



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

July 2014

New laws begin

Several new and amended education laws will go into effect July 1. Among them, state legislators set aside \$2 million to support an early warning system designed, in part, to screen and monitor student literacy skills up through the sixth grade. Legislators also agreed to invest in support for teachers and school administrators who will put their Teacher Leadership and Compensation plans into practice in the 2014-15 school year.

“While this session did not have the broad, sweeping changes of last year, it helped support and solidify Iowa’s efforts to strengthen teaching and learning in every classroom,” Brad Buck, director of the Iowa Department of Education, wrote to educators in the legislative summary. For the full summary, click on [2014 Legislative Session – Statute Changes Affecting Schools.](#)



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Reading: Ensuring doors remain open for all

As a lifelong Iowan, I’ve viewed education in our state through several important lenses. I’ve been a student, a teacher, a father, a school administrator – and now I’m the state schools chief.

What I’ve witnessed along the way is that Iowans care very deeply about our schools. We understand the power of a great education and the potential it holds for the future of our students and our state.

We treasure our state’s tradition of leadership in education, but we’re also serious about getting better – because every door of opportunity should be open to all students in Iowa.

Those doors close for students who can’t read. The ability to read is foundational to success in school and beyond. And research shows that early intervention is the key to ensuring every child reads proficiently.

This is why Iowa lawmakers adopted legislation in 2012 that aims to make sure that our students reach reading proficiency by the end of third grade. Third grade is the point in time when students go from learning to read to reading to learn.

This legislation also created the Iowa Reading Research Center, whose purpose is to apply current research for the development and dissemination of best practices so every child will achieve reading proficiency.



Director Brad Buck

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Iowa Core, C-Plan and the questions you need to answer

The number of Iowa Core questions in the Consolidated Plan (C-Plan) has been reduced. Next year only eight questions in the C-Plan are specific to only the Iowa Core Plan and five additional questions are required in multiple plans, including the Iowa Core Plan.

The C-Plan or Consolidated Plan is a collection site for reports, data and progress notes for districts and schools.

The questions specific to the Iowa Core Plan (in C-Plan) that are due Sept. 15 are the following:

- What actions are established or will be established to ensure the Leadership Team engages educators in collaborative processes to realize the vision of the Iowa Core through effective implementation?
- What actions are established to ensure community participation (including local school board) in the implementation of the Iowa Core?
- What actions are established to ensure Learning Supports are coordinated to support the Iowa Core?
- What data are you currently using to address the measurable long-range goals and improvements in 21st Century Skills? How are you using this data to ensure that students are reaching the goals in 21st Century Skills?
- What actions are established to ensure educators use data to make decisions regarding the alignment of the enacted to the intended and to the assessed curriculum of the Iowa Core?
- What actions are established to ensure collaborative teams are engaged in learning about instructional practices that support improved student achievement?
- What actions are established to ensure collaborative teams are engaged in the implementation of instructional practices that support improved student achievement?

Questions that are required in multiple plans, including the Iowa Core Plan, are below:

- What are the district's measurable, long-range goals to address improvement in reading?
- What are the district's measurable, long-range goals to address improvement in mathematics?
- What are the district's measurable, long-range goals to address improvement in science?
- Describe how the district uses data analysis (goals, student achievement data, and other data) to guide professional development, including professional development supporting the implementation of the Iowa Core. Include specific activities, resources, and timelines.
- Describe how professional development supportive of the implementation of the Iowa Core contains all the elements of effective professional development for student achievement (theory, demonstration, practice, observation, reflection, collaboration, mentoring, and peer coaching). Include specific activities, resources, and timelines.

For more information, contact Rita Martens at rita.martens@iowa.gov or 515-281-3145.



Making education relevant in the 21st century

There was a time in the not-so-distant past that a strong back, able hands and a good work ethic ensured a worker could enjoy a middle class life in America. Not so, anymore: What technology hasn't consumed in jobs, cheap labor overseas has.

That leaves today's student facing a very different world from their predecessors. To put it in perspective, a child born today will retire in 2081. What will the world look like then? And will today's education enable the student to compete? Eke out a good life? Not if we continue to teach them like it is still the 20th century.

Enter Competency-Based Education, or CBE, a critical component for today's learning toolbox. CBE is an education system that advances students based on their mastery of content rather than age or seat time. Read the [full story](#).



Expand course offerings at *no cost*

Do you have students wishing for more coursework than your district can offer? Do you have homebound students falling behind in class work? How about your at-risk students? Or even students struggling to fit all of their classes into their schedules?

Iowa Learning Online (ILO) can meet all of these needs – at no cost to your schools or families. ILO, created in 2004, provides high-quality coursework to Iowa's students by registered teachers here in Iowa. All courses meet state standards.

An initiative of the Iowa Department of Education, ILO enables districts to offer and teach from the comfort of a

student's computer. It's important to note that ILO does not replace local course offerings; it is intended to enhance existing curriculums.

ILO's course offerings are expanding this fall to a total of 40, including world languages (Spanish, French and German), mathematics, physical education, fine arts, science, English and social studies. Upon completion of the coursework, the local districts award credit to the students.

Look for ILO posters and pamphlets coming to your mailboxes soon. They are ideal for superintendents, principals and counselors.

To learn more, go to iowalearningonline.org.



Senior Year Plus guidance available

The second edition of the *Senior Year Plus Guide for Educators and Educational Administrators* is now available on the Department's [website](#). The 60-page guide provides the requirements for Senior Year Plus programs in Iowa Code and administrative rule along with updated guidance, frequently asked questions, and other information related to college credit opportunities for high school students.

For more information, contact the Department's Eric St Clair at eric.stclair@iowa.gov or at 515-725-0127.



About those English Language Proficiency Standards...

The English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards have been adopted by the Iowa Board of Education and are currently ready for release, pending the availability of a statewide unified training plan that is being developed in collaboration with the ELPA21 Consortium of 11 states.

The Iowa Department of Education is currently in the process of collecting resources from the ELPA21 states that are collaborating on the ELP Standards training system, and once it is determined which existing resources can be built upon, a timeline and plan will be released in Iowa. The Department is convening a small work team from the Title III Sub-grantee network, and will be moving forward as quickly as possible with the goal of building a robust training system that will meet the Title III federal requirements for consistent implementation of consortium-developed training.

Iowa model for 21st Century Afterschool

In the past few years, Iowa has made significant changes in the 21st Century Community Learning Center (Title IV B) program to better serve children in poverty. This program provides federal funding to create best practice models of after-school programs. Some of the changes include reducing the size of the grant application from 120 pages to 48 pages and aligning the application with the monitoring tool.

The Iowa Department of Education is in its second year of offering a statewide best practice conference, and is working to improve programming for children through monthly webinars, annual site visits, workshops and community partnerships. Through all these efforts, the state has been able to increase the number of children being served:

2011: Iowa added 1,743 children to the program

2012: Iowa added 2,250 children to the program

2013: Iowa added 3,244 children to the program

With sequestration last year, Iowa was one of only six states to add children to after-school programs. In addition, Iowa gained in the number of students who were regular attendees over 30 days. There were 1,100 more children as regular attendees than the previous year. The increase is the result of schools doing physical literacy afterschool and improving their programming.

Learn more about the [21st Century Community Learning Center](#). Annual evaluation reports are posted online at [2013 Iowa Afterschool Report](#). There will be a new grant competition this fall. The grant requires that the school serve a minimum of 40 percent free and reduced-lunch children. The announcement will appear on the [Iowa Department of Education](#) website.

Host families needed for students

The U.S. Department of State is seeking host families and schools for some 2,000 international high school exchange students starting this fall.

Representing over 50 countries, the students have undergone a competitive, merit-based selection process and will spend the 2014-15 academic year in communities across the United States. The students live with American families, attend American high schools, and participate in American culture, leadership activities, and community service. Exchange students can help internationalize classrooms and bring foreign affairs to life.



Learn more or submit an interest form at [hosting.state.gov](#). You can also email the department at youthprograms@state.gov.

Register for teacher, principal leadership symposium

Registration is under way for the second Iowa Teacher and Principal Leadership Symposium, which will be held in Ankeny on Aug. 4. The purpose of the symposium is to continue the public conversation about the critical role teacher and principal leadership will play as Iowans work to give students a world-class education.

Featured speakers include Vivien Stewart from the Asia Society, Ee-Ling Low from the National Institute of Education in Singapore, and Barnett Berry from the Center for Teaching Quality.

Also featured are:

- A panel discussion with a teacher, superintendent, principal, and school board member from among Iowa's first 39 school districts that are launching teacher leadership systems in 2014-15 as part of the state's landmark 2013 education reform package.
- Two Iowa school districts – Central Decatur and Saydel – that started teacher leadership systems in 2013-14 with the help of a federal grant.
- A student panel on the difference great teaching makes.



The event is open to the public, with the goal of attracting a broad cross-section of Iowans, including educators, parents, school board members, business leaders and legislators. The event will be held at the FFA Enrichment Center at Des Moines Area Community College. Click [here](#) to register for the symposium. Registration for the day is \$30, with room for about 465 attendees.

Converting the initial teaching license

For teachers who hold the initial teaching license, successful experience must be verified. After two years of experience in an Iowa public school, the evaluator will need to recommend the candidate for one of the following:

- recommend for the standard license; or
- a third year of mentoring and induction to meet the standards; or
- affirmatively not recommend the teacher for a standard license.

Administrators are required to notify the Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) of the current status of any candidate who has an initial license and is leaving the district by using the form found at this link: [Initial License Status Report](#). The initial licensure status will then carry to the next position. For additional questions, contact BoEE's Joanne Tubbs at joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov.



Have child-care programs on school property? Take note

Schools providing child-care programs before or after school are required to be either licensed by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) or have an exemption from DHS through accreditation with the Iowa Department of Education. Child-care programs include services such as wraparound care that are independent of class time.

As a public or nonpublic school system accredited by the Department of Education, there are certain criteria that must be met to consider an exemption from Department of Human Services Licensing ([Iowa Code 279.49](#) and [237A](#)). The code allows school districts to operate or contract for child-care services.

For exempt child-care programs that are on school property, the standards for child programs adopted by the State Board of Education are:

Age Range	Required Standard
Six weeks to less than 3-year-old children	Iowa Quality Infant and Toddler Program Standards
Three years old to school-age entry	Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards
School-age eligible through Grade 6	Iowa Quality Before and/or After School Child Care Program Standards for School-Age Children

Schools electing to maintain exempt status will need to complete both a confirmation and desk audit process to provide evidence of their implementation of the child-care standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The form is located on [Survey Monkey](#).

It's important to note that even if child-care programs are not being operated by the school but are on school property, it must be reported by the school in the Basic Educational Data Survey each fall and spring. An overview webinar will be provided after June 23 on the [Early Childhood Standards](#) webpage.

For more information, contact the Department's Kate Small at 515-281-5437 or kate.small@iowa.gov.



Multi-hazard emergency planning for schools

A free two-day training for multi-hazard emergency planning for schools is scheduled for July 31-Aug. 1 in Johnston. The training provides schools with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to refine or develop an all-hazards school Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and to identify how to train and exercise the school EOP.

The training follows the FEMA Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans and utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the foundation for planning and building partnerships with outside agencies such as law enforcement, fire, and emergency management. After completing the training, participants will be able to refine or develop a school EOP and identify how to train and exercise the EOP.

Teams of two to four are preferred which could include: principals, assistant principals, risk managers, school board members, school safety coordinators, transportation and food service coordinators, facility managers, nurses, counselors, public information officers, teachers, local first responders, and emergency coordinators.

Registration is limited to 40 participants in a training session. More sessions may be added depending on interest. The training will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Camp Dodge, Building B57 (Rec Hall) in Johnston. Register through the [state training site](#). Contact Beth Lewis at 515-725-3204 or Susan Green at 515-725-3243 for questions about registration.



FEMA | *Emergency Management Institute*



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Right now, nearly one in four Iowa third-graders is not proficient in reading, according to state test results. And a recent survey commissioned by the Iowa Reading Research Center found uneven reading practices statewide for students who are struggling to read.

The great news is that our education system already is working in collaboration with the Iowa Reading Research Center to support literacy instruction in schools.

The first efforts have focused on an early warning system for literacy to help schools identify, and intervene with, students up through sixth grade who are struggling to read, as well as those students who are on track to read proficiently. This system is made up of reading assessments and a statewide data system. Teachers can screen students, adjust their instruction, and monitor their progress. An online system makes this process very efficient, giving teachers immediate feedback from assessments so they can spend more time teaching.

The rollout last year with about 15 percent of Iowa school districts was so successful that a majority of districts are learning how to use this early warning system so they can participate in the next school year.

We've already heard from educators who say the early warning system provides a focus and collaboration in their schools that they've never experienced before. I look forward to hearing many more success stories as this system rolls out.

This is such exciting work, and the Iowa Reading Research Center and Area Education Agencies are critical partners.

Together, let's make sure all students have the skills they need to succeed, starting with the ability to read. It's the most important tool we can give our children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bruce A. Bower". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

IDEA compliance determinations this summer

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Iowa Department of Education will make annual determinations for each school district and area education agency to ensure there is compliance with and implementation of IDEA Part B requirements.

Determinations for FFY 2012 (2012-2013) will be based on compliance indicators B4, B13, B15 and B20 for districts and B9, B11, B12, B13, B15 and B20 for area education agencies. Determination letters will be emailed to district superintendents and area education agency special education directors during the month of July.

IDEA Part B Data Profiles for districts and area education agencies are now available on [EdInsight](#) and redacted versions have been posted to the [Iowa Department of Education's website](#).

For more information, contact the department's Meredith MacQuigg at meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov or (515) 281-4705.

Time to submit bullying, harassment data

Accredited public and nonpublic schools are required to submit and certify 2013-2014 bullying and harassment data by Friday, Aug. 15.

The application is accessed through the [Iowa Department of Education's Portal](#). All incidents that meet one or more of the following criteria based on the targeted student's perception of the incident should be reported:



- Conduct placed the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
- Conduct had a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
- Conduct had the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.
- Conduct had the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Additional guidance as well as instructions for accessing the application can be found on the [Department's website](#). For more information, contact Meredith MacQuigg at meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov or 515-281-4705.

Youth survey has been posted

Survey results have been posted from the [2013 Iowa Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#). The survey monitors the prevalence of behaviors that put youth at risk for the most serious health and social problems that can occur during adolescence and adulthood. The survey focuses on students who were attending regular public high schools (grades 9-12) in Iowa during 2012-13.

The number of responses on the survey among Iowa students was not statistically significant, so it's important to note that the survey does not represent the state's students as a whole but, rather, only those who participated. For more information, contact Angela Mitchell at angela.mitchell@iowa.gov.

School lunch eligibility application, documents

The FY15 Iowa Eligibility Application, related documents and the FY15 Income Guidelines are posted on the Department's [website](#). Applications in additional languages are posted on the [USDA website](#).



School Breakfast Requirement effective July 1

In school year 2014-2015, all schools in the School Breakfast Program must plan to offer the three required food components (fruits, grains, and fluid milk) in the daily and weekly quantities specified in the meal pattern established by the final rule.

The daily breakfast must consist of at least: 1 cup of fruits, 1 ounce equivalent of whole grain-rich grains, and 1 cup of milk (unflavored/flavored fat-free milk or unflavored low-fat milk). Additional whole grain-rich grains must be offered over the course of the week to meet the weekly grains requirement for each age-grade group. All grains offered with the school meals must be whole grain-rich products. The Target 1 sodium restriction for school meals will be effective in school year 2014-2015; therefore, the breakfast offered on average over the course of the week must not exceed the sodium Target 1 established for each age-grade group. There are no changes to the other dietary specifications. Materials related to the new school meal requirements are available on the [Food and Nutrition Service website](#).





Legal Lessons

Contact Nicole Proesch for all Legal Lessons items: nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661

American as apple pie: July 4 and 1st Amendment

Freedom

It's hard to believe we are in the midst of summer and the kids are free from school. We were finally able to get out to the strawberry patch to pick strawberries. The picking season was a little late this year because of the weather, but it was well worth the wait. I think we ate more strawberries than we should have, but hey, that's the fun of picking them, right? Let's hope my jam turns out this year.

The Fourth of July is just a few days away, and I am looking forward to spending it with the kids this year. The Fourth of July has always been one of my favorite holidays. When I was their age, we always spent the holiday attending Freedom Festival events like the dragon boat races, ski shows at Ellis Park, and watching the fireworks from the 2nd or 3rd Avenue Bridge in Cedar Rapids with a group of close family friends. I vividly remember hanging out with friends and family, watching the fireworks, and listening to music play as the fireworks exploded in the sky. Now that I have my own kids, I realize it's more fun to see their excitement and amazement as they enjoy the fireworks. I can't wait! I hope you have a happy and safe holiday!

In this edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you the Top 10 First Amendment Principles for Schools, FERPA Guidance on the Uninterrupted Scholars Act, and Safety Tips from the Iowa Safe Schools Coalition (ISSC).

First Amendment:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

TOP 10 First Amendment Principles for Schools:

1. No school-sponsored prayer in a public school.
2. No silent meditation or other devotional activity in a public school.
3. No school-sponsored Bible reading in a public school.
4. No invocations at school-sponsored athletic events.
5. No display of religious exhibits or other visual materials in public schools.
6. Private, voluntary prayer by a student is permissible.
7. Absent either the impingement on the rights of others or the likelihood of a substantial and material disruption at school, school officials may not regulate student speech at school.
8. Lewd, indecent, objectively offensive speech by students may be regulated by school officials.
9. School officials may regulate speech that appears to promote illegal or harmful activity.
10. In Iowa, students have the right of free expression in official school publications as long as materials are not obscene, libelous, slanderous, and the materials do not encourage unlawful acts, violate school regulations, or cause a material and substantial disruption to school operations.

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Legal Lessons continued

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FERPA Guidance on the USA

The Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA), which amended the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was enacted in 2013. These amendments also affected the confidentiality provisions in 20 U.S.C. § 1417(c), which apply to Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). On May 27, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education issued guidance to state and local officials, as well as other education stakeholders with information to implement the changes made by the USA to FERPA and IDEA's Part B and C [confidentiality provisions](#).

For additional questions relating to FERPA and its requirements, you may obtain informal advice by calling 202-260-3887 or email at FERPA@ed.gov.

School Safety Tips brought to you by the Iowa School Safety Coalition (ISSC)

Bulletins on *Video Intercom Access Control Systems* and *Protecting Students from Extreme Heat Situations* have been posted to the ISSC website. See the attached links below. For all other safety bulletins, visit the ISSC website at www.lowaschoolsafety.org.

ISSC Bulletin 13: [School Security Video Intercom Best Practices](#)

ISSC Bulletin 14: [Protecting Students from Extreme Heat Situations](#)

Students with Disabilities

For questions regarding students with disabilities, please contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or thomas.mayes@iowa.gov.



Calendar

- July • Joint Employment Whole-Grade Share Application Due
- July • Last day to bill for second semester special education tuition



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



www.educateiowa.gov

Iowa Department of Education

400 E 14th Street
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Ph: 515-281-5294
www.educateiowa.gov