

**General Accreditation Standards 281—IAC Chapter 12  
 Exemption Request Form**  
 (for implementation in the 2013-2014 School Year)  
 Request Due On or Before January 1, 2013)

Send the completed form below (and all attachments) to this address:

Amy Williamson, Bureau Chief  
 Division of Learning and Results  
 Bureau of School Improvement  
 Iowa Department of Education  
 Grimes State Office Building  
 400 E 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

School District Name, District Number, and Address	AEA
Des Moines Public Schools Future Pathways, Middle School Alternative Education Center, Scavo High School, Casady Alternative Center	11
District Superintendent and E-mail Address	Phone
Tom Ahart Thomas.ahart@dmschools.org	515-242-7766
School District Contact Person (if different from the Superintendent) and E-mail Address	Phone
Michael Zelenovich K-12 District Activities Director, PE Curriculum Coordinator	515-242-7603

**Required Components for a General Accreditation Standards Exemption Request**

**a) The standard or standards for which the exemption is requested.** In the box below, please list the specific accreditation standard or standards from which exemption is sought. Include the legal citation from Chapter 12.

12.5 (5)F Physical Education 1 unit

**b) A rationale for each general accreditation standard identified in item “a.”** In the box below, describe the rationale for the request for exemption. This answers the question “why.”

Des Moines Public Schools is requesting that students attending one of our Alternative Education programs be required to participate in Contract PE. Students would participate in a physical activity a minimum of 15 hours for one semester of each school year. An application would be completed and signed by the student, parent/guardian, and the Building PE Chairperson. Students would receive a Pass/Fail Grade.

**c) The sources of supportive research evidence and information, when appropriate, that were analyzed and used to form the basis of each rationale.**

In the box below, provide at least one research citation.

These educational facilities are not traditional schools; they are programs within the Des Moines Public School District. Courses in the Alternative Programs are offered in a flexible, non-traditional format. These programs serve many different purposes from allowing a student to receive a credit that they may need in order to graduate to perhaps helping a student re-enter the education environment.

Classes are also smaller which promotes interaction between students and staff. Courses may be started and completed at any time during the school year. Thus, credits can be earned any time during the school year.

These alternative programs are designed to provide instruction, organization, and discipline to meet individual needs. Students receive small group and individualized instruction and counseling.

The purpose of Des Moines Public Schools alternative middle school education program is to provide students with an alternative learning environment, supported by a low student-to-teacher ratio, where they can successfully continue their middle school education. A major focus is on strengthening academic competence and enhancing self-worth. This structured setting provides students with individual academic attention to maximize achievement.

**d) How the school or school district staff collaborated with the local community or with the school improvement advisory committee about the need for the exemption request.**

In the box below, describe how local stakeholders played a role in determining that this request for exemption from accreditation standards is appropriate and needed.

Based on the buildings where many of these programs are held, there are no gym facilities available. The options for physical activity are limited and behaviors often interfere as well.

**e) Evidence that the board approved the exemption request.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Attached is a copy of the board minutes in which the school board approved this request for exemption from accreditation standards.

**f) A list of the indicators that will be measured to determine success.** In the box below, list the measurable indicator or indicators that the school or school district will use to measure whether the exemption from standards has accomplished the purpose for which the exemption was designed.

1. Attendance (Average Daily Attendance)
2. Reduction in PE failures
3. Allow course enrollment in core classes

Success of these alternative programs is based on students demonstrating good behaviors and making academic progress ultimately leading to the student either returning to their home school or meeting graduation requirements. Many students also participate in job training and other programs to prepare them for life after high school.

**g) How the school or school district will measure the success of the standards exemption plan on improving student achievement or performance.** In the box below, list the assessment(s) that the school or school district will use to measure the indicators listed in “f.”

1. Reduced number of students that are credit deficient in PE
2. Increase in number of students who are on track to graduate with their class.

The primary focus of the alternative programs is on behavior. We must help the students manage their behavior so they can learn. Success in improving student achievement will be measured by the number of office referrals, student’s grades or course completion, and the number of students returning to their home schools and/or the number of students graduating.

**Required Signatures**

\_\_\_\_Des Moines Public Schools\_\_\_\_\_ District Name  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Superintendent  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Board President  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date

The Department of Education will complete this section.

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Yes	No	Required Components for a General Accreditation Standards Exemption Request
		a) The standard or standards for which the exemption is requested.
		b) A rationale for each general accreditation standard identified in item “a.”
		c) The citation of research, when appropriate, that was analyzed and used to form the basis of each rationale.
		d) How the school or school district’s staff collaborated with the local community or with the school improvement advisory committee about the need for the exemption request.
		e) Evidence that the board approved the exemption request.
		f) A list of the indicators that will be measured to determine success.
		g) How the school or school district will measure the success of the standards exemption plan on improving student achievement or performance.

Yes	No	<b>Results of Request for Exemption of General Accreditation Standards</b>
		Pursuant to the provisions of 281—IAC 12.9(256), the Department grants your school district's general accreditation standards exemption request for the 2013-2014 school year.
Approved by:		