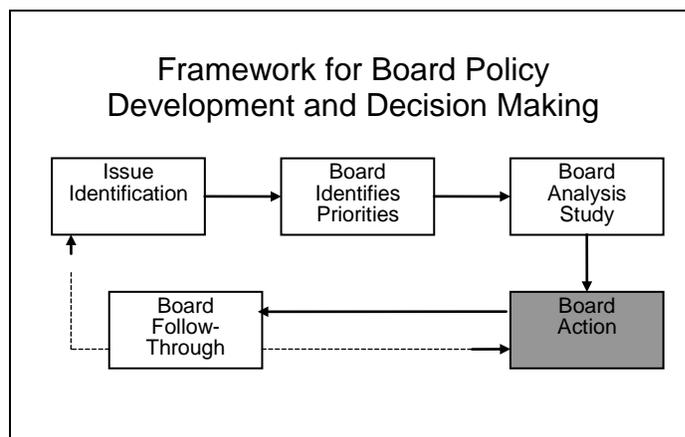


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

August 1, 2013



Agenda Item: Walden University– Teacher and Administrator Preparation Online

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

State Board Authority: Iowa Code section 261B.3A(2), requires an out-of-state online institution to be approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 256.7, to be approved for registration by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

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Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the Walden University online program for registration with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

Background: U.S. Department of Education regulations (34 CFR § 600.9) require an institution that offers online courses and programs, including educator preparation programs, to be registered with each state in which students of the programs reside, if the state requires that the institution be registered in that state. Iowa Code Chapter 261B, as modified effective July 1, 2009, requires an institution that maintains or conducts a course of instruction in Iowa, including through distance education, to register with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. The Commission cannot permit an institution to offer educator preparation programs under its Iowa registration without State Board of Education approval. Iowa Code section 261B.3A(2), requires an out-of-state online institution to be approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 3, to be approved for registration by the commission. **(See next page for description of process.)**

In August 2011, members of the Iowa DE, the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission established the following criteria for recommending that the State Board of Education approve these programs:

An institution seeking approval by the Iowa State Board of Education of an educator preparation program offered in Iowa via distance education must demonstrate all of the following criteria:

1. That the institution seeks to offer programs in Iowa via distance education only; the institution has no bricks-and-mortar presence in Iowa.
2. That a candidate graduating from the institution obtains initial educator licensure/certification from the state in which the candidate completed his/her preparation.
3. That the candidates graduating from the institution receive prominent written disclosure from the institution in all published and web-based materials that describe the educator preparation program(s) as follows (slight paraphrasing is permitted):
 - A student seeking an Iowa educator license is advised that successful completion of this institution's program(s) of educator preparation does not qualify you for initial educator licensure by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners.
 - A candidate seeking licensure in the state of Iowa must first be licensed/certified as an educator in the state in which preparation was completed. This institution shall assist a candidate in contacting the appropriate licensing board in the state in which the candidate's preparation was completed. This institution shall assist the candidate in understanding the requirements of the appropriate licensing board prior to the candidate's completion of this institution's program(s) of educator preparation.
 - A candidate seeking subsequent licensure from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners must contact that Board (515/281-5849; <http://www.boee.iowa.gov/>) for licensure requirements in Iowa.
4. That the institution's educator preparation programs are regionally accredited.
5. That the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in the state in which the institution maintains its primary physical presence. [If the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in other states in which the institution maintains a physical presence, the institution is encouraged to present proof of the same to the Iowa State Board of Education.]

Recommendation for Approval of Walden University Online Practitioner Preparation Programs

Introduction

New federal Department of Education regulations (34 CFR § 600.9) require an institution that offers online courses and programs, including educator preparation programs, to be registered with each state in which students of the programs reside, if the state requires that the institution be registered in that state. Iowa Code Chapter 261B, as modified effective July 1, 2009, requires an institution that maintains or conducts a course of instruction in Iowa, including through distance education, to register with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Thus, institutions offering distance education programs which have never been previously required to register in Iowa may now be required to do so.

Walden University has requested registration approval from the Iowa State Board of Education to offer an online program in teacher and administrator preparation. The institution is housed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is in the registration process with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Candidates are recommended for a Minnesota license and the program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Requirements

Evidence has been provided and the following requirements have been met:

1. That the institution seeks to offer programs in Iowa via distance education only; the institution has no bricks-and-mortar presence in Iowa.¹
2. That a candidate graduating from the institution obtains initial educator licensure/certification from the state in which the candidate completed his/her preparation.²
3. That the candidates graduating from the institution receive prominent written disclosure from the institution in all published and web-based materials that describe the educator preparation program(s) as follows (slight paraphrasing is permitted):
 - A student seeking an Iowa educator license is advised that successful completion of this institution's program(s) of educator preparation does not qualify you for initial educator licensure by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners.
 - A candidate seeking licensure in the State of Iowa must first be licensed/certified as an educator in the state in which preparation was completed. This institution shall assist a candidate in contacting the appropriate licensing board in the state in which the candidate's preparation was completed. This institution shall assist the candidate in understanding the requirements of the appropriate licensing board

¹ An institution with a physical ("bricks-and-mortar") presence in Iowa must have full chapter 79 review process.

² An institution whose candidates seek initial licensure from the Iowa BoEE must have full chapter 79 review process. The "state in which the candidate completed his/her preparation" means the state in which a majority of the candidate's instruction originates.

prior to the candidate's completion of this institution's program(s) of educator preparation.

- A candidate seeking subsequent licensure from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners must contact that Board (515/281-5849; <http://www.boee.iowa.gov/>) for licensure requirements in Iowa.

4. That the institution's educator preparation programs are regionally accredited.
5. That the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in the state in which the institution maintains its primary physical presence. (If the institution is approved/accredited to offer the same educator preparation program(s) it wishes to offer in Iowa by an entity with authority over educator preparation programs in other states in which the institution maintains a physical presence, the institution is encouraged to present proof of the same to the Iowa State Board of Education.)

Recommendation

The Iowa Department of Education recommends the State Board approves Walden University to enroll Iowa residents into an online program in teacher and administrator preparation. Approval allows Walden University to offer these programs under its registration with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.