

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (281)

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 12, "General Accreditation Standards," Iowa Administrative Code.

Competency-based education differs in style from traditional educational delivery models. In providing proper assessment of work completed in this new manner of delivery, traditional Carnegie units of measurement do not properly cover student work that is based on mastery of subject instead of hours of seat time in a class. This amended rule allows for proper assessment and delivery of instruction from a competency-based classroom structure versus the traditional mode of instruction which the present rule was intended to address. As a result, the new rule covers both delivery of instruction and assessment in both educational delivery systems. It also defines the concept in administrative code.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281---Chapter 4.

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendment on or before September 10, 2013, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendment should be directed to Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50318-0146; telephone (515) 281-3399; E-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov or fax (515)242-5988.

A public hearing will be held on September 10, 2013, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any person who intends to attend the public hearing and has special requirements, such

as those related to hearing or mobility requirements, should advise the Department of Education of specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

This amended rule is intended to implement 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a, subparagraph 02.

The following amendments are proposed:

ITEM 1 Amend rule **281---12.2** by adding the new definition as follows:

“Competency-based education” means learners advance through content or earn credit based on demonstration of proficiency of competencies. Proficiency for this context is the demonstrated skill or knowledge required to advance to and be successful in higher levels of learning in that content area. Some students may advance through more content or earn more credit than in a traditional school year while others might take more than a traditional school year to advance through the same content and to earn credit. A student must meet the requirements of 12.5(14) to be awarded credit in a competency-based system of education.

ITEM 2. Amend rule **281---12.5(14)** as follows:

281---12.5(14) Unit A unit is a course which meets one of the following criteria: it is taught for at least 200 minutes per week for 36 weeks; it is taught for the equivalent of 120 hours of instruction; it requires the demonstration of proficiency of formal competencies associated with the course according to the State Guidelines for Competency-based Education or its successor organization, or it is an equated requirement as a part of an innovative program filed as prescribed in rule 12.9(256). A fractional unit shall be calculated in a manner consistent with this subrule. Unless the method of instruction is competency-based, multiple-section courses taught at the same time in a single classroom situation by one teacher do not meet this unit definition for

the assignment of unit of credit. However, the third and fourth years of a foreign language may be taught at the same time by one teacher in a single classroom situation each yielding a unit of credit.