



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

November 2010

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IOWA RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

Iowa will receive \$14 million over four years to support efforts to ensure students attend a safe school.

Iowa is one of 11 states to win Safe and Supportive School (S3) grants from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is to measure school safety at the building level and provide support to schools with the greatest needs. The goal is to create safe and drug-free learning environments, and increase academic success for students in high-risk schools. The funds will be used at targeted high schools to support programs and strategies to improve school safety and student support.

Grant activities include surveys of students, staff and parents to measure a school's safety and environment. The results will lead to School Safety Scores to help the Iowa Department of Education and partner agencies work in collaboration with schools to improve the learning.



Leading through uncertain times

As I place the finishing touches on the director's message, the sun is coming up and outside my office window the Capitol is glimmering as it reflects the early morning sun. Today is election day. Today is the end of nonstop commercials, mailings, debates, and news articles about all the candidates. Today is the day voters of Iowa and this country will cast their ballots for the candidates they believe will move us forward. Today is the day we learn who wins. Today, however, is not the day that our questions about the future of education in Iowa and the United States will be answered. That day is in the future waiting to emerge at a time unbeknown to us.



*Kevin Fangman,
Acting Director*

I will travel across the state to attend my seventh superintendent meeting in the past two months. I enjoy this chance to interact with superintendents and Area Education Agency leadership. It gives me great perspective into the realities that districts face in educating Iowa students.

Last month as I was giving my talk on state and federal policy, State Board priorities, and the budget outlook, a superintendent stopped me cold with one question, "What should I be focusing on?" I sat and thought for a minute and gave a short answer that did not give his question the thought it deserved. After I was done talking, I sat and pondered the question as the meeting continued and realized that the uncertainty about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, Iowa's involvement in an assessment consortium, and the differing education views of candidates can slow actions.

Uncertainty has loomed large the past year and will continue to do so for a while longer. In uncertain times leaders must focus on student learning and developing highly skilled educators to support that learning. If you continue to focus on the implementation of the Iowa Core, then when the dust settles in the coming year, your district and schools and will be ready for any changes that may come your way.

Iowa Core/Common Core use of alignment data

The alignment study between the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics and the Iowa Core Essential Concepts/Skill Sets and Details in Literacy and Mathematics, commissioned and completed by the Iowa Department of Education in July 2010, resulted in large data sets. The raw data sets include thousands of rows of information about where the overlaps and gaps between the two documents exist. A summary of the alignment study can be found [here](#). The alignment study was conducted to provide information to:

- Help the Iowa State Board of Education make an informed decision about adopting the Common Core State Standards.
- Provide Local Education Agencies and Area Education Agencies with information to help make the transition from their work with the original content of the Essential Concepts/Skill Sets and Details to the Common Core State Standards (i.e., the new, updated version of the Iowa Core for Literacy and Mathematics).
- Assist in identifying a proposal for the “up to 15 percent additional content” to the Common Core, an option that is within the state’s purview.



The Iowa State Board of Education subsequently adopted the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, which replaced the original Essential Concepts/Skill Sets and Details of the Iowa Core. Therefore, *spending a lot of time examining the overlaps between the Common Core and the Iowa Core may not be the best use of valuable time and resources*. Primary points to remember about these data are:

- Have confidence that the work you have already started with the Iowa Core is on the right track.
- If you do wish to review the raw data of overlaps, the appropriate use for these data are to explore connections between local district content decisions made within the last two years related to the Iowa Core and how that connects with the sections of the Common Core that the Iowa Core matches.

The data posted [here](#) on the DE website are the unmatched portions of the Common Core and Iowa Core. That is, the content found in the Common Core but not the Iowa Core, as well as the content found in the Iowa Core but not the Common Core. The posted files provide a list of the unmatched content, along with important identifying information (e.g., grade level/ span, strand/discipline information), and are organized by content area. Some important things to keep in mind about the information are:

- It is one of the primary resources being used to determine what, if any, content should be added back to the Iowa Core.
- It may be a helpful resource for districts to use when deciding areas that should no longer be pursued (pending any future adoptions of this content by the Iowa State Board of Education).

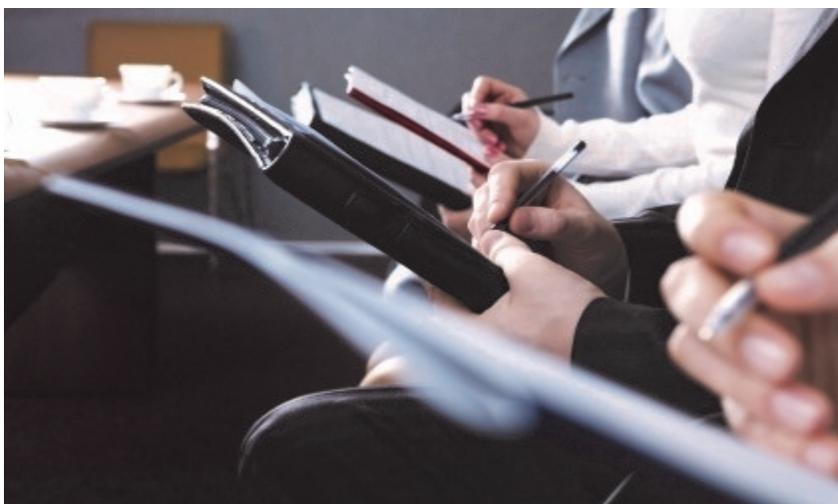
If you wish to review the overlap data, or have any questions about the alignment study or how to use the data, contact Rita Martens at 515-281-3145 or rita.martens@iowa.gov.

Evaluator Approval Level III

During the past two years, the Evaluator Advisory Committee represented by schools, area education agencies (AEAs), colleges/universities, School Administrators of Iowa (SAI), Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE), and the Department of Education (DE) have been meeting to analyze data regarding evaluation, reading and reflecting on research, seeking best practices in evaluation that improve teaching and learning, and designing Evaluator Approval Level III. As the new calendar year approaches, the DE will be unveiling Evaluator Approval Level III for those professionals that will need to renew their administrator/evaluator license and have successfully completed Evaluator Approval Level I and II prior to January 2011. At the same time, the DE will be introducing *iEvaluate* to replace the current Evaluator Approval Level I and II training hosted by the AEAs by combining Levels I and II into an online course.

The training for Evaluator Approval Level III will look somewhat different than the previous training for Evaluator Approval Levels I and II. Beginning January 2012, the four credits required to renew an administrator/evaluator's license will be completed by selecting from a menu of required modules that will enhance the skills necessary to be an effective instructional leader and evaluator. Each administrator/evaluator will successfully complete one common learning module - *Assessing Academic Rigor* – for two required renewal credits.

The additional two credits required to renew an administrative/evaluator license will be earned by selecting from any one of the additional modules: *Fierce Conversations* (currently available in all AEAs), *Increasing the Effectiveness of Leadership Teams* (possible release date Spring 2011), *Employee Discipline/Intensive Assistance*



Plans, Developing Professional Development Plans that Impact Teaching and Learning, and Leadership Skills for Beating the Odds. Not all modules are fully developed at this time, so it is suggested that individuals watch the DE, SAI, and their respective AEA websites for more information.

The DE does understand that some professionals have already completed two hours of credit toward this renewal and are awaiting information from the DE about future evaluator training to complete the four required renewal credits. To accommodate those individuals, the DE will allow a professional to use hours accumulated prior to December 31, 2011, plus the *Assessing Academic Rigor* module to meet requirements for renewal of administrator/evaluator licensure. Any hours completed after December 31, 2011, other than the required modules may not be used toward renewal.

As of January 2011, the DE will sunset the Level I and II face-to face training for anyone needing an administrator/evaluator license and provide the training through an online course, *iEvaluate – Teacher* or *iEvaluate – Administrator*. The training will continue to focus on the Iowa Teaching Standards, the Iowa Standards for School Leaders, effective evaluation skill sets, the individual professional development plan, ethics, etc. If you are currently in a preparation program at an Iowa college/university, the necessary training will be a part of your coursework; however, if you are new to Iowa, you will need to complete this newly developed online training that is appropriate to your current position.

For more information regarding the Evaluator Approval Program in Iowa, please see the DE, SAI, or your respective AEA website or contact Matt Ludwig, leadership consultant, at 515-281-3750 or matt.ludwig@iowa.gov



WRITE WOMEN back into history

To give students a deeper and more relevant appreciation of women's roles in history and celebrate March as Women's History Month, the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW), Iowa Department of Education, and the State Historical Society of Iowa invite students to enter the 27th Annual Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest.

Students in grades 6-9 are encouraged to choose a woman, preferably from Iowa, from any historical period, past or present, and write about the accomplishments of her life and how she has made a difference to the student and to society. Winners will be honored in a ceremony at the State Capitol in March 2010. Cash prizes are available. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation signed by the Governor.

[Guidelines](#) can be found on the Women's History Page of the ICSW website at www.women.iowa.gov.

For more information, contact Lori Schrader Bachar at ICSW, 515-281-4470 or 800-558-4427 or by e-mail at lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov.

Capitol Girls application deadline

Students are invited to be a part of Capitol Girls on February 16, 2011. High school girls from across Iowa will convene in Des Moines to learn about the workings of the Iowa General Assembly and have an opportunity to shadow women legislators and learn about how state laws and budgets are developed and passed.

The day will begin at 7:30 a.m. with an inside look at the Iowa General Assembly. Girls will be introduced in both the Iowa Senate and Iowa House of Representatives, and then paired with legislators.

Space is limited to 30 girls. Please complete application at http://www.women.iowa.gov/just_for_girls/index.html and submit to women@iowa.gov or by fax to 515-242-6119 by January 14, 2011 to be considered.



Bullying and discrimination guidance

On October 26, 2010, the federal Department of Education issued guidance, in the form of a "Dear Colleague" letter, to superintendents clarifying when student bullying may also violate federal education anti-discrimination laws. The letter explains educators' legal obligations to protect students from student-on-student racial and national origin harassment, sexual and gender-based harassment, and disability harassment. The letter provides examples of harassment and illustrates how a school should respond in each case.

In August of this year, the Obama administration hosted the first ever National Bullying Summit and launched both the *Stop Bullying Now Campaign* and www.bullyinginfo.org, a national database of effective anti-bullying programs.

For more information about Office of Civil Rights and the anti-discrimination statutes that it enforces, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/aboutocr.html>.

To review the "Dear Colleague" letter, please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010.html>.

Data and Reporting

EdInsight statewide training roll out

EdInsight is the Iowa educational data warehouse designed to build a foundation and infrastructure to empower Iowa educators to make informed data driven decisions. The Department of Education (DE) will be teaming with the Area Education Associations (AEAs) in a statewide training roll out. Our goal is to get at least one user in each district in Iowa trained by the end of the 2010-11 school year, and at least one user in each building trained by the end of the 2011-12 school year.

Additional information about EdInsight can be found online [here](#). For more information on the EdInsight training strategy, please contact Karla Day at 515-281-7509 or karla.day@iowa.gov

2010-2011 Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is pleased to announce the availability of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program (Harkin Grant) in the amount of \$7,287,000 for fire safety and construction which was funded under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 84.215K, with a budget and project period of October 1, 2010-September 30, 2013.

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis are available to all Iowa public school districts. Applications must be post-marked or received at the Iowa Department of Education by 4:30 p.m., December 17, 2010, for both the Fire Safety and Construction Grant Applications. The DE will hold an ICN session on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to review the application process and program.

Applications are available on the Iowa Department of Education's Web site at: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=97&Itemid=1345. An email was sent to school districts in October 2010 about the grant information.

For questions about the grant application process, please contact Gary Schwartz, Infrastructure Consultant at 515-281-474 or fax 515-281-8777 or e-mail gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.

Modified allowable growth for dropout prevention

The application for modified allowable growth for dropout prevention will be available by mid-November on the secure Iowa Department of Education EdInfo website. This year, districts will be asked to identify the thresholds/criteria used at a local level to identify potential dropouts. Staff may view a short presentation in regards to identifying and defining the potential dropouts at a local level at <http://iowaec.na4.acrobat.com/p29454526/>.

Hopefully, the Proposed Service Summary will look a little different this year. Districts will be asked to identify each program by name, identify the targeted audience and goals/outcomes for each, so that each year districts can track their progress on the Service Summary Report, which is the last form on the application.

Iowa Core implementation plans

During August and September, Area Education Agencies (AEAs) and the Iowa Department of Education (DE), supported a process for districts and non-public schools to discuss and review their Iowa Core Implementation Plans with other school leaders. Over 267 districts and non-public schools participated in the process, and 94% of them indicated that the peer review process was helpful. Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide feedback to the AEAs and DE regarding their next steps and what supports they needed. This data will be used to shape future planning with the roll-out of the Iowa Core.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are a multi-tiered continuum of supports for all students in the school environment. Supported by the Iowa Department of Education, PBIS provides schools with the framework and organizational plan to promote and maximize academic achievement and behavioral competence for all students, including those students needing supplemental or intensive supports.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) indicates there are 13,300 schools implementing PBIS in the United States and other countries including Australia, Ireland, and Canada. Since 2002, PBIS has continued to grow in Iowa and currently over 300 schools are implementing PBIS in 107 districts around the state. The first Iowa PBIS Newsletter contains information regarding PBIS implementation, tips and special announcements. To access this newsletter, click [here](#).

If you would like more information regarding PBIS in the schools, community or family, please contact Susan Bruce, PBIS Consultant for DE at 5151-281-3943 or email susan.bruce@iowa.gov.

Environmentally preferable cleaning products mandate

House File 823, signed by Governor Culver on April 23, 2010, is an Act requiring public schools, community colleges, institutions under the control of the state board of regents, and state agencies to comply with an environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance policy unless specified conditions for noncompliance are satisfied. Environmentally preferable cleaning products protect students and staff by reducing exposure to toxic chemicals, protects ground water systems, and reduces indoor air pollution.

Green cleaning products can be as effective as traditional cleaning products and can be competitively priced to be essentially cost-neutral when compared to their traditional counterparts. Each school district, community college, regents institution, and state agency utilizing a state building shall conduct an evaluation and assessment regarding implementation of an environmentally preferable cleaning policy.

A school district may opt out of compliance to use green cleaning products based upon the evaluation and assessment. School districts should contact their cleaning products vendor about doing an evaluation and assessment of their cleaning and maintenance program.

School districts have until July 1, 2012 to opt out of purchasing only cleaning and maintenance products identified by Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) or meet nationally recognized standards. To opt out of compliance requires an affirmative vote of the school district's board of directors. School districts opting out of compliance need to notify Gary Schwartz at the Iowa Department of Education by submitting school board minutes/ resolution and assessment summary.

DAS has provided information about environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance products on their internet site: <http://das.iowa.gov/greencleanschools.html>. For questions, contact Gary Schwartz at the Iowa Department of Education at 515-281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.



Early Childhood Preschool Programs

License and endorsements for preschool teachers

All Statewide Voluntary preschool Program (SWVPP) districts must ensure that teachers in all settings and partnerships currently hold an appropriate teacher license including an early childhood endorsement. Some teachers may be licensed and hold a Class B Conditional endorsement for early childhood education. It is important that districts continue to monitor the progress of these teachers in achieving an endorsement. Failure to do so will jeopardize preschool funding and may possibly result in an ethics violation. For questions, contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or judy.russell@iowa.gov) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or penny.milburn@iowa.gov).

Data requirements for Statewide Voluntary Preschool district

All Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) districts must ensure that 2010-2011 data is entered on the *Early Childhood Application*. This information is submitted through the Iowa Department of Education (DE) Reporting Site or EdInfo. Data provided by districts through this venue addresses assurances delineated in Chapter 16 such as appropriately licensed teacher, a minimum of 10 hours of instruction, collaboration with partners, integration of other preschools and professional development.

Also included in this reporting is confirmation of Head Start Program Performance Standards and National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards and Criteria Accreditation for districts following these two standards. Guidance about reporting can be found on the Data Reporting Requirements webinar and script posted on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children by clicking [here](#). For questions, contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or judy.russell@iowa.gov) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or penny.milburn@iowa.gov).

Preschool Grant Award newly awarded districts

Districts should anticipate the following steps to occur prior to receipt of the Preschool Grant Award:

- The Iowa Department of Education (DE) will analyze the data from EASIER and the *Early Childhood Application*.
- In November 2010, an email will be sent to the superintendent and contacts of the newly awarded districts providing the number of children and the amount of funding the districts will receive.
- In November 2010 agreements between the DE and each district will be sent to the district superintendent for signatures. The agreement must be signed by the board president/designee, superintendent, and business manager.
- When the DE has received the signed agreement from the district, a check for one-half of the Preschool Grant Award will be processed and issued.
- In January 2011, the second half of the Preschool Grant Award will be issued.



For additional information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) or the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or judy.russell@iowa.gov) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or penny.milburn@iowa.gov).

Student Health and Nutrition

Seasonal influenza at school, 2010-2011

Iowa Department of Public Health has resources for use in your school, posting on your website and distribution to the community, school personnel, parents, and students. *Guide for Influenza-Recommendations for Schools* contains facts including information about influenza symptoms, emergency warning signs, infectious period, how to prevent the flu, if you get the flu, vaccination, who should get vaccinated, the nasal vaccination, and what should be done to prevent and reduce flu at school. *Control of Influenza and Other Respiratory Outbreaks in Schools* fact sheet contains information about influenza in schools, infectious period, key intervention measures for schools to reduce transmission and potential outbreaks of influenza and other respiratory diseases, and reporting school absences due to illness 10% and above.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also provides the *Guidance for School Administrators to Help Reduce the Spread of Seasonal Influenza in K-12 Schools during the 2010-2011*

School Year, which illustrates ways to help reduce the spread of seasonal influenza (flu) among students and staff in K-12 schools during the 2010-2011 school year. *How To Clean and Disinfect Schools To Help Slow the Spread of Flu* provides information on cleaning and disinfecting as part of a broad approach to preventing



infectious diseases in schools. To help slow the spread of influenza (flu), the first line of defense is getting vaccinated. Other measures include covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands, and keeping sick people away from others. For links to above information and more visit the website

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/>

Bed bugs fact sheet available

An Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health fact sheet states, “*Bed bugs are small insects without wings. At one time they were almost eliminated from the United States. However, currently are found in all 50 states including Iowa. Bed bugs are not known to spread disease. Bed bug bites usually will cause large itchy welts on the skin. These welts may not appear for 24 to 48 hours after the bite.*” For detailed information access the bed bug fact sheet at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/board_of_health_assistance/factsheet_bed_bugs.pdf and Centers for Disease Control resources <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Topics/bedbugs.htm>

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Meet . . .

ANN FEILMANN New bureau chief

Ann Feilmann is the new Bureau Chief of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services. Ann is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian and School Nutrition Specialist. She serves on the School Nutrition Association Iowa Executive Board. Ann comes to us from the Marshalltown Community School District, where she served as the Director of Food Service for the past seven years.

Ann is responsible for leading and managing all Child Nutrition Programs administered through the Iowa Department of Education. You can reach Ann at 515-281-4757 or ann.feilmann@iowa.gov.

Iowa's top teachers honored

Some of the state's top teachers were honored at the annual Iowa's Teachers of the Year Luncheon on Friday, October 22, 2010. The event recognized Iowa's finalists and winners of the following education awards:

- Iowa Teacher of the Year
- Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- Preserve America History Teacher of the Year

"Teachers play a critical role in shaping Iowa's future, and the teachers being honored today are among the very best in the nation," said Governor Chet Culver. "As a former teacher, I appreciate that the dedication and commitment of Iowa's teachers is an inspiration, and that their work plays a critical role in preparing our children for success in the 21st century."

"The teachers we honor today are each an example of the first-rate work taking place in Iowa classrooms throughout the state, providing leadership in their schools as we all work together to make sure every Iowa student is prepared to succeed in their future."

Fifteen teachers from 12 schools districts across the state were recognized. The event was hosted by the Iowa Department of Education and sponsored by Qwest Communications and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Honorees at the event were:

IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Molly Boyle, 2011 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Brookview Elementary, Waukee
Thomas Cuvelier, Finalist, Dubuque Senior High School, Dubuque
Donna Sue Lawler, Finalist, Southeast Elementary, Ankeny
Debora Masker, Finalist, Kirn Middle School, Council Bluffs
Laurie Powell, Finalist, Smith Elementary, Sioux City

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE

John Butz, Mathematics Finalist, Jefferson Elementary School, Des Moines
Zachry Christensen, Mathematics Finalist, Perkins Elementary School, Des Moines
Barbara Leise, Mathematics Finalist, Downtown School, Des Moines
Matt Miller, 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics winner, George Washington High School, Cedar Rapids
Mason Kuhn, Science Finalist, Shell Rock Elementary School, Shell Rock
Brandon Schrauth, Science Finalist, Beaver Creek Elementary School, Johnston
Jessica Gogerty, 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science winner, Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines

IOWA PRESERVE AMERICA HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Renea Reichenbach, Finalist, WACO Junior/Senior High School, Wayland
Brady Weber, Finalist, Stilwell Junior High School, West Des Moines
Brian Connick, 2010 Iowa Preserve America History Teacher of the Year, Algona High School, Algona



State Board member Max Phillips presents awards to some of Iowa's top teachers.



2011 Iowa Teacher of the Year Molly Boyle speaks at the event.



Legislative Update

The contact for all legislative items is Konni Cawiezell (konni.cawiezell@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399).

Tobacco use-free policy encouraged

A few weeks ago all district superintendents and nonpublic administrators received information from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). This packet contained important information regarding the need for districts and schools to review their local policies on tobacco use. Although the law today requires a district and school properties to be smoke free, it does not make the use of other tobacco products illegal on school property.

The tobacco industry is ever-changing as seen in the products on the market today. For example, no longer does a tobacco user need to get nicotine from a cigarette or chew. Today, a person can pop in a dissolvable nicotine product that looks like a breath strip, toothpick or small candy. Chew can also be contained in a small tea bag-like pouch and hidden in the mouth – no spittoon necessary!

Although your initial reaction may include “what harm does a smoke-free product have to students?” Or “why would we monitor the use of these products by staff, parents or visitors?” The answer is easy if we keep in mind what is best for our students. Not only are these smoke-free products marketed for young adults, but having role models using these products will only encourage their popularity and use with students.

The Iowa Department of Education along with IDPH encourages you to review your current policy and change any smoke-free policy you have in place to a comprehensive tobacco use-free policy. The information your district received contains a model policy checklist to assist you in the process.



Legislators return to Des Moines on January 10 for the start of the 2011 Iowa General Assembly.



Legal Lessons

The contact for all Legal Lessons items is Carol Greta (carol.greta@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661).

Investigator “Blue Book”, State Board student member

Link to “Blue Book” for Level One Investigators

This annual training of Level One investigators of allegations of abuse of students by school employees was held October 4, 2010. Any Level One investigators who missed the training may contact the local Area Education Agency (AEA) for tapes of the session. Also, the manual (“Blue Book”) is either available from each AEA or may be downloaded from the Iowa Department of Education website by clicking [here](#).

Student Member of State Board of Education

Applications for the student member to the State Board of Education will be available on the Department’s Web site within a few weeks. The term of the student member starts May 1, 2011, and ends April 30, 2012. The Board meets approximately seven times each term, with most meetings taking place in the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines. The deadline for submitting an application with all required documents is February 4, 2011.

Besides being a full-time, regularly enrolled 10th or 11th grade student in a public high school, the student must meet these requirements:

- Has a GPA of at least 3.0 (4.0 scale) or 3.75 (5.0 scale)
- Has attended his/her present high school at least the past two consecutive semesters (or the equivalent thereof)
- Demonstrates participation in extracurricular and community activities, as well as an interest in serving on the board

The application and all required supporting documentation are available [here](#).

And Now, for Something Completely Different

Answers to inquiries frequently received by DE staff:

- The state does not require a specific number of supervisors to watch the students during recess.
- The state does not regulate whether recess should be supervised by licensed staff.
- The state does not regulate when the temperature is too hot/cold for schools to have outside recess.
- The state does not require schools to provide recess at all. [The Healthy Kids Act, of course, requires that students be physically active, but nothing in state or federal law requires recess.]
- There is no minimum number of restrooms for students in a school building specified in state or federal law.
- The DE cannot provide a person with a duplicate of the high school diploma that the recipient may have lost.
- The DE cannot fire local coaches, teachers, administrators.
- There is no “recall” in Iowa for local school board members who do not vote the “right” way.
- There is indeed a word for the process that allows local school board members to vote as they see fit: democracy.

Calendar

PIO changes at DE

Elaine Watkins-Miller has left the Iowa Department of Education to work for the West Des Moines Community Schools.

Until a permanent replacement is selected Phil Roeder, Special Assistant to the Director's Office, will assume the Public Information Officer duties.

He may be reached at 515-281-5651 or phil.roeder@iowa.gov.

- November 1 • School Board Officers Report
- November 1 • Special Education Student Weighting Calculated
- November 1 • Whole grade share—last day for public notice of board intent
- November 13 • SBRC Hearing Request
- November 17 • State Board of Education meeting
- November 22 • SBRC Exhibits Due

[Click here for a complete Iowa Department of Education Calendar](#)

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, telephone number 312-730-1560, fax 312/730-1576, e-mail: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov



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