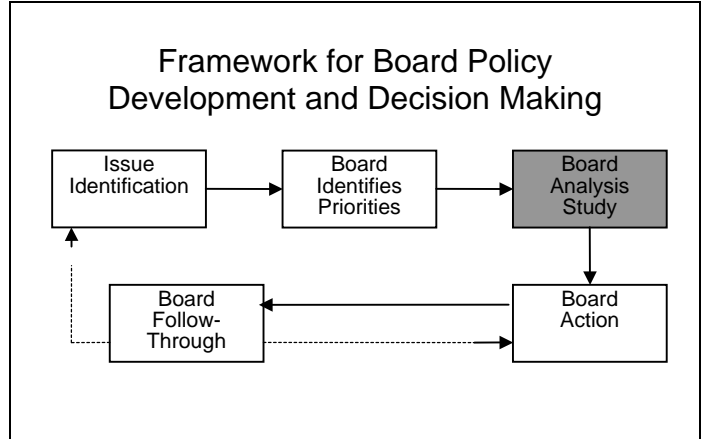


# Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary  
May 10-11, 2007



**Agenda Item:** Phase II Accreditation Visits

**Iowa Goal:** 2. All K-12 students will achieve at high levels, prepared for success beyond high school.

**Equity Impact Statement:** All students should have access to quality schools.

**Presenter:** Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator  
Division of PK-12 Education

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

**Background:** HF 317, passed during this legislative session, adds a new condition that may trigger a Phase II accreditation visit. This session will provide an overview of the Phase I and Phase II accreditation visit process and the implications of HF 317 on Phase II visits.

## Phase I and II Accreditation Visits Short Notes 256.11(10-12)

256.11(10)  281-IAC Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By July 1, 1989, all school districts shall meet standards for accreditation.</li> <li>• For the school year commencing July 1, 1989 and thereafter, the DE shall use a two-phase process for continued accreditation of schools and school districts</li> </ul>	
	Phase I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual monitoring</li> <li>• Requires that accredited schools and school districts annually complete accreditation compliance forms adopted by the state board and file with DE</li> <li>• Phase I requires a comprehensive desk audit of all accredited schools and school districts</li> <li>• Site visits address accreditation issues identified in the desk audit.</li> <li>• Visit conducted by an individual DE consultant or team of DE consultants and other education professionals</li> <li>• Purpose: to determine that district is in compliance with minimum standards and provide a general assessment of education practices in a school or school district and make recommendations for the purposes of improving educational practices above the level of minimum compliance.</li> </ul>	

# Phase I and II Accreditation Visits Short Notes

## 256.11(10-12)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; transform: rotate(-90deg); transform-origin: center;">             Accreditation Committee         </div>	<p>Phase II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An accreditation committee is appointed by the DE Director when any of the following exist:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When either the annual monitoring or the biennial on-site visit of phase I indicates that school or school district is deficient and fails to be in compliance with accreditation standards</li> <li>○ In response to a petition filed with the director requesting such a committee visitation that is signed by eligible electors residing in the school district equal in number to at least twenty percent of the registered voters of the school district.</li> <li>○ In response to a petition filed with the director requesting such a committee visitation that is signed by 20% or more of the parents or guardians who have children enrolled in the school or school district.</li> <li>○ At the request of the state board of education</li> <li>○ By a recommendation of the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The number and composition of the membership of an accreditation committee shall be determined by the director and may vary due to the specific nature or reason for the visit.</li> <li>• In all situations the chairperson and a majority of the committee shall be from the instructional and administrative program specialty staff of the DE</li> <li>• Other members may include instructional and administrative staff from school districts, AEA, higher ed, local board members, and the general public</li> <li>• An accreditation committee visit to a nonpublic school requires membership from non-public school instructional or administrative staff or board members.</li> <li>• A member of a committee shall not have a direct interest in the nonpublic school or school district being visited.</li> </ul>	<p>Tentative:                  Team Leader: Del Hoover                  Team Lead Assistants:                      Debbie Boring - Accreditation                      Barb - Data</p> <p>From other AEAs</p>
---	--	--

## Phase I and II Accreditation Visits Short Notes 256.11(10-12)

Cycle One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to the visit the team shall have access to all annual accreditation report information filed with the department by that non pub or district</li> <li>• After visiting, the team shall determine whether the accreditation standards have been met and shall make a report to the director with a recommendation regarding maintaining accreditation.</li> <li>• The report shall include strengths and weaknesses for each standard →</li> <li>• The committee shall advise the district of available resources and technical assistance to further enhance strengths and improve areas of weakness.</li> <li>• The school or district shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to the accreditation committee's report.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 12 is divided into Divisions (1-9) The Divisions are an organizational tool. Divisions I, III, IV, V, VI and VII do organize six broad areas of standards.</p>
256.11(11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The director shall review the accreditation report and the response of the school district</li> <li>• The director will provide a report and recommendation to the state board</li> <li>• The state board shall determine whether the school or district shall remain accredited</li> <li>• If not, the director in cooperation with the board of directors of the school district or school shall establish a plan prescribing the procedures that must be taken to correct deficiencies in meeting the standards and shall establish a deadline date for completion of the procedures. The plan is subject to state board approval</li> </ul>	
Cycle Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accreditation status is maintained during the time specified in the plan for its implementation by a school district or school.</li> <li>• The accreditation committee shall revisit the district or school and shall determine whether the deficiencies in the standards have been corrected and shall make a report and recommendation to the director and the state board.</li> <li>• The committee recommendation shall specify whether the school district or school shall remain accredited or under what conditions the district may remain accredited.</li> <li>• The recommendations include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The school district shall remain accredited.</li> <li>○ The school district shall remain accredited under certain specified conditions.</li> <li>○ The school or school district shall have its accreditation removed as outlined in Iowa Code section 256.11(12).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

## Phase I and II Accreditation Visits Short Notes 256.11(10-12)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The conditions may include, but are not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Providing temporary oversight authority</li><li>○ Operational authority</li><li>○ Or both to the director and the state board for some or all aspects of the school district operation in order to bring the school district into compliance with minimum standards</li></ul></li><li>• The state board shall review the report and recommendation, may request additional information, and shall determine whether the deficiencies have been corrected.</li><li>• If the deficiencies have not been corrected, and the conditional accreditation alternative contained in the report are not mutually acceptable to the local board and the state board, the state board shall merge the territory of the school district with one or more contiguous school districts at the end of the school year.</li><li>• Division of assets and liabilities – 275.29-.31</li><li>• Until the merger is complete, the school district shall pay tuition for its resident students to an accredited school district under 282.24</li></ul>	
	OR	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The state board may place a district under receivership for the remainder of the school year.</li><li>• The receivership shall be under the direct supervision and authority of the director</li><li>• The above decision shall be based upon a determination by the state board in the best interests of the students, parents, residents of the community, teachers, administrators, and board members of the district and the recommendations of the accreditation committee and the director.</li><li>• If the state board declares a nonpublic school to be non-accredited, the removal of accreditation shall take effect on the date established by the resolution of the state board, which shall be no later than the end of the school year in which the nonpublic school is declared to be non-accredited</li></ul>	