



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

New bullying and harassment reporting

The Iowa Department of Education this school year is launching the new data collection system for bullying and harassment reports for all public and accredited non-public schools in Iowa.

Two webinar sessions were held in August, and a final session is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 14, from 1 to 2 p.m. [Register here](#). The sessions are designed for district employees who are responsible for reporting bullying and harassment incidents to the Department.

Historically, this reporting has been a part of the spring Basic Educational Data Survey (BEDS). Bullying and harassment data reporting will now be a part of Ed-Insight.

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What the Department did on summer vacation

One of the things teachers and students enjoy at the beginning of each school year is sharing their highlights from the summer break.

I have some highlights to share, too. As an agency, we spent much of the summer looking at our vision, focus, and structure.

The purpose of this reflection was to position our work so that it impacts what I call the “black box” of teaching and learning – and that’s the interaction between teachers and students in the presence of content.



Jason Glass, Director

Richard Elmore, a Harvard education professor, was correct when he said if we aren’t doing things that have an impact on that relationship, then we aren’t really doing anything to positively change learning.

The Iowa Department of Education takes that message seriously.

So, we’ve retooled our Division of Learning and Results to focus our efforts on three areas that impact the relationship between teachers and students in the presence of content:

- **Educator quality (teachers):** This relates to how we recruit educators, how we prepare and support them, and issues of leadership, compensation and career paths.

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School finance bureau news

We communicated in June that the School Finance Team was officially restructured as the Bureau of School Finance, Facilities, Operations and Transportation (FFOT). The bureau consists of the original School Finance Team (Su McCurdy, Joyce Thomsen, Gary Schwartz, Janice Evans and Denise Ragias), the original School Transportation Team (Max Christensen, Owen Freese, Verlan Vos; and Mary Jo Clark), Jim Donoghue, and Bill Roederer, our new special education finance consultant. Steve Crew, formerly with special education finance, will be part of the restructured Division of Learning and Results and will no longer work with special education finance.



The purpose is to:

- Increase coordination on these topics by pooling expertise and by creating a team that will support consistent policy implementation;
- Increase effectiveness of assistance to school districts by reducing variations in procedures used by special education finance and other finance areas within FFOT;
- Ensure that the process for the Special Education Supplement (SES) mirrors that of the Certified Annual Report (CAR);
- Continue the initiative to simplify data collections, increase consistency with GAAP and law, improve uniformity among districts in financial procedures, provide more written clarification and guidance, and increase transparency.

The responsibilities of each member of the bureau have been updated on the Department directories on the website (Resources, directories, DE Personnel Directories, DE Alphabetical Directory). Click on the name to view a list of those responsibilities.

... *Continued from page 1 , Director Glass*

- **Learner strategies and supports:** This is about how we tailor instruction to fit the needs of each child. The way in which we deliver instruction to each child should be guided by evidence and monitored to determine whether the approach is working, but it also should be variable to fit individual children with different needs.
- **Standards and curriculum:** The state needs to set high-quality expectations for students to aspire to in core subjects, as well as in other areas such as character education. Then we must design a curriculum that's aligned to those expectations, and then align our entire system – from teacher preparation to professional development to assessments – to those.

It's no coincidence that three of our four new bureaus that have formed in the Division of Learning and Results are named after these three concepts. The fourth bureau, the Bureau of School Improvement, will leverage policy and regulations to ensure that school improvement processes play out in ways that improve educator quality, learner strategies and supports, and standards and curriculum.

I explain more about these concepts, and next steps, in a series of videos that will appear this month on the Iowa Department of Education's homepage at educateiowa.gov.

It's been a great summer, but I look forward to an even better school year. Thanks for all you do on behalf of our state, our schools, and our students.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason E. Glass". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Iowa Financial Literacy Program at no cost to schools

In an effort to bring financial literacy to every Iowa high school, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission provides a no-cost online financial literacy platform. The Iowa Financial Literacy Program helps Iowa educators teach, assess, and certify Iowa high school students in over 600 core concepts of personal finance.



Educators can use this online financial literacy program in a co-curricular or stand-alone manner with a wide variety of subjects including economics, family and consumer sciences, math, business, or as a graduation requirement. The material is covered through 10 highly interactive learning modules, which take an average of six hours to complete. Each learning module meets the financial literacy essential concepts and skills of the Iowa Core and includes a pre-test and post-test to assess student improvement. The program also features a virtual reality life game where students apply their newly acquired knowledge as they explore real-life situations.

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission supports the program statewide, and community banks across Iowa support it locally. The financial commitment allows schools throughout the state to implement the program at no cost to the school.

The Iowa Financial Literacy Program is available on the high school student home page. Students must sign into their I Have A Plan Iowa™ accounts to access the program. Schools that do not use I Have A Plan Iowa™ as their Student Curriculum Plan program may also gain access by contacting Iowa College Aid.

The vision of the Iowa Core includes a financial literacy program embedded throughout the K-12 curriculum. The Iowa Financial Literacy Program is an excellent capstone for a comprehensive, K-12 financial literacy program enabling students to succeed in a complex global environment."

Dr. Jason Glass, Director, Iowa Department of Education

More than 140 schools and 7,500 students took advantage of the Iowa Financial Literacy Program in the 2011-12 academic year. Educators interested in learning more about the Iowa Financial Literacy Program may contact their I Have A Plan Iowa™ trainer, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission at 877-272-4456 or info@iowacollegeaid.gov, or Jessica Barlett at 240-603-7487 or jessica@everfi.com.



The skinny on Senior Year Plus

With the Legislature's adoption of the education reform bill (Senate File 2284) and changes to the Iowa Assessments, there are notable changes to Senior Year Plus (SYP) student eligibility requirements and requirements related to Project Lead the Way courses delivered through district-to-community college sharing agreements.

Student Proficiency Requirements and CTE Courses

Senate File 2284 included changes to SYP student eligibility requirements. Students planning to enroll in career and technical education (CTE) courses delivered via district-to-community college sharing agreements eligible for supplementary weighting (e.g., concurrent enrollment) are now exempt from Iowa Code section 261E.3(1)"e" – the requirement that students demonstrate proficiency on the Iowa Assessments in reading, math, and science. Students may be required to complete and pass an initial assessment administered by the community college to determine their readiness to enroll in college-level CTE coursework. With the passage of the bill, students do not need to demonstrate proficiency in reading, math, and science to concurrently enroll in career and technical courses, but they must continue to demonstrate proficiency to be eligible to enroll in other concurrent enrollment courses. All students must continue to meet any expectations set by the community college (e.g., placement exam cut scores, prerequisites) to be eligible for concurrent enrollment or Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). Additionally, to be eligible to enroll in CTE courses via PSEO, students must meet the reading, math, and science proficiency requirement.

The New Iowa Assessments and Student Proficiency Requirements

Iowa Testing Programs created new forms of the Iowa Assessments (previously the Iowa Tests of Educational Development [ITED] and Iowa Tests of Basic Skills [ITBS]) for the 2011-12 school year. These new forms have necessitated a reexamination of the norms. This examination resulted in a change in the proficiency requirements for students to be eligible to participate in college credit Senior Year Plus (SYP) programming. Although this information was shared with school districts in regional meetings in the spring and fall of 2011, it was not clearly articulated how this impacts student eligibility for SYP programming. These training materials can be accessed at: <http://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/default.aspx>.

To be eligible, students must demonstrate proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science. Previously, eligibility was primarily determined using the most recent administration of the ITBS or ITED or an alternative measure of proficiency adopted by the school board. For the ITBS/ITED, students had to score at or above the 41st national percentile rank (NPR) in each of the three subject areas.

The 2010 national Iowa Assessment norms are different than previous norms established in 2000. Therefore, the 41st NPR on form E/F (the new forms) does not represent the same level of achievement as the 41st NPR on form A/B (based on the 2000 norms). Starting with the 2011-12 school year, form E is being administered in Iowa school districts and proficiency cut scores for the Iowa Assessments are determined in the Standard Score metric (instead of NPR) specific to grade, content, and time of year (fall, midyear, and spring). They represent the same level of achievement as the previous cut scores.

With the new Iowa Assessments, the minimum National Standard Scores (NSS) valid for the 2011-12 academic year are as follows:

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Grade	Fall	Midyear	Spring
8	Math - 229 Science - 232 Reading - 232	Math - 231 Science - 235 Reading - 236	Math - 236 Science - 238 Reading - 213
9	Math - 243 Science - 243 Reading - 243	Math - 249 Science - 250 Reading - 247	Math - 249 Science - 250 Reading - 249
10	Math - 252 Science - 253 Reading - 252	Math - 257 Science - 258 Reading - 257	Math - 257 Science - 258 Reading - 257
11	Math - 259 Science - 260 Reading - 259	Math - 261 Science - 265 Reading - 262	Math - 263 Science - 265 Reading - 263

Project Lead the Way

Senate File 2284 also included language impacting Project Lead the Way® (PLTW) offerings delivered through sharing agreements between school districts and community colleges. The change allows these courses to remain eligible for the same supplementary weighting as concurrent enrollment courses. Later this year, the State Board of Education is expected to adopt administrative rules that include parameters for the program.

Student Proficiency Requirements and PLTW Courses

Senate File 2284 did not change student eligibility requirements related specifically to PLTW courses. Instead, as previously noted, the legislation changed the student eligibility requirements related to college-credit career and technical education (CTE) courses delivered through district-to-community college sharing agreements. If a PLTW course is also a career and technical education (CTE) course, the Senior Year Plus student proficiency requirement exemption is applicable. Currently, the following PLTW pre-engineering courses are considered career-technical, and students are not required to demonstrate proficiency on the Iowa Assessments or an alternative measure prior to enrollment.

Course Number	Course Title
EGT400	PLTW - Introduction to Engineering Design
EGT410	PLTW - Principles of Engineering
EGT420	PLTW - Digital Electronics
EGT439	PLTW - Aerospace Engineering
EGT440	PLTW - Biotechnical Engineering
EGT450	PLTW - Computer Integrated Manufacturing
EGT460	PLTW - Civil Engineering and Architecture
EGT470	PLTW - Engineering Design and Development (EDD)

For more information, contact Jeremy Varner, Bureau of Adult, Career, and Community College Education consultant, at jeremy.varner@iowa.gov or 515-419-9988.

Gap? What gap?

We all know that Iowa's education gap among children with disabilities is one of the worst in the country. But don't tell that to the staff at Willowbrook Elementary School in the Southeast Polk Community School District.

That's because they simply do not have a gap. Their K-5 students who have Individualized Education Programs are nearly every bit as proficient in reading and math as their peers. Read about their inspiring work in the next *Each and Every Child*, coming to your email inbox on Sept. 5.



Willowbrook Principal Robin Norris is joined by special education teachers Lisa Christians and Shannon Andersen.

2 key assessment changes go into effect

Two changes in district-wide assessment requirements go into effect this year, as per legislation passed in the spring. Both 10th grade Iowa Assessments and a kindergarten readiness assessment are required. The purpose of the new 10th grade Iowa Assessments is to provide for inclusion of high school in the growth model for Annual Yearly Progress. For districts, this will mean budgeting for 10th grade tests along with the 11th grade tests, ordering, scheduling, administering and reporting those results for this school year.

Section 279.60.3 *Each school district shall administer the Iowa assessments, created by the state University of Iowa, to all students enrolled in grade 10.*

The Iowa Department of Education and Early Childhood Iowa State Board are collaborating to form a cross-agency planning group to study and select a standard, multi-domain kindergarten readiness assessment for implementation by all school districts beginning in the fall of 2013.

Section 279.60.1 *Each school district shall administer a kindergarten readiness assessment prescribed by the department of education to every resident prekindergarten or 4-year-old child whose parent or guardian enrolls the child in the district. The assessment shall be aligned with state early learning standards and preschool programs shall be encouraged to administer the assessment at least at the beginning and end of the preschool program, with the assessment information entered into the statewide longitudinal data system. The department shall work to develop agreements with Head Start programs to incorporate similar information about 4-year-old children served by Head Start into the statewide longitudinal data system.*



Prairie Lakes hosts institute on Iowa Core implementation

Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency 8 is hosting a three-day Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction (CBCI) Institute in Storm Lake Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Featuring Lynn Erickson and Lois Lanning, the institute is specifically designed for instructional teacher leaders and coaches who work directly in classrooms. The purpose of this opportunity is to implement the Iowa Core in a way that truly increases the rigor and expectations of all students – dramatically different from teaching at the recall, understand, and application levels of Bloom's taxonomy.

The registration deadline is Sept. 14. Click [here](#) to find information about the institute, as well as the registration form. Contact Lois Lanning lanningl@aol.com for more information. Graduate credit is available.

There's an app for students learning to drive

Preparing to get a driver's license in Iowa is about to get easier for iPad users. The Iowa Department of Transportation has a new app – "IA Driver Test for iPad" – that serves as a practice test for the exam that drivers must take to get their driver's licenses.



Developed in partnership with Iowa Interactive, the iPad app was created to assist Iowans to be safe drivers and provide the foundation necessary for applicants to successfully complete the knowledge test.

The app generates 15 questions, randomly chosen from among 69 included in the real knowledge test given at any Iowa driver's license station. Users can repeat the test as often as they like; each new test

generates a different set of 15 questions. The app also tracks a user's high scores.

The free app is available to download to your iPad through the iTunes Store; search for "IA Driver Test for iPad." The app will appear with an Iowa DOT icon. Currently, the app is only compatible with iPad (requires iOS 4.3 or later). However, the Iowa DOT is already working toward making it accessible through other mobile platforms, including Android tablets.

For more information, contact the DOT's Mark Lowe at mark.lowe@dot.iowa.gov.



...Continued from page 1, New bullying / harassment reporting

The purpose of these sessions is to introduce each district to the new reporting system features and to provide guidance on the reporting and use of data from the system to guide district efforts in addressing bullying. Each session will include step-by-step instructions followed by a Q & A period.

You may access handouts for the instructional webinar, a link to a pre-recorded webinar session, and an ongoing Q & A on the Iowa Department of Education's [website](#).

For more information, contact the Department's Penny Bisignano at 515-725-2142 or penny.bisignano@iowa.gov or Barb Anderson at 515-664-6732 or barb.anderson@iowa.gov.

Registration for Governor's Bullying Prevention Summit opens on Sept. 17

We must do more to stand up against bullying. In the most recent Iowa Youth Survey of students in grades 6, 8 and 11, half of those surveyed reported being bullied at school in some way, and most youngsters witness bullying sooner or later. That's why the Governor's Bullying Prevention Summit will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27, in Des Moines. Registration opens Sept. 17. Find out more on the summit's website: <https://preventbullying.iowa.gov/>

Are your Internet safety policies in place?

As of this past July, school Internet safety policies must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interaction with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response.



The Federal Communications Commission has made changes to clarify the Children's Internet Protection Act for schools and libraries when it comes to content and local control matter; an Ed Tech Law [blog item](#) provides a good summary.

Read the original FCC document [here](#) or download it for reference as well. The FCC also has an excellent resource for children. Online brochures, videos, and information about the dangers of cyber exploration and how to keep kids safe are available at: <http://onquardonline.gov/>.

Free training available for online security awareness

The State of Iowa's Information Security Office purchased online information security awareness training for use by state and local government, including K-12 schools. The training is non-technical in nature and covers the basics of information security. Some of the topics covered by the training include:

Social Engineering	Wi-Fi Security
Data Protection	Social Networking
Mobile Device Security	HIPAA
Telecommuting	FERPA

The online training takes about an hour to complete, and certificates of completion are provided. The training's cost is covered through a grant, so there is no charge to K-12 schools to enroll employees. For more information or to sign up for the information security awareness training, contact Alison Radl, alison.radl@iowa.gov or 515-725-2019.

Here is to...walking to our health

Thanks to the passionate educators and adult role models who helped students get involved, more than 291,000 people took the first steps toward building a healthier Iowa by participating in Start Somewhere Walks last year. These walks were the symbolic kickoff of the Healthiest State Initiative.



State leaders are asking Iowans to walk again this October. In particular, they are encouraging educators and others concerned about the health of Iowa's children to help maintain last year's momentum by holding a one-kilometer (nearly two-thirds a mile) Healthiest State Walk on Oct. 3. It's a chance to celebrate the progress made in the last year and to show Iowa's continued commitment to becoming the healthiest state in the nation. Show your support by committing to walk or registering an organized walk at www.iowahealthieststate.com by Sept. 7. Your commitment to keep kids on the path to a healthier lifestyle is essential to success.

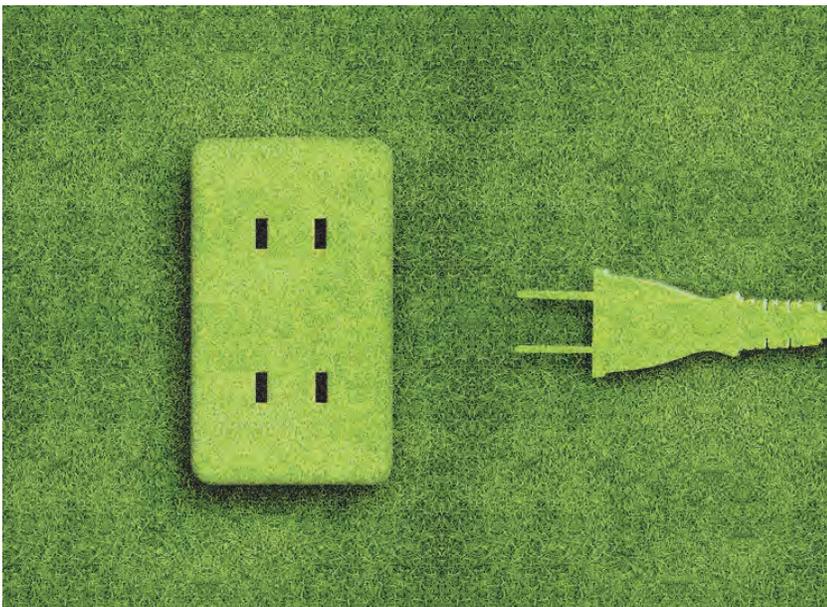
Iowa Green Apple Project

A green school is a safe, healthy, engaging place for students to learn and employees to work. How green is your school? What is your school doing that you are most proud of? What one thing would you like to improve? During September and October, Green Apple Teams of policy-makers and building professionals across Iowa will help you answer these questions as part of a worldwide initiative by the Center for Green Schools and the U.S. Green Building Council. Thousands of volunteers from across the country and around the world will show their support of healthy, sustainable schools by taking real action in their communities. Learn more at mygreenapple.org. Register for the Iowa Green Apple Project at <http://tinyurl.com/iowa-green-apple> or call Pat Higby at 319-273-6012. Find more information about Greening Iowa's schools is at http://usgbciowa.org/green_schools.php.

Energy Education Assessment

Researchers at the University of Northern Iowa are working on a grant from the Iowa Energy Center to conduct the Iowa K-12 Energy Education Assessment. The purpose is to provide a benchmark for potential improvements to energy education in the state, particularly in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy conservation.

As part of the study, researchers are surveying a sample of Iowa teachers regarding their experiences and attitudes about energy education. If your district is randomly selected to participate, you will be contacted via email with more information. The researchers realize that this is an incredibly busy time of year for you and your staff. They hope you will take this opportunity to shape the future of energy education in Iowa. For more information, you may contact the principal investigator, Disa Cornish, at 319-273-2105.



A green-themed poster for the Iowa Green Apple Project. At the top, there is a circular logo for the U.S. Green Building Council Chapter with a leaf in the center. Below the logo, it says "IOWA CHAPTER". The main title is "GREEN APPLE Day of Service" in large, bold letters, with "Day of Service" in a lighter green. Below the title, it says "September 29, 2012". A slogan reads "We Learn Here Where We Learn Matters!". There is a call to action: "Join the Iowa Green Apple Project. Make school a better place to learn, work, and play!". Two website URLs are listed: "mygreenapple.org" and "www.usgbciowa.org". Below that is the logo for "THE CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS". At the bottom, there is a world map with the word "local" and the phrase "ful change" overlaid on it.

Data and Reporting

Changes in submitting student data

The Iowa Department of Education is no longer using EASIER for submitting student-level data. Instead, data will be submitted through VRF. The entire process from submitting student-level data through certifying enrollment is called Student Reporting in Iowa. Certification will be completed through Certified Enrollment, just as it has been done in the past. The differences you will see this year are:

- The applications (VRF, Student Reporting, Certified Enrollment, SBRC) will be available in the new Iowa Education Portal.
- Data can no longer be changed on the screen. All data corrections must be made in the student information system.
- New files will be submitted through VRF.
- There will be no Round 2 or 3 phone calls with EASIER consultants. All issues identified during the certified enrollment process must be corrected in your student information system and new files submitted by Oct. 15.

In order to accurately complete Certified Enrollment by the deadline, all districts are encouraged to begin sending practice files immediately. VRF, Student Reports, and Certified Enrollment are now open for testing and will remain open through Sept. 26. The resolution of issues between districts can begin as soon as practice data are available in Certified Enrollment. All practice data will be deleted and the system reopened on Oct. 1. The first round of training has been completed. Round 2 training begins Sept. 4. **Dates to remember:**

Sept. 4-7	Student Reports and Certified Enrollment training
Sept. 19	Date by which all districts are encouraged to move their data to Certified Enrollment for preliminary results.
Sept. 19-26	Communication between districts to resolve potential student errors (duplicate students and resident district issues)
Sept. 26 (5 p.m.)	All files will be deleted from the system for Oct. 1 preparation
Oct. 1	Count Day, opening of VRF, Student Reports, and Certified Enrollment

C-Plan is open and ready

Consolidated Plan (C-Plan), the new collection process of reports, data and progress, is open and ready for districts and non-public schools to complete the required components of the Annual Progress Report (APR), the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) and District Developed Service Delivery Plan (DDSDP). The deadline for submitting the information required for these components is Sept. 15. Data from the Iowa Department of Education needed to complete the reports will be uploaded at the end of August or beginning of September. C-Plan can be accessed through the Department's secure website. For questions about the DDSDP section of C-Plan, contact Ellen McGinnis-Smith at 515-725-2220 or ellen.mcginnis-smith@iowa.gov. For questions about the APR or CSIP sections of C-Plan, contact Holly Barnes at 515-242-6173 or holly.barnes@iowa.gov or Cindy Butler at 515-281-5332 or cindy.butler@iowa.gov. Although SINA/DINA information is not due in C-Plan until Nov. 1, questions can be directed to Karla Day at 515-281-7145 or karla.day@iowa.gov.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Funding

Preschool funding is included in the state aid distributed to districts throughout the year in 10 state aid installments. The allocation is based on a district's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) certified enrollment count from the previous year. All SWVPP funds are categorical; please refer to IAC 281-98.13 for allowable costs.

In the 2012 legislative session, changes were made regarding the use and distribution of preschool foundation aid applicable to SWVPP districts and community partners. The following guidance is based on this legislation.

Funding for District Administrative Costs

Districts may continue to retain up to 5 percent of the total program allocation for administrative costs associated with the program. Documentation of the actual costs must equal the set-aside amount.

Funding for Community Partners

The following pertains to districts and community partners that collaborate to provide the SWVPP:

Districts must distribute funding to the community partner that equals 95 percent of the total per-child allocation based on the number of partner children included in the district-certified enrollment count from the prior school year.

For example, a community partner participating in the SWVPP served 10 children counted in the district's certified enrollment for 2011-12. Consequently, in 2012-13 the partner receives 95 percent of the per-child allocation for the 10 children counted in 2011-2012. If the partner serves more or less children in 2012-13, the partner receives funding for the 10 children counted in 2011-12.



Of the 95 percent SWVPP funding received by the community partner, up to 5 percent may be used for administrative and operational costs to run the program.



The community partner must document actual costs equal to the administrative/operational set aside (up to 5 percent of the 95 percent) and all expenditures applicable to the preschool program. Documentation must be provided to the district for expenditures appropriate to the funding. Any portion of the 95 percent per-child allocation not expended for direct instructional or administrative/operational costs (not exceeding 5 percent of the 95 percent) must be refunded to the district annually. All funds returned to the district remain categorical.

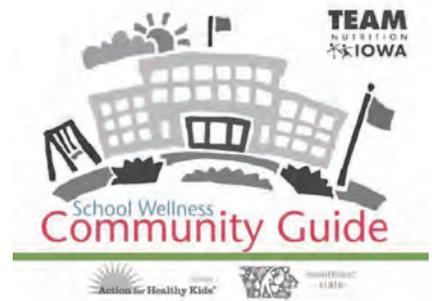
For more information, go to http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279 or contact Penny Milburn at penny.milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844; Judy Russell at judy.russell@iowa.gov or 515-281-4705; or Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov or 515-725-2273.

Nutrition and Health

Good health, well-being = optimal student

The health and well-being of a student can make the difference as to whether a child will be successful in the classroom – and in life. Bringing the schools, parents and the community together can ensure this.

That's why the Iowa Department of Education's Team Nutrition Program, *Iowa Partners: Action for Healthy Kids*, and the Governor's *Healthiest State Initiative* have partnered to develop a guide that outlines specific strategies and actions that schools can take to increase community engagement in school wellness activities.



The guide walks you through key components of bringing health and well-being to the forefront of your schools. The guide, which will be updated regularly, is accessible at the Iowa Department of Education's website: www.tinyurl.com/schoolwellnesscommunityguide.

For more information, contact the Department's Carrie Scheidel at carrie.scheidel@iowa.gov or 515-281-4758.

Fill out the certification, receive additional 6 cents per lunch

To learn how to be certified in the New Meal Pattern – and receive an additional 6 cents for every reimbursable student lunch served – go to “Certification \$.06 for Meal Program” in the A-Z Index on the Iowa Department of Education website or via this link: <http://tinyURL.com/certification-6cents>. While the new meal pattern went into effect for all on July 1, certification is an additional process to certify you have implemented the pattern correctly and qualify for the extra reimbursement. Educational events planned:

- **Menu Planning 101** – This is an introductory level for the School Food Authority's staff person who is responsible for menu writing but did not attend training in the spring or summer. There are six locations planned between Aug. 28 and Sept. 12. Registration is available on the Department's website calendar.
- **6 cent Lunch Certification webinar** – Sept. 10, 1 to 3:30 pm. Register on the Department website calendar. The process to complete necessary forms and submit documentation to the Department will be covered.
- **Certification Regional Meetings** for post-webinar small group work are being scheduled.

For questions, contact Amanda Miller at amanda.miller@iowa.gov or 515-725-2627, or Angela Mitchell at angela.mitchell@iowa.gov or 515-725-2626, or your designated bureau consultant.

'Tar Wars' focuses on 4th and 5th graders

Nearly 4,000 U.S. children will smoke their first cigarette today. Nearly 4,000 more will join them tomorrow. And the sad tale will continue the day after that and the day after that – unless someone takes action. Kids might not understand or appreciate that long-term



tobacco use can lead to things like lung cancer or emphysema, but the conversation can be framed in a way that will get their attention. For example, smoking a pack a day will cost a person – depending on taxes in your city and state – \$1,500 to more than \$3,000 a year.

If you already present Tar Wars in your local schools, thank you. For those of you who haven't yet been presenters, here's what you need to know: It's easy. A classroom presentation takes about an hour, and Tar Wars provides you with all the [resources](#) you'll need. The program will be celebrating its 25th year in the upcoming school year, and updates that are being planned will make Tar Wars even better. To view the course curriculum, go to www.tarwars.org. For further information regarding Tar Wars, contact the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians at 800-283-9370 or janetwee@iaafp.org.

Transportation

2 receive coveted 'Tom Horn' transportation award

Iowa Department of Education school bus inspectors Owen Freese and Verlan Vos were awarded the "Tom Horn Memorial Award" at the recent Iowa School Transportation Conference held in Des Moines. The conference is sponsored by the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association (IPTA), the Iowa Department of Education, and the Iowa Association of School Boards. This annual award is presented to those who have shown extreme dedication and purpose in their work over the past year. It's the most prestigious award given to members of the school transportation industry in Iowa. Named for the late founder of the IPTA, the award is given out each year at the annual conference. Owen and Verlan touch every school district in the state of Iowa at least twice every school year, and have been doing so since both were hired by the Department in 1999.



The Iowa Department of Education's Owen Freese (left) and Verlan Vos pose with their awards.



Legislative Update

Contact Mike Cormack for all legislative items: mike.cormack@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399.

Cormack at the Capitol

Let's play ball

"Fun is Good." That is the slogan of one of my favorite teams in sports, the St. Paul Saints. I don't know what their record is. Their games aren't televised in Iowa. And I often leave before the final out is recorded.

Furthermore, there is no reason to attend Midway Stadium where the Saints play. It is in a warehouse area where trains rumble by virtually every inning. The aging, perhaps even dumpy, stadium lacks many modern amenities. Yet, even with the Minnesota Twins returning to outdoor baseball, Saints fans continue to come to Midway for a night of ball. Why?

It's because team owner Mike Veeck, son of Hall of Fame owner Bill Veeck, and his ownership team, which includes actor Bill Murray, are innovative and don't make excuses. Instead of complaining about how bad their stadium is or that they don't have major league players, they innovate. One example: They use their slogan "Fun is Good" throughout the ballpark. Pigs on leashes bring baseballs to the umpires between innings. The public address announcer sits on top of the dugout. A fan sits on a perch on the right field wall on a nightly contest. Slow, sappy love songs are played over the public address system when visiting ball players come up to bat. Bags of peanuts are thrown into the stands from the press box area when the seventh inning stretch takes place. Mascots roam through the stands and an off-key singer belts out a tune between innings. Neckties are cut off the visitor who dares to wear one to the stadium. I've seen leprechauns on the field and entertainers like "the coach" who wore 1980s Bike coaching shorts, neck whistle, and tube socks that reached his knees as he cheered on the team. It is unlike any other sports event.

What lessons can we take from the Saints in education? There seem to be two camps evolving in the Iowa discussion on this topic. The first is innovative, produces ideas, isn't afraid to fail and is pushing forward with energy and enthusiasm. The second blames students, blames parents, and/or argues that this is the best we can do. Iowa once was the undisputed leader in education in the country. That simply isn't the case today.

As a lifelong Iowan who was honored to work for years as a coach and teacher, I'm not pleased to know that. I acknowledge that not everything is horrible, that we have dedicated educators who are working hard with our children. But, we can do better.

No reasonable person can look at the stagnation in our educational test scores and arrive at the conclusion that we should be satisfied. Our students deserve better than excuses and in this role, I've heard plenty of people in the past year provide plenty of excuses on why we are doing the best that we can do. It was refreshing for me at the School Administrators of Iowa conference to hear their keynote speaker address the topic that all educational systems can improve, even in schools that have issues of poverty. At the Governor's educational symposium, Mark Tucker shared traits that high-achieving systems have. I never heard making excuses as one of those items.

Continued on page 15...

Legislative Update continued

Continued from Page 14, Mike Cormack

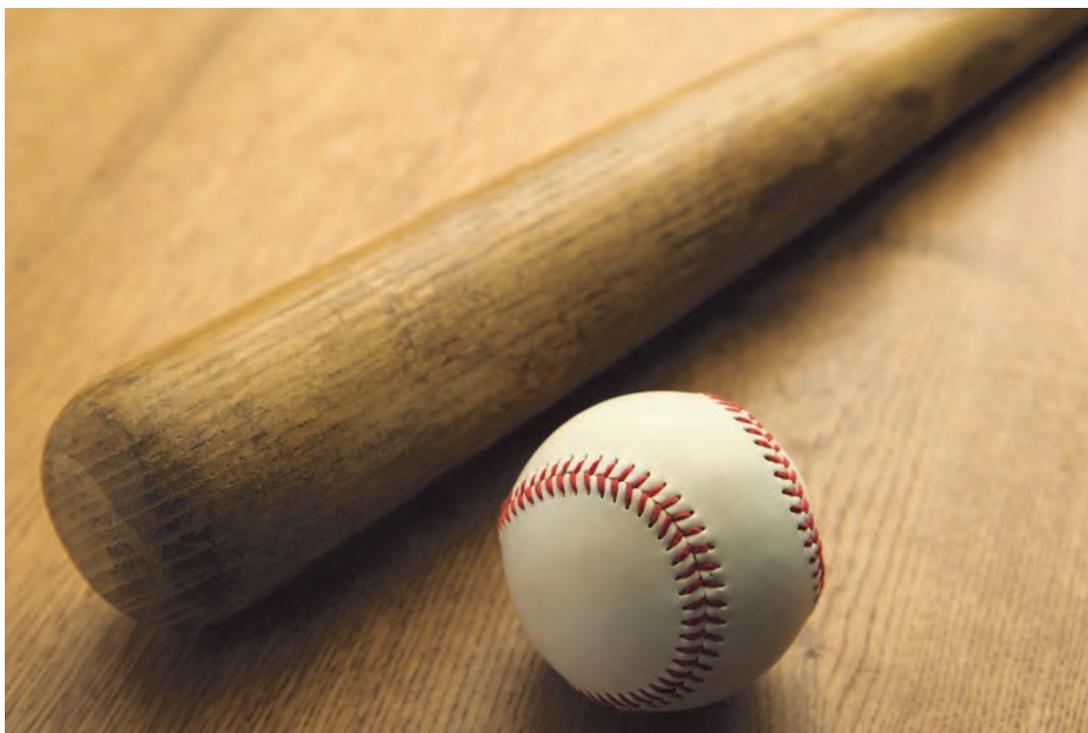
At my school, the free and reduced-lunch count was above the state average. Still, I don't remember our staff ever mentioning that fact. And, our test scores were above the state average.

As legislators return to Des Moines early next year, the Governor will be prepared to offer a package of ideas to change education in this state. Reform is not easy, but it is necessary.

Still, innovation is not a guarantee of success, such as the time that Veeck invited fans to bring disco albums to blow up. The enthusiasm for the event eventually led to overzealous fans rioting and destroying the field.

But without a commitment to innovation, Veeck's other good ideas couldn't have taken place. Today, he is in the Hall of Fame, reminding us that those pushing for change are often criticized at the time but vindicated in the long run.

Baseball is better off today because of the Veeck family. If education is to move forward, it will need the spirit of the Veecks and the problem-solvers, not those who are rigidly locked into preserving the status quo. It's time to play ball with education, not sit on the sidelines and just hope that change happens.





Legal Lessons

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

Proesch takes legal reins of Department

My name is Nicole Proesch, and I have officially started in my position with the Iowa Department of Education as legal counsel to the Office of the Director. Prior to coming to the Department, I was a state and federal prosecutor for the last eight years. I worked for several counties, the Iowa Attorney General's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office. While I have primarily worked in criminal litigation over the past several years, I am looking forward to this opportunity to work in education law, where I can be part of an agency that has a proactive and positive effect on Iowa education. I am very excited to be with the Department and look forward to answering your questions regarding school law issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me at nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661.

Constitution Day, September 17, We the people...

United States Constitution Day is Sept. 17 each year. Congress enacted legislation requiring all public schools to set aside one day during the week of Sept. 17 (which happens to be a Monday this year) to teach all students about the U.S. Constitution and about citizenship. Iowa districts are already in compliance with the spirit and letter of this law by having secondary students take U.S. government. [Iowa Code section 256.11(5)(b) requires that the government course cover the federal Constitution.] Many, if not most districts, probably already incorporate such instruction at the elementary level. The U.S. Department of Education acknowledges that curriculum and course decisions fall outside federal authority. This agency has no information about whether or how the federal government plans to enforce the law. As of late, federal administrations have been checking to see that state education agencies are doing this. The intent behind the law is a good one. More information, including materials that are useful in planning Constitution Day activities, is available at <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html>. This requirement applies to "each educational institution that receives federal funds." "Educational Institutions" includes, but is not limited to, school districts and institutions of higher learning. It would appear that area education agencies must also comply with this law.

Educational records for children in foster care

Educational stability and continuity is very important for children in foster care. Here are some common questions about educational records for children in foster care.

Q. *Must a school transfer records when a child changes schools because of a change in foster care placement?*

A. Yes. Whenever a child in foster care changes schools because of a change in placement, the resident school must transfer the child's educational records to the new school within five school days. (See Iowa Code § 280.29.) This is regardless of the nature of the child's foster care placement (family foster care, residential placement, etc.). This is a requirement. There is no permissible reason for schools to refuse or delay sending these records, such as the child owing a fine or fee.

Q. *Can a school deny access to a student record when presented with a consent authorizing release of educational information form?*

A. No. Under federal law, a school must permit a parent's authorized representative (such as a person with a release of information form signed by a parent) to inspect and review a child's educational records.

Q. *Can a school refuse to release a student record because the requester is not a school?*

A. No. If the requester seeks records of a child in foster care, such as a provider of foster care or the Iowa Department of Human Services, and has a release signed by a parent, then the school must honor the request.

If you have questions about this matter, contact thomas.mayes@iowa.gov or susan.walkup@iowa.gov. For more information about the education of children in foster care, please click [here](#).

'Pledge to Prepare' for emergencies

Iowans are being asked to "Pledge to Prepare" for emergencies during Family Preparedness Month in September. As part of the pledge, middle and high school students are encouraged to submit their pledge into a drawing or short video to be entered into a contest. Prizes will be awarded.

Family Preparedness Month is sponsored by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Contact Lucinda Robertson at lucinda.robertson@iowa.gov for more information, or go to www.BeReady.iowa.gov.

Calendar

- September 1 • Kindergarten open enrollment deadline for 2012-13 year
- September 1 • New Regional Academy applications due
- September 1 • Vehicle Information System updates due
- September 8 • Online request for hearing at the October SBRC meeting due
- September 12 • Exhibits for hearings at the October SBRC meeting due
- September 15 • Date student must be school age for certified enrollment
- September 15 • Consolidated Plan (C-Plan) due
- September 17 • CAR and SES due
- September 17 • Annual Transportation Report due
- September 17 • If the CAR, SES, and ATR are not filed by this date and no extension was granted, district shall file a corrective action plan with SBRC immediately
- September 30 • Districts must notify all parents of dates according to Rules 281-IAC 17.3(2)
Dates regarding: Open enrollment, transportation assistance, right to appeal to State Board if original request to open enroll was based on repeated acts of harassment or serious health condition of the subject, possible loss of athletic eligibility for open enrolled students.

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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