

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT [281]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 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. The proposed amendments allow for proper assessment and delivery of instruction from a competency-based classroom structure versus the traditional mode of instruction which existing rule 281—12.5(256) was intended to address. These amendments cover delivery of instruction and assessment in both educational delivery systems and also define “competency-based education.”

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

Notice of Intended Action was published in the August 21, 2013, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as ARC #0958C. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on September 10, 2013. A public hearing was held on that date at which no person appeared. No written comments were submitted to the department on this issue, either.

These amendments are identical to those published under Notice.

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

These amendments shall become effective on November 20, 2013.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 256.7(26)“a”(2).

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** definition of “Competency-based education” in rule **281—12.2(256)**:

“*Competency-based education*” means that 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 subrule 12.5(14) as follows:

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 281—12.9(256). A fractional unit shall be calculated in a manner consistent with this subrule. ~~Multiple~~ 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 a 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.