitted by Northwest Area Education Agency for one year. The next review will be during the 2013-14 school year.

**Background:** Legislation originally passed in 1998 and revised in 2000 created a voluntary paraeducator certification. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well-trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. Licensure rules were established by the Board of Educational Examiners. The State Board of Education approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

## **Programs Recommended for Approval May 9, 2013**

Northwest Area Education Agency Paraeducator Programs to include:  
Generalist, Level I  
Early Childhood, PK-3

Iowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements set forth in No Child Left Behind. An additional benefit of this program is that certification will establish realistic opportunities for upward mobility through a career ladder pathway for paraeducators.

The institution named above has submitted a request for approval or re-approval of programs to certify paraeducators in each of the listed content areas. Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are several benefits to having paraeducators certified.

1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement teacher/provider programs.

The programs have been reviewed. In reviewing the programs, it was important to look for three major components:

1. Verification that each of the standards included in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 have been met.
2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.

### **Strengths of the programs:**

- Syllabi for each course were submitted as part of the program.
- Candidate content knowledge and performance data is collected in a variety of ways.
- Diversity and Cultural Proficiency efforts have been extended to include paraeducators.

### **Areas for improvement:**

Artifacts verifying many of these program standards are in development. This agency is encouraged to create and implement a plan focused on collecting and analyzing program data that will inform decisions made to enhance the program quality. An additional review will be completed during the 2013-14 school year.

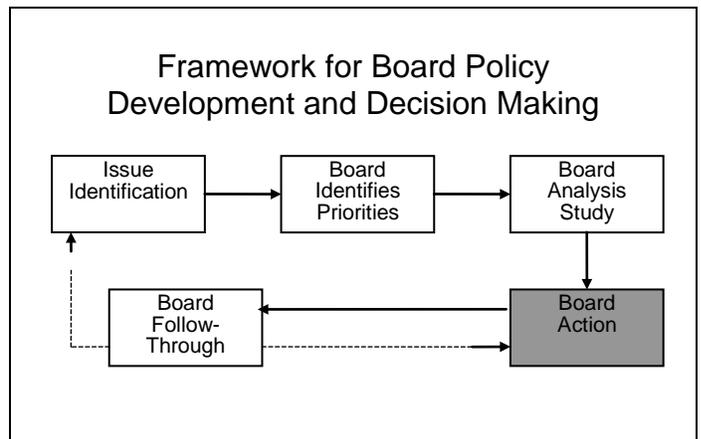
### **Recommendation:**

Based upon the review of programs submitted for consideration, a one-year approval for the Generalist Level I Paraeducator and Early Childhood, PK-3 Paraeducator programs through Northwest Area Education Agency is recommended.

# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

May 9, 2013



**Agenda Item:** Area Education Agency 267 Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval

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

**State Board Role/ Authority:** Iowa Code section 256.7(22) gives the State Board the authority to set standards and approve paraeducator preparation programs.

**Presenter:** Marietta Rives, Consultant  
Bureau of Educator Quality

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the paraeducator preparation programs submitted by Area Education Agency 267. The next review will be during the 2017-18 school year.

**Background:** Legislation originally passed in 1998 and revised in 2000 created a voluntary paraeducator certification. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well-trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. Licensure rules were established by the Board of Educational Examiners. The State Board of Education approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

**Programs Recommended for Approval  
March 28, 2013**

AEA 267 Paraeducator Programs to include:  
Generalist, Level 1

Iowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements set forth in No Child Left Behind. An additional benefit of this program is that certification will establish realistic opportunities for upward mobility through a career ladder pathway for paraeducators.

The institution named above has submitted a request for approval or re-approval of programs to certify paraeducators in each of the listed content areas. Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are several benefits to having paraeducators certified.

1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement teacher/provider programs.

The programs have been reviewed. In reviewing the programs, it was important to look for three major components:

1. Verification that each of the standards included in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 have been met.
2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.

**Strengths of the programs:**

- On-line course content is readily accessible to a variety of participants.

**Recommendation:**

Based upon the review of programs submitted for consideration, approval for the Generalist, Level 1 Paraeducator program through Area Education Agency 267 is recommended.