



School Leader Update

Iowa Department of Education

Monday, November 1, 2004

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

NEWS FROM THE DE

Community forums to discuss [Iowa Learns Council](#) recommendations

In November and December, Governor Vilsack will be convening a series of community forums to discuss the Iowa Learns Council recommendations designed to ensure continuous improvement of our educational system for all learners of all ages, so they will enjoy success and quality of life as adults. Highlights of the recommendations include:

Make a strong commitment to early childhood

- Invest more resources into early care, health, and education
 1. Engage parents, communities, business and labor
 2. Establish and implement early learning standards
 3. Implement a child care quality rating system
 4. Provide training and professional development to early care and education teachers and providers
 5. Provide universal access to quality preschool
 6. Ensure children have a medical and dental home

Renew our commitment to the K-12 system

- Increase investment in teacher quality and professional development
 1. Raise expectations for students and parents
 2. Revamp high school curriculum to be more relevant
 3. Improve career guidance and planning

Establish a better connection between Education and Business/Labor

- Establish a formal structure-The Partnership for Education and the Economy
 1. Allow continuous dialogue; keep up with constant change
 2. Align curriculum with skills sets needed

The dates and sites for the community forums are listed below, and we hope that many educators will be able to attend. All forums will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m.

DATE

LOCATION

<i>November 16</i>	<i>Jefferson Scranton Community School District, High School Auditorium</i>
<i>November 18</i>	<i>Prairie High School, College Community School District</i>
<i>November 22</i>	<i>Indian Hills Community College (Ottumwa), St. John Auditorium</i>
<i>December 1</i>	<i>Mississippi Bend AEA, Bettendorf</i>
<i>December 7</i>	<i>Grand River Center, 500 Bell Street, Dubuque</i>
<i>December 8</i>	<i>Sioux Center Community School District, TePaske Theatre, SC High School</i>
<i>December 9</i>	<i>Fremont-Mills Community School District, High School Multi-Purpose Room</i>

Upcoming ICN session to address changes in NCLB requirements

In February, the Department will hold an ICN session to answer your questions about the changes in NCLB requirements for the 2004-05 school year, including AYP reporting, use of annual data, and the state annual achievement trajectories. These changes were outlined in a September 16, 2004, memo from Judy Jeffrey (see <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/nclb/doc/annualletter.html>.) Exact times/dates and ICN sites will be provided in a future School Leaders Update. If there are questions you want to have addressed in the ICN session, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section is available to solicit your questions about NCLB at https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/tcdiscussion/faq_post.asp?g=4.

Judy Jeffrey appointed to regional advisory committee

Judy Jeffrey has been appointed to the U.S. Department of Education's Regional Advisory Committee for the North Central Region. The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is charged with conducting an assessment of the educational technical assistance needs of the region and preparing a report on those needs to the Secretary of Education and to the Director of the Institute for Education Sciences. The final report will be submitted in March 2005.

Applications for student member of State Board of Education

Please note that applications for the nonvoting student member to the State Board of Education will be sent via email to all school districts within the next several weeks. The application and all required supporting documents will also be available on our website. The Iowa Legislature created this position a couple of years ago; the DE received over 35 timely applications for the inaugural position. Megan Srinivas, now a senior at Fort Dodge High School, has been the student member for the past two years.

This is a competitive process, and it is crucial that all requested information be completed and all instructions be followed accurately. We want to avoid the problems that occurred the first time around, such as:

- Applications missing the signed approval from the district.
- Applications with no letter of reference from an instructor who taught the student.
- Applications without the summary of community or extracurricular activities.
- Applications postmarked after the February 1 deadline.
- District administrators who sign the approval document for more than the allowable number of students from their district. The limits are as follows:
 - If district enrollment for grades 10-12 is less than 400, only one student may apply.
 - If district enrollment for grades 10-12 is 400 – 1199, two students may apply.
 - If district enrollment for grades 10-12 is 1200 or more, three students may apply.
 - In districts with more than one high school, administrators should communicate with each other about this. The DE will not screen applicants for a district.

Please emphasize to interested, eligible students the importance of following the instructions for completion of all required documents. If a district has more students interested in applying than the above limits, the district must determine who gets to submit their application(s) to this agency.

The term of the student member starts May 1, 2005, and is for one year. If the appointed student is a sophomore this year, s/he may serve a two-year term.

The rules that govern the student member to the SBE are at 281—IAC 1.2; view them at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/Current/iac/281iac/2811/2811.pdf>.

Questions? Contact Carol Greta, 515/281-8661, carol.greta@iowa.gov.

K-12 public school enrollment data updated

Enrollment at Iowa's public schools this fall is 483,372 students, a decline of 1,639 or about .34 percent when compared to last year, according to preliminary records compiled by the Iowa Department of Education.

State education leaders expected the decline based on census data and enrollments that show outgoing 12th graders outnumber incoming kindergarten students.

Approximately thirty-six percent or 133 districts reported increases for a combined total of 4,371 students. About sixty-four percent or 234 of Iowa's 367 districts experienced enrollment declines this fall. Their combined total loss was 5,841 students.

Final certified data – including grade-level and subgroup breakouts – will be available in December.

Web update

The school infrastructure and related topics have been moved under the Division of Financial and Information Technology. The new location is <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/fis/si/index.html>.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

High School Summit set for December 14 in Des Moines

The first Iowa High School Summit: Rigor, Relevancy, Relationships will be Tuesday, December 14, 2004, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. Local school district administrators and teachers, along with community college and AEA staff, are encouraged to attend as teams (recommended team size of five to seven individuals). The intended outcome of the summit is to help teams better understand the importance of high school rigor, relevance, and relationships in order to prepare students for their post-secondary choices and the world of work. Governor Vilsack has been invited to share information from the Iowa Learns Council; Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust in Washington, D.C., will keynote the day; Iowa practitioners will highlight the three key areas of school reform: leadership, climate and curriculum; and the afternoon will include information on proven school reform initiatives in Iowa.

Registration materials have been mailed to local school district, AEA and community college administrators. Registration information is also available at http://www.sai-iowa.org/summitHS_2004.pdf. The National Association of Secondary School Principals has provided partial funding for the summit.

Better CHOICES for students seeking career guidance

The DE is partnering with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (ICSAC) to improve career planning for students, which will help more students understand the need for college-prep work during high school. Academic planning (course planning) at the high school level must be linked to both career planning and college planning. By strengthening these linkages, students and parents can be better informed regarding careers and occupations and the knowledge and skills required to attain and keep a job in their chosen career field; they will know where education in their chosen career field is available (i.e., secondary, postsecondary, apprenticeship) and how to plan both financially and academically (through appropriate course selection and high performance) for college.

Beginning in November, the DE program called Iowa Career Information and Decision Making System (CHOICES) and other career planning tools that it makes available to schools, libraries, colleges, and workforce development centers to help students with career guidance will be disseminated by ICSAC. The ICSAC has a long history of providing technical assistance and expertise to high school counselors. In addition, the ICSAC partners with the College Planning Center, a division of Iowa Student Loan, which conducts hundreds of workshops and seminars for parents of high school students regarding college planning.

We are confident that this relationship will increase parental knowledge regarding the relationships between career, academic, and college planning. From the local level, it is our goal that you will have a cadre of personnel at the ICSAC who will be able to link components of career with academic and college planning. After November 1, you will be able to reach Mary Beth Griffin, clerk-specialist of CHOICES, at 515/242-3313, marybeth.griffin@iowa.gov.

TransAct helps break language barriers

Districts and schools can get translation assistance from TransAct, Inc., a website that offers various documents in a number of different languages. The DE has a subscription to this site that allows every public school district, area education agency and accredited nonpublic schools access to the TransAct site free of charge. At last report from TransAct, approximately 185 districts, all 12 AEAs and five accredited nonpublic schools from Iowa have registered for the TransAct Compliance and Communication Center. Once a district, AEA or accredited nonpublic school has signed up, any employee in that agency with the same email address ending can sign up by going to www.TransAct.com and clicking on subscribe. There are a series of eight questions that must be answered and once those are completed you will be subscribed. Any other Iowa district or accredited nonpublic school that would like to register for the TransAct Compliance and Communication Center can do so by going to www.TransAct.com and clicking on subscribe.

The site provides NCLB parent notification in six languages and general education parent notifications in 22 languages, and has a section with Iowa documents that the state has had translated into other languages. For example, the Iowa Individualized Education Program (IEP) is on this site for all Iowa districts, AEAs and accredited nonpublics to access in 5 languages (English, Spanish, Bosnian, Lao, and Vietnamese).

The Department of Education encourages all districts, AEAs and nonpublic schools to participate in this service. It is at no charge to districts, AEAs or accredited nonpublic schools as the state is paying the annual

cost of the subscription. If you have any questions contact Carmen Sosa, 515/281-3805, carmen.sosa@iowa.gov or Sharon Hawthorne, 515/281-5461, sharon.hawthorne@iowa.gov.

Complete your AEA Customer Survey

All district and accredited nonpublic school certified employees are encouraged to participate in the statewide AEA Customer Survey 2004. This survey asks for your input on the quality of services provided by the AEA in several areas of emphasis. Total time to complete the survey should be 10-15 minutes and the survey is available electronically at <http://survey.aea267.k12.ia.us/survey/3214/1bba/>. Please forward this notice to your certified staff members as appropriate. The last day to participate in the survey is Friday, November 12. Contact Jeff Berger, 515-281-3399 or jeff.berger@iowa.gov with any questions or concerns.

QUALITY TEACHING

New and improved Content Network

The Content Network is getting a face-lift. One new feature is the use of Summary Tables. Teachers, Administrators and AEA staff will be able to navigate through the plethora of articles by clicking on a content area, then grade level, then topic. A summary table will appear that has valuable information on SBR ratings, Subjects of the study, Effect Size, a Summary, and the author and title. One can then have a quick glance at currently reviewed research. A full review is also available for those articles one would like more detailed information. Math Summary Table revisions are on the web. You can still access the Science and Reading reviews; however, the Summary Tables will be up soon.

This website was designed to help school districts identify content for implementing the district career development plan (DCDP). For those districts that have identified research based practices for your DCDP, you can use the Content Network to find more information on your selections. If you can't find information on your topic, contact Cynthia Knight, 515/281-5287 or Cynthia.knight@iowa.gov and content network members will try to find studies that support your work.

If you haven't selected content for your DCDP, the Content Network can help in your search for SBR practices that fit your needs. Based on data collected from your district, you will be able to identify research studies that show evidence that particular instructional practices have had an effect on student achievement with students similar to your district. When compared with district data, a district should be able to match the area of need to potential professional development content options.

Example of how to use the Content Network

If your district has chosen Reading – Text Structures as one aspect of your PD, on the Web you would click Reading, choose a grade level or select All for K-12 studies, then click Text Structures. You will find the currently reviewed research on Text Structures. The reviews are there to support the work you do, by reinforcing your choices and/or by helping you choose the best practice to fit your needs.

SCHOOL FUNDING AND GRANTS

IJUMP financing options

Many districts have asked whether the IASB program known as IJUMP may be financed via district management levy. IJUMP is the Iowa Joint Utility Management Program, and is designed to assist districts reduce or manage rising fuel costs. Districts have received conflicting information about whether they could use their management levies to fund participation in IJUMP. Therefore, this agency and the State Auditor's Office asked for an informal letter of advice from the Iowa Attorney General.

The advice letter from the Attorney General is that the IJUMP Fleet Service participation fee is not a proper expenditure from the district management fund.

The confusion centered around whether IJUMP is an insurance agreement or a risk management tool so as to allow a district to use Iowa Code sections 296.7 and 298.4 to justify expenditure of funds from the management levy. It is the opinion of the Attorney General that the program defers, but does not move, risk. Accordingly, IJUMP is neither an insurance agreement nor a risk management tool, and the cost of participation may NOT be paid from the management levy.

Federal funding update

The department earlier this month sent a status report regarding federal education funding to all superintendents. You'll find it on our website at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ootd/budget.html>. Please note that while negotiations are ongoing at the federal level, it is helpful for our Congressional delegation to hear from you regarding the potential impact of funding decreases. If you are supportive of specific changes to federal funding or have concerns about any loss of specific categorical funding, use the links below to express your views directly to Iowa's U.S Senators and Representatives.

Senator Grassley: <http://grassley.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.Home>

Senator Harkin: <http://harkin.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>

Representative Boswell: <http://www.house.gov/boswell/welcome4.htm>

Representative King: <http://www.house.gov/steveking/contact.htm>

Representative Latham: <http://www.house.gov/latham/>

Representative Leach: <http://www.house.gov/leach/contact.htm>

Representative Nussle: <http://nussle.house.gov/contact.htm>

Questions? Contact Jeff Berger, 515/281-3399, jeff.berger@iowa.gov.

Open enrollment transportation assistance and tuition rates for 2004-05

Students that open enroll from one district to another may be eligible for transportation assistance if they qualify under the federal income guidelines (see [Open Enrollment Handbook](#), page 12). These guidelines are NOT the same as the guidelines for Free and Reduced Fees.

If a student qualifies, the resident district may discharge this obligation in one of three ways:

1. The resident district may actually provide transportation for the pupil(s) to a stop on the bus line of the receiving district.
2. The resident district may allow the receiving district to enter the resident district to pick up the pupil(s) if the receiving district wishes to. (Failure of the receiving district to decide to do this will not discharge the resident district's obligation for transportation assistance.)
3. The resident district may provide a parent/guardian reimbursement.

The 2004-05 transportation assistance rate will be available in December.

Tuition Rates 2004-05

Regular Education Student

\$4648 2003-04 state cost per pupil

Special Education Student

Actual cost Student's program for the 2004-2005

Limited English Proficiency

LEP .22 X district per pupil cost 2003-04

Phase II does NOT follow open enrolled students, however, Phase II does follow students that are tuitioned in from another district.

\$79.72 2004-05 Phase II per pupil

2004-05 Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant applications available

The Iowa Department of Education is pleased to announce the availability of the Iowa Demonstration Construction (Harkin) Grant Program [Fire (Life) Safety and Construction], which was authorized by Title III of P.L. 108-199 in the amount of \$6,958,699.

The grants, to be awarded on a competitive basis, are available to Iowa public school districts. The Fire (Life) Safety Grant is also available to the State Board of Regents for use at the Iowa Braille & Sight Saving School and/or the Iowa School for the Deaf.

Applications must be postmarked or received at the Iowa Department of Education by 4:30 p.m., December 10, 2004, for both the Fire (Life) Safety and Construction Grant applications.

Applications may be obtained from the Iowa Department of Education's website at

<http://www.state.ia.us/educate/fis/si/idcgp/index.html>

The Department will hold an ICN session on the application process and program, November 15, 2004 from 1:00 to 3:00. More information on locations will be sent at a later date.

Questions? Contact C. Milton Wilson, 515/281-4743, milt.wilson@iowa.gov.

Mandatory reporting of child abuse - reminders

General aspects of child abuse law:

- Iowa Code section 232.69(1) lists the categories of mandatory reporters. This includes “A licensed school employee ... or holder of a coaching authorization.”

NOTE that the mandatory reporter must also form a reasonable belief that a child has suffered abuse by virtue of having examined, attended, counseled, or treated the child in the scope of the person’s professional practice or in the scope of the person’s employment responsibilities. For instance, seeing a child slapped by a parent in the McDonald’s parking lot is not a *mandatory* reportable incident. But, remember that we are all *permissive reporters* all of the time, whether “on duty” or not. (So you *may* call DHS to report the McDonald’s incident, but are not *required* to do so.)

- A child is any person under the age of 18 years per Iowa Code section 232.68(1).
- With one exception, only suspected abuse by a caretaker (that is, a parent, guardian, babysitter, or any person with whom the child lives and who is responsible for the child’s care or supervision) is reportable to DHS. The exception is that a suspected sexual offense by a non-caretaker **MUST** be reported if the child is under 12 years old and **MAY** be reported if the child is 12 or over. (See next item on “Sexual Exploitation by a School Employee.”)
- The most common types of child abuse are:
 - i. Physical abuse (any non-accidental physical injury or an injury which is at variance with the history given of it);
 - ii. Mental injury (injury to a child’s intellectual or psychological capacity as evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child’s ability to function within the child’s normal range of performance and behavior, if the impairment is diagnosed and confirmed by a licensed physician or qualified mental health professional);
 - iii. Sexual abuse (notwithstanding that many sexual offenses are not crimes unless the child is under 14 years of age, all sexual offenses by a caretaker against a child under 18 years of age must be reported); and
 - iv. Denial of critical care (neglect; failure to provide adequate food and nutrition, adequate shelter, adequate clothing, adequate health care, mental health care, or proper supervision).
- Suspected child abuse may be reported both orally and in writing. Permissive reports may be oral, written, or both. If making a mandatory report orally, the reporter must follow up with a written report within 48 hours after making the oral report. Call toll-free number (800/362-2178) or your county DHS office.
- A mandatory reporter who knowingly and willfully fails to make a required report of suspected child abuse is guilty of a simple misdemeanor (punishable by up to 30 days in jail or a fine of up to \$500 or both). Knowingly making a false report to DHS or causing a report to be made knowing that information is false is also simple misdemeanor.
- A mandatory reporter who knowingly fails to make a required report or who knowingly interferes with the making of such a report is civilly liable for any damages proximately caused by such failure or interference.
- A person licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners could be subject to sanctions from that licensing body for either of the misdemeanors above.
- Iowa Code section 232.73 provides immunity from any civil or criminal liability when a person makes a child abuse report or helps in an investigation of the same in good faith.

Sexual exploitation by school employee

In 2003, a new crime was added to the Iowa Criminal Code, specifically to chapter 709, which covers sexual abuse. The crime recognizes that there is no such thing as a consensual sexual relationship between a student and certain school employees.

The key features of the law include:

- It applies only to teachers, counselors, and administrators employed by a school who are licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners.
- “Student” is any elementary or secondary school student of a public or nonpublic school
 - Age of student is irrelevant.
 - Includes a student who attended elementary or secondary school within 30 days of any violation.
- Sexual conduct includes (but is not limited to) kissing; touching of the clothed or unclothed inner thigh, breast, groin, buttock, anus, pubes, or genitals; and more “traditional” sex acts (penetration, oral sex, digital sex); sexual conduct does not include “touching that is necessary in the performance of the school employee’s duties while acting within the scope of employment.”
- Conviction for one act is an aggravated misdemeanor (up to 2 years’ incarceration); conviction for a pattern or scheme of conduct is a Class D felony (up to 5 years’ incarceration).
- A licensed school employee convicted of sexual exploitation of a student will have his or her license revoked.
- A school district must report to the Board of Educational Examiners if a licensed employee resigns or is fired because of allegations of sexual exploitation of a student (or any incident or allegation of misconduct that, if proven, would be a sex crime or a forcible felony). *Failure to report could cause the school administrator to lose his/her BoEE license.*

If a school employee suspects that a student is being sexually exploited by a licensee, the employee has two options available:

1. Report the situation to DHS as abuse (remember that any suspected sexual abuse by a non-caretaker must be reported if the student is under 12 years of age and may be reported if the student is 12 or older).
2. Report the situation to the school or school district’s chapter 102 designated investigator. Anyone with knowledge of a situation may report suspected abuse to the level one investigator; it does not have to be a student or parent. Because it may not be likely that a student who is the victim of sexual exploitation will know that s/he is the victim of a crime, it is especially important that responsible school employees take action.

Open enrollment reminders

Just as there are three primary rules in real estate (location, location, location), there are three primary rules in open enrollment (play nice, play nice, play nice).

How are districts to play nice? In the following ways:

- Do not accept late-filed open enrollments when there is no good cause for the parent to have missed the filing deadline of January 1.
- Do not solicit parents in other districts to open enroll their children out of their resident district.

To do either of the above appears to be contrary to new Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics adopted by the Board of Educational Examiners, which addresses such unprofessionalism. Administrators are advised to take a look at Standard VI (unethical practice toward other members of the profession, parents, students, and the community), and govern their actions accordingly. The Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics is on the Web at: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/Current/iac/282iac/28225/28225.pdf>.

NOTE that this agency is not stating that bad faith actions regarding open enrollment are definite violations of the BoEE’s Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics. Rather, we are strongly cautioning administrators of the possibility that such actions may result in a finding of a Code violation and subsequent adverse action against the administrator’s license.

The DOT and you: What every school administrator should know

Minor School License (MSL) - Iowa Code § 321.194

- A superintendent or secondary principal (if approved by the superintendent) must certify (if appropriate) on DOT form 430021 that the student applicant is enrolled at and attends an accredited school, has successfully completed an approved driver education course (or qualifies for a hardship exemption, and

lives at least one mile from school. An eligible student may obtain this form from any driver's license station or may download it at: <http://www.dot.state.ia.us/forms/430021.pdf>.

- A superintendent or superintendent's designee *may* notify the DOT if the superintendent is aware that the terms of the MSL have been violated by a student. Those terms include:
 - I. driving the most direct and accessible route between the student's residence and school(s) of enrollment,
 - II. between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.,
 - III. for the purpose of attending courses of instruction or extracurricular activities within the school district.
- In 2001, section 321.194 was amended to strike the following sentence: "The department of education shall adopt rules establishing criteria for issuing a statement of necessity." This agency no longer has anything to do with MSLs. The DOT's rules do not address "what is a necessity," other than to require that form 430021 be filled out by an appropriate school official.
- The 2001 amendment also requires local boards to "develop and adopt a policy establishing the criteria that shall be used by a school district administrator to approve or deny certification that a need exists for a license." IASB has developed a sample policy. (Contact IASB for the language; the DE does not have it.)
- While living closer than one mile to school is "prima facie" evidence that no need exists, exceptions may be made. "Prima facie" (meaning, "at first sight") leaves room for exceptions. However, please note that the MSL is issued for two years; there are no provisions for a *temporary* MSL. If, for example, a student who lives within a mile of school wants an exception made because of a broken leg, the board cannot put a condition on the MSL that it is only good until the health issue is resolved. According to DOT officials, this would actually show up on the student's driving record as a "revocation," which would (unintentionally) give the student a whole new set of problems when trying to obtain the next step in the graduated license system.
- Per the new language, if a school administrator denies certification, the student may appeal to the school board. The board's decision is final.
- The DOT has some helpful FAQs on its web site regarding the MSL. Go to: <http://www.iamvd.com/ods/msl.htm>.

Notification of nonattendance by minor - Iowa Code § 321.213B

- Section 321.213B states that the DOT is to adopt rules for suspending the license of a "juvenile who is in violation of section 299.1B." The supporting rules are at 761-IAC 615.23(2) and <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/Current/iac/761iac/761615/761615.pdf>. Here's the language of the rule:

615.23(2) Suspension for juvenile's failure to attend school.

 - a. The department shall suspend the license of a person under the age of 18 upon receipt of notification from the appropriate school authority that the person does not attend school.
 - b. "School" means a public school, an accredited nonpublic school, competent private instruction in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 299A, an alternative school or adult education classes.
 - c. "Appropriate school authority" means the superintendent of a public school or the chief administrator of an accredited nonpublic school, an alternative school or adult education.
 - d. The suspension shall continue until the person reaches the age of 18 or until the department receives notification from the appropriate school authority that the person is attending school.
- Just because a student can drop out legally once the student has turned 16 years of age by September 15, there is still a duty to notify the DOT of the nonattendance of such student. In other words, there are no consequences under compulsory attendance laws if a 16- or 17-year-old student is not in attendance at a district, accredited nonpublic school, or under CPI; but that same student cannot possess any type of driver license until age 18 unless the student re-enrolls in school or receives CPI.
- It's a little different for CPI. Because a family providing CPI does not have to file Form A (the Report of Competent Private Instruction) for a child who is over compulsory attendance age, how are school officials to know if this child is in compliance with 299.1B? *There is no way to know.* No law requires that a superintendent inquire of the family as to whether they are still providing CPI to a 16- or 17-year-old child. The DOT suggests that the school administrator may wish to report the failure to file a Form A for any student over age 16 if the school has reason to believe that CPI has been discontinued.

*299.1B states: "A person who does not attend a public school, an accredited nonpublic school, competent private instruction in accordance with the provisions of chapter 299A ... shall not receive a motor vehicle operator's license until age eighteen. A person under age eighteen who has been issued a motor vehicle operator's license who does not attend a public school, an accredited nonpublic school, competent private instruction in accordance with the provisions of chapter 299A ... shall surrender the license

CALENDAR

Deadlines and [Dates to Remember](#)

Nov. 16 - Dec. 9	Iowa Learns Council community forums ; various dates and locations.
November 17	State Board Meeting.
November 18-19	Iowa Association of School Boards Annual Convention .
December 14	Iowa High School Summit; Des Moines .

CONGRATULATIONS

\$1.5 million in federal funding has been awarded to the Belin-Blank Center's Iowa Online Advanced Placement project. The project helps provide access to the Advanced Placement (AP) courses to rural students via the Internet and ICN.

Cara Christopher from **Spirit Lake High School** and Seanteelle Marie Smith from **Louisa Muscatine High School** have been selected as 2004 LeTendre Education Fund Scholars. Established in 1998 in memory of André E. LeTendre, husband of Mary Jean LeTendre, former Director of Compensatory Education for the U.S. Department of Education, the LeTendre Education Fund for Homeless Children provides scholarship assistance to students who are homeless or have experienced homelessness.

Various districts individually and in partnership with others and community groups have received \$6.4 million in Safe and Drug Free Schools grants for the 2004-05 school year. The DE was one of 11 state agencies to receive a \$479,725 grant to help manage drug and violence prevention programs.

Iowa has been ranked the 8th smartest state by Morgan Quitno Press, the state and city ranking publisher. See details at www.morganquitnopress.com/edrank.htm.

Megan Srinivas, student member on the State Board of Education and senior at Fort Dodge High School, was honored as Outstanding Student at the AdmirAsian Awards Banquet this month. The awards honor individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership and contribution to improving the lives of Asian Americans in Iowa.

State Board member Sally Frudden from Charles City has been honored with the creation of a new annual award in her name, the Sally J. Frudden "Ethic of Caring" award, which will be presented each year to a UNI faculty person in the College of Education.

The DE has secured two grants totaling \$64,000 to help us launch a new parent curriculum, entitled *Healthy Smiles*, and accompanying training. *Healthy Smiles* is a home-based family education and training program designed to build the confidence and competence of parents to play their part in keeping their young children cavity-free. The training will be delivered through home visitation by Head Start/Early Head Start family workers and other home-based programs and with childcare support workers. The primary beneficiaries will be Head Start and other at-risk families in Iowa. The funding for this effort is from Mid-Iowa Health Foundation and Delta Dental of Iowa.

SCHOOL LEADER UPDATE is produced monthly for school leaders of Iowa. Comments and submissions should be sent to Kathi Slaughter, 515/281-5651, kathi.slaughter@iowa.gov.