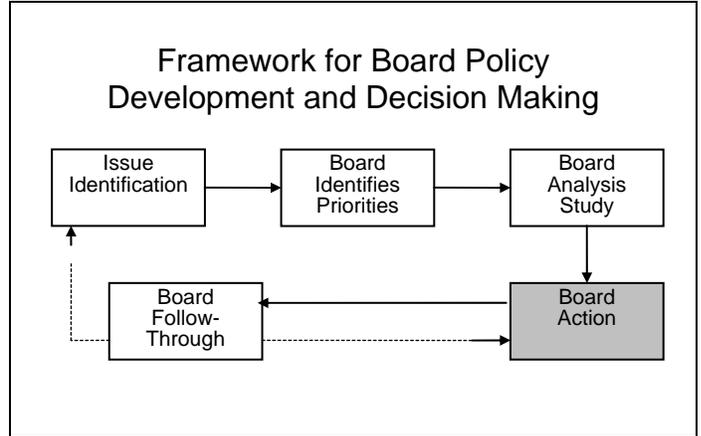


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary
February 6, 2008



Agenda Item: Request for Specially Accredited Status

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

Equity Impact Statement: 281 IAC 12.5(8) requires that each school and school district incorporate multicultural and gender fair goals for the educational program into its comprehensive school improvement plan.

Presenter: Consent Agenda

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the request to grant Specially Accredited status to Ankeny Christian Academy (Ankeny, Iowa), Grades 7-12.

Background: Iowa Code section 256.11(13) authorizes the State Board of Education to grant Specially Accredited status to private high schools or combined junior-senior high schools operated for the express purpose of preparing students for college. In order to qualify for this status, schools must provide annual proof that:

- At least eighty percent of those graduating from the school for each of the last four years have been accepted by accredited four-year or equivalent liberal arts, scientific, or technological colleges or universities.
- The school provides at least the minimum courses to be offered and taught required by Iowa Code section 256.11, including six units of English/language arts, four units of a sequential program in math and two additional units of math, five units of science, five units of social studies, and four sequential units of foreign language.

In addition, the school must provide:

- A count of student enrollment, by grade level.
- Certification that the school facility is in compliance with the fire code.
- Certification that licensed staff has received pre-service physicals.

There are currently seven schools on the specially accredited list of college preparatory schools in Iowa. These schools are eligible for textbook and transportation funds.

Please note: All teachers in grades 7-12 at Ankeny Christian Academy are licensed for the level and content areas they teach.



TO: Iowa State Board of Education

FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Director, Iowa Department of Education

DATE: January 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Request for Specially Accredited Approval for Ankeny Christian Academy

Ankeny Christian Academy, Ankeny, Iowa, grades 7-12, has requested approval for Specially Accredited status. Julie Melcher, DE School Improvement Consultant, visited the school on September 24, 2007, and verified that Ankeny Christian Academy has provided evidence that they meet Specially Accredited requirements pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.11(13), including the following:

- Graduate reporting (2006-2007): aliens (0), military (1), alternate civilian service (0), deceased or incapacitated prior to college acceptance (0), name of college at which student has been accepted (copies of college acceptance letters provided), names of graduates (3).
- Courses comprising the school's program: Ankeny Christian Academy meets and/or exceeds the number of courses and content areas required, including the following: English/Language Arts (7 units), Mathematics (6 units), Social Studies (5 units), Science (5 units), Foreign Language (4 units), Physical Education (1 unit), Health (1 unit), Fine Arts 3.5 units)
- The school's program in grades 7 and 8 includes English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health, and the following exploratory courses: Visual Art, Computer, Life Skills, Spanish, Vocal Music, Physical Education, and Health.
- The school has provided a written, signed letter from the local fire marshal that the school's facilities meet required codes.
- The school has provided a written, signed letter from the principal and school board president that all school staff have documented pre-service physicals.
- The school principal and school board president have provided a written assurance that all requirements for Specially Accredited schools are in place.

Future Plans of Ankeny Christian Academy:

It is the intention of Ankeny Christian Academy to seek State Board of Education approval for general accreditation for non-public schools for grades K-12 no later than the 2009-2010 school year. Following are the circumstances that prevent the school from seeking general accreditation at this time:

- Obtaining a 28E agreement for five units of Career and Technical Education courses.
- Completion of content area standards and grade level expectations for Mathematics and Science for grades K-12 (Reading has been completed).

- Development of a Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) (Note: the school has an established School Improvement Advisory Committee).
- Development of an Annual Progress Report (APR) (Note: The school has administered the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development for a number of years; data are available).
- Completion of a DE school improvement visit to verify all requirements pursuant to 281 – IAC 12.5(1) for grades K-12.

Note: All teachers in grades 7-12 are licensed for the level and content areas they teach. Grades K-6 will have all teachers licensed by the 2009-2010 school year. The school's principal is appropriately licensed and is completing Evaluator training during the 2007-2008 school year. The principal has also initiated a teacher evaluation process aligned with the Iowa Teaching Standards. The school implements a planned, scheduled K-12 professional development plan based on student achievement data.