



School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

June 2017

Register for July TLC conference

Registration is under way for a Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) conference which is designed to explore maximizing resources to impact teacher and student growth.

The Fourth Annual Leveraging Teacher Leadership: An Institute for Teacher Leaders and Administrators will be held in Des Moines on July 13.

This year's institute will inform, engage, and inspire educators across Iowa to take back ideas, strategies, and resources that will help to improve practices that advance both the teaching profession and student outcomes. To register and read more, click [here](#).



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What I've learned from visiting 100 Iowa school districts

I have a spectacular view from my office in Des Moines; I overlook Iowa's State Capitol and the [World War II Memorial Plaza](#). This, however, isn't my only view of the state. As I near the end of my second year as director of the Iowa Department of Education, I have now visited 100 of Iowa's more than 300 public school districts. Along the way, I've learned a few important lessons.



Director Ryan Wise

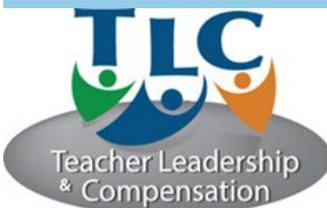
Improvement happens at the intersection of data and relationships.

On a recent visit to Linn-Mar Community School District, I joined a Professional Learning Community (PLC) meeting in which the teachers, teacher leaders, and building principal conducted a student-by-student analysis of the effectiveness of their reading interventions. The team used both data from the early literacy assessments and knowledge of each student's learning style to determine how to best meet the specific literacy development needs of each child. This approach embodies what I've seen in high-functioning school teams across the state: they take the time to create bonds with each other and with their students while simultaneously using assessment data to identify areas for improvement.

Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system is having a positive impact on schools.

Iowa is changing the teaching profession for the better. Over the last four years, we have collectively worked to empower teachers to lead and to create more and better opportunities for collaboration. In every school I've visited, teacher leaders are using a combination of both individual coaching and systemic changes to professional development to improve student achievement. I've observed one-on-one coaching conversations in West Delaware, small-group meetings in Central Decatur, and school- and district-wide professional learning in Benton Community. Each school district truly owns its teacher leadership

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plan and uses a variety of approaches to strengthen teaching.

Culture matters.

High-performing schools create a positive culture in which both teachers and students care about relationships and achievement. Schools like Garner Elementary in Iowa City and Cornell Elementary in the Saydel Community School District effectively utilize Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) systems to create safe, healthy, and caring learning environments for their students. They celebrate and acknowledge when students exhibit the attributes that strengthen their school culture.

Perry Community School District is just one of many I visited this year that intentionally builds community. On my visit, I was handed a card with the heading, “The Spirit of a Bluejay” with an acrostic poem: **P**ursues excellence, **E**mbraces diversity, **R**ecognizes individuals aren’t defined by their circumstances; **R**eflects pride in our schools; **Y**earns to serve others. This serves as a powerful daily reminder of the district’s expectations for its students.

One of my last visits of the school year was to Prairie Trail Elementary in Ankeny. If I showed a video of the visit and asked someone to guess when it was filmed, September would be a more likely response than May. Teachers were making every minute of instruction count; they were focused and engaged, and so were their students.

Community engagement strengthens schools.

Iowans care about their schools and when schools reach out, individuals and organizations are willing to help. In Marion, the Marion Economic Development Corporation is working closely with area schools and Kirkwood Community College to develop and retain talent. In Pella, Vermeer Corporation holds an annual career day for students and externships for teachers in the summer. And in Fort Madison, partners like the YMCA and Elliott Test Kitchen create learning opportunities for students that stretch beyond the school day.

Iowa students are becoming college and career ready.

Iowa’s new [definition of college and career readiness](#) emphasizes not only achieving proficiency in content knowledge, but also acquiring practical transition skills, developing key learning strategies, and building strong leadership skills. Each week, I see Iowa students embody this definition. In Charles City, I listened in awe as a team of eighth-graders described their project to earn bird habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation. In Burlington, I participated in community service projects led by students as part of the annual Hound Town Days. In Gilbert, I watched as students and parent volunteers created a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall for the local Veterans Day program. And in Algona, I listened to high school students in the Link Crew describe how they took ownership of freshman orientation to improve the transition from eighth to ninth grade.

I’m extremely privileged to have the opportunity to visit schools across Iowa each week. I see great things happening for students in rural, urban and suburban settings. And as this school year draws to a close, I want to send a sincere thank you to all teachers, administrators, school boards and community members for all you do to continually strengthen the quality of education your students receive. I wish you all a summer filled with rest and reflection.

Ryan M. Wise



View from the Director’s office in the Grimes building in Des Moines.



Visiting with Principal Brian Vaughan at Cornell Elementary School in the Saydel Community School District during outdoor activities for a schoolwide PBIS celebration.



Linn-Mar PLC

For more photos of Director visits, click [here](#).

Federal Title Programs (I,II,III) regional meetings

Due to some changes in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Iowa Department of Education will be holding a series of regional meetings to provide initial guidance. Public and nonpublic schools may participate in any of the regional meetings. Department program leaders from Title programs, as well as representatives from the Department administration, will be leading the meetings. Registration is open as follows:

Date	Location	Room	Capacity	Reservation link
June 1	AEA 267 - Marshalltown 909 S. 12th St. Marshalltown	A,B,C,D,E	100	Marshalltown
June 6	Iowa Central Community College 2031 Quail Ave. Fort Dodge	Triton Room on East Campus	100	Fort Dodge
June 7	Heartland - Adel 602 Vision Pkwy Adel	Adel Mtg. Space	100	Adel
June 13	Great Prairie AEA - Ottumwa 2814 N Court St. Ottumwa	Auditorium	100	Ottumwa
June 21	Grant Wood AEA - Kirkwood Regional Center 2301 Oakdale Blvd Coralville	Room 118	70	Coralville

Fast-Track Iowa's Future Conference set for June 21

Fast-Track Iowa's Future Conference, set for Wednesday, June 21, will help communities find the tools they need to build strong school-business partnerships. The conference will highlight new, emergent, and established partnerships currently transforming communities across Iowa, as well as dozens of snapshots of nationally recognized best practices happening in our state. This will be a great event for:

- K-12 Leaders, administrators, principals, educators, and higher education professionals hoping to connect students, counselors, and teachers to STEM work-based learning opportunities through school-business partnerships and teacher externships;
- Iowa employers and community business leaders interested in connecting with school districts, colleges, and universities to develop and enhance STEM work-based learning in their organization, and interested in learning about registered apprenticeships, workforce training programs, and opportunities;
- Workforce development, economic development, and Chamber of Commerce professionals wanting to develop programs in their region and grow school-business partnerships; and
- Non-profit organizations and school-to-work advocates with workforce-related programs, connecting Iowans to work-based learning opportunities and growing their network.

More details about the event, as well as registration, are available at www.iowaSTEM.gov/Fast-Track-Iowas-Future.

Iowa Communications Network showcases new service

Join the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) for InterConNEXT 2017 on Aug. 3, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. The interactive event will connect industry partners and ICN customers and showcase the benefits of new strong, fast, and flexible ICN service offerings. ICN will be showcasing new services including AramidFW. To register for InterConNEXT 2017, click [here](#). For more information, click [here](#).



Iowa Learning Online fall enrollment, offer and teach services

Iowa Learning Online (ILO) fall enrollment is now open. To better meet individual student needs and diverse schedules of Iowa schools, ILO will offer two separate cohorts during the fall 2017 semester. Flexible scheduling options are offered with [fall semester cohorts](#). Offset by two weeks, the two cohorts will offer enrollment and scheduling flexibility within the first month of each term.

ILO is piloting a new [Branch Out!](#) service to help schools take the first step to offering their own online service to meet local district needs. ILO provides the infrastructure and high school courses, and the local school provides the teacher.

In addition, if you have been unable to secure a properly endorsed teacher, Iowa Learning Online can serve you in an offer and teach capacity. Contact Gwen Nagel at gwen.nagel@iowa.gov or call 515-419-3275 to request that an ILO online course temporarily fulfill an offer and teach requirement. The Iowa Learning Online Substitution Application is available on the [Iowa Department of Education CASA](#) system. Find out more and access the waiver on the [website](#).

Special Education Summer Symposium

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 11-12, 2018

Symposium will offer the following opportunities:

- Learn about statewide special education current and future initiatives
- Become informed on specially designed instruction strategies
- Hear from national experts in the field
- Connect with special educators from across the state



Location: Des Moines, IA

EPA school bus rebates available, June 20 deadline

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of approximately \$11 million in rebates to school bus fleet owners to help them replace or retrofit older school buses. Upgrading buses with older engines reduces diesel emissions and improves air quality.



The EPA will accept applications until June 20. The EPA expects to give out between 20 and 80 grants to fund cleaner school buses, offered under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). Over 25,000 buses across the country have already been made cleaner as a result of DERA funding going back to 2008. In a recent round, seven of the 76 schools selected to receive rebates were from Iowa, bringing a total of \$185,000 into the state.

To learn more about the rebate program, applicant eligibility, selection process and informational webinar dates, visit [School Bus Rebates](#). For questions about applying, contact CleanDiesel@epa.gov.

Vehicle Information System verification due July 1

In an effort to make the Vehicle Information System (VIS) more user friendly and to maintain cleaner and more accurate data, school districts are being asked to verify their vehicle information by July 1.

This would include adding all eligible vehicles (those vehicles actually used for transporting students), deleting vehicles no longer being used for student transportation or no longer in a fleet, and making sure all information pertaining to the vehicles in the VIS is accurate and complete.

For questions, contact Max Christensen at 515-281-4749 or max.christensen@iowa.gov.



Fee increase for annual school bus driver training

The registration fee for the annual school bus driver training program will increase from \$25 per driver to \$30 per driver, effective July 1. This will be the first fee increase for this program since 2010.



Keeping kids on their (learning) toes during summer

Angela Lange has a sort of love-hate relationship with the summer break. Sure, she loves the time off. But she hates what summers can do to her students: Studies show some students – especially students on Individualized Education Programs – fall behind their peers during the break.

Historically known as the summer slide, it's actually not so much a slide. Rather, it's where some students simply don't progress during the summer months as much as other students. As such, by the beginning of the school year, some students appear to have gone backwards.

Slide or not, Lange is determined to put that in the history books. And to that end, the kindergarten-first grade special education teacher at Parker Elementary in Boone equips her parents with tools to help students over the summer break. [Read more.](#)



Law prioritizes computer science in schools

Working to get high-quality computer science courses into the classroom is the focus of legislation that was signed into law. The legislation is designed to meet a growing need for 21st century skills and to ensure students graduate from high school ready for further education or careers.



The computer science law is not a mandate; participation is voluntary. The legislation establishes a computer science professional development fund, set to launch in July 2018 pending an appropriation, and allows schools to apply to the Iowa Department of Education for funds to provide high-quality professional learning for computer science teachers. Through the professional development fund, the law incentivizes schools to offer at least one high-quality computer science course in high school, instruction in exploratory computer science in middle school, and instruction in the basics of computer science in elementary school. As part of the new law, the Iowa Department of Education convened a Computer Science Education Work Group on May 31. [Read more](#) about this group.

Iowa Lakes Community College honored for 'green' initiatives

Iowa Lakes Community College was named a 2017 Green Ribbon Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee by the U.S. Department of Education.

The college is among 45 schools, nine school districts, and nine postsecondary institutions across the nation being recognized for their promising practices to conserve resources while promoting health and environmental literacy.

Annually, state education officials voluntarily participate by nominating their top schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions based on achievement in the program's three pillars – Pillar 1: reduce environmental impact; Pillar 2: improve health and wellness by promoting a healthy physical environment; and Pillar 3: provide effective environmental and sustainability education. [Read more.](#)



Teachers take care of students. Who takes care of teachers?

Those who have flown with children have heard the flight attendant's safety instructions: In an emergency, the adults should put on their oxygen masks first.

"That analogy to self-care, that we can only help those after we help ourselves, is helpful at a basic level," said Leora Wolf-Prusan, keynote speaker at the Learning Supports Spring Conference in Des Moines. "What happens if the oxygen masks don't have oxygen? If the entire plane isn't prepared to support passengers? But we tend not to think of the entire plane, that the flight attendants and pilots are doing what they should be doing, and that the plane is intact. Yes it's about self-care. And it's also about collective care."

The reality is that everything must fall in place in order for a successful outcome. And that, she argues, is what needs to happen in schools. [Read more.](#)



Leora Wolf-Prusan

Debt-free, dual degrees: Not a pipe dream

Six high school seniors from Valley High School will already have college degrees in hand when they walk across the stage at their high school graduation later this month.

"I graduated from Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) with my associate degree on May 3, but I graduate from high school on May 28," said Madison Stoakes, who will be attending Wartburg College in the fall. "I never thought I would be a college graduate first and high school graduate second. Everyone is so surprised when they hear that I have graduated from DMACC already."

This achievement caps an academic journey some began as early as eighth grade while working on their four-year plans – individual career and academic plans required of all Iowa students.

Read [more.](#)



Cracking the Code

State-supported [sector partnerships](#) are helping Iowa communities tackle critical information technology worker shortages. It's hard to believe that in today's technology-driven culture there is a shortage of people interested in high-tech careers. With jobs in computing growing at twice the rate of other types of jobs, and virtually everyone hyperconnected through tech devices, one would think this would translate into career interest.

"Information technology (IT), as a field with many different occupational paths, is poorly understood," said James Reddish, associate director of workforce and economic development at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) - a national nonprofit that works at all levels within higher education, public, and private sectors to make it easier for people to get the education and training they need.

So, how can Iowa break down these barriers and cultivate more creators - not just consumers - of technology? Read [more.](#)

Schools honored for PBIS efforts

Seventy-five schools were recognized in Des Moines during the Iowa Department of Education's 2017 Learning Supports Conference for their work in establishing safe and supportive environments, enabling students to maximize their social emotional and academic success. The recognition stems from the schools' work in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS. PBIS is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success. [Read more.](#)

Data and Reporting

Reports due for 2016-17 Innovative Program Grants

The 2016-17 K-3 Innovative Program Grants for At-Risk Early Elementary Students mid-year progress reports and third quarter claims are due. The end-of-year assessment, evaluation reports, and final claims are due by July 31. Submit reports via IowaGrants.gov. For guidance on filing an amendment or report, contact Destiny Eldridge at 515-281-6235 or destiny.eldridge@iowa.gov.

IDEA data profiles available for districts and AEAs

IDEA Part B Data Profiles for districts and area education agencies are available on EdInsight and redacted versions are posted to the Iowa Department of Education's website.

IDEA Part C Data Profiles for area education agencies are also posted on the Iowa Department of Education's website.

For more information contact:

Part B – Meredith MacQuigg at 515-494-5610 or meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov.

Part C – Kate Small at 515-281-5437 or kate.small@iowa.gov.

2016 Iowa Youth Survey district reports available online

The 2016 Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) district reports are now available online. Use the following steps to download your district's report from the Iowa Department of Education secure website:

1. Have a Portal user with "Download – DE to District" access login to the Iowa Education Portal at <https://portal.ed.iowa.gov>. Typically, this user is a superintendent and anyone she/he gives access.
2. Under EdInfo, click on "Download – DE to District." A new screen will appear with your district's IYS reports since 2010.
3. Click on the file ending in 2016 to open it, then save it to your local computer.

For questions about accessing reports, contact Molly Hammer at 515-242-6241 or molly.hammer@iowa.gov. For questions about the IYS, contact Pat McGovern at 515-281-5444 pat.mcgovern@idph.iowa.gov.



Data and Reporting continued

Spring Student Reporting in Iowa due by June 20

Spring Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI) is due to be certified by June 20. A couple of reminders:

- 1) Attendance is expected for all students eligible for funding, including PK students.
- 2) Do not report a student as a graduate unless the student has a signed diploma in hand at time of your final file submission.
- 3) Make sure all non-fall start concurrent enrollment courses eligible for supplementary weighting have Section FTEs populated.

Although No Child Left Behind (NCLB) has been replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), all districts are still required to review and certify the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) application. The AYP application presents information on all students tested, subgroups, full academic year (FAY) status, and reasons for no assessment scores for those students enrolled but not tested. The AYP application is due to be certified by June 21.

Military Connected Status added to Student Reporting in Iowa

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the identification of military connected students as a subgroup for state reporting purposes. As a result, Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI) has added an element of Military Connected Status for the 2017-18 school year. It will read as follows: *Are any of the student's parents or guardians on active military duty at time of submission?*

Districts may want to add this element to their registration form(s) with the ability to edit as needed during the school year. For clarification, active duty means full-time duty in the active military service. This does not include full-time National Guard duty.

BoEE licensure summer phone hours and processing requests

In order to best serve Iowa educators by processing transactions in a timely manner, the Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) licensure consultants will be available by phone after 10 a.m. during our busy summer months. Since phone wait times greatly increase in the summer, email is usually the best way to reach a consultant. For a list of who to contact, click [here](#).

Due to the large volume of requests, transactions in the summer take a minimum of four to six weeks to process. Please do not contact our office to check the status of an application if it has been less than six weeks.

In the new online system, the last step of any application is to click "submit application." This is an additional step after submitting payment. We will not receive your application until you click "submit application" in the final confirmation step.

State Board of Education adopts new social studies standards

Members of the State Board of Education adopted new statewide social studies standards following an Iowa-led writing and review process that began more than a year ago. The new standards represent the first update to Iowa's social studies standards since they were adopted in 2008. Supporters say the new standards provide clarity that teachers have asked for, as well as the real-world knowledge and skills in social studies that students need for success in postsecondary education and in civic life. [Read more](#).

Nutrition and Health Services

Sign up for school nutrition workshops

A one-day workshop on School Nutrition Financial Management will be held June 20 at the Scheman Center in Ames. Food service directors, managers, business managers, superintendents and district staff involved with financial aspects of school meal programs are invited to attend. Participants will examine financial elements of effective food service management and learn tips to organize and analyze school food service financial data.

A one-day workshop on School Nutrition Procurement Basics will be held June 21 at the same location. Beth Hanna, a former food service director, will present fundamental steps of an effective procurement system for your school.

Click [here](#) to register. Registration deadline is June 9 for both of these informative workshops.

Additional workshops are offered in June and August. Encourage your staff to attend training most valuable for their positions. Workshops include Manager Update, New Manager Orientation, Healthy School Meals, Food Safety (HACCP), and ServSafe Certification. Descriptions of the workshops are available in the above link.





Legal Lessons

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

Take a break

Yet again, the school year has flown by. By the time this article is published my kids will be enjoying their summer break. The kids are already getting ready for summer camp and other activities we have planned for this summer. I am busy putting together a calendar so I can keep everything straight. It is moments like these I realize what a treasure it is to be a kid and have summer break. I am really looking forward to summer break, too, even though I will be working this summer. No homework at night, school activities, or rush to get to bed on time. We can finally be a little more relaxed, off schedule, and just enjoy the beautiful summer nights on the patio. We have a few vacations planned and I plan to take advantage of every holiday and weekend to soak up the time I have with my kids. I hope you all take time for a little summer break before gearing back up for a new school year.

Now, in this short June edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you Limited Home Rule, New Immunization Requirements, and a reminder on how to win \$1,000 for your school.

Limited home rule

In the 2017 Legislative session, the General Assembly passed [House File 573](#), which was signed by Governor Branstad on May 10, and created limited home rule for school districts.

This new section of Iowa Code chapter 274, Iowa Code section 274.3, provides more flexibility for school districts in their exercise of powers where the law or administrative rule does not already prescribe or prohibit action. However, a school district's home rule power may not be inconsistent with the state or federal law.

School districts should consider the following when analyzing potential opportunities for increased local flexibility:

- If there is a state statute or state administrative rule, then that authority is controlling and a district's actions must be consistent with that authority.
- If there is an Iowa Supreme Court or Iowa Court of Appeals case, that case is controlling and a district's actions must be consistent with that ruling.
- If there is a declaratory order or contested case interpreting a state statute or rule, the order or case is controlling on the question to the extent that order or contested case is an authorized interpretation of the statute or rule under the Administrative Procedure Act or the Iowa Department of Education Director's power to interpret the school laws and school rules of the state of Iowa.
- If there is a federal statute, regulation, or case on point, then that authority is controlling.
- If there is an area of ambiguity in the law, the Department will liberally construe the statute or rule in favor of the district's broad exercise of power.
- If there is no statute, case law, declaratory order, contested case, rule or guidance that covers the issue, then the district may exercise any broad and implied power, not inconsistent with or rule related to the operation, control, and supervision of the school unless one of the exceptions in Iowa Code 274.3 applies.

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Under those exceptions the district shall not have the power to do any of the following:

- Levy any tax unless expressly authorized by the General Assembly.
- Charge elementary and secondary school students or the students' families a mandatory fee except as expressly authorized by the General Assembly.
- Adopt or enforce a policy that would unreasonably interfere with the duties and responsibilities of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency.

New seventh and twelfth-grade meningococcal vaccine requirement for 2017-18

The meningococcal vaccine requirement passed during the 2016 legislative session is now a requirement for all seventh and twelfth-grade students as described in the [March 2017 SLU](#) article. It's a very good time to brush up on what this means for school administrators. So what does this mean for the administrator?

It is the duty of the admitting officials to ensure a valid certificate is on file for each student in their schools (Iowa Administrative Code (IAC 641-7.8(1))). Applicants without proper evidence of immunization or exemption are not entitled to enrollment in an elementary or secondary school. It shall be the duty of the admitting official to deny enrollment to students who do not comply with requirements for proof of immunization or immunization exemption (IAC 641-7.10).

There may also be questions regarding students who receive services under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and provide no proof of immunizations, exemption or their provisional certificate has expired after sixty days, and the parent or legal guardian hasn't produced a record of the child receiving the immunization requirements for enrollment. School administrators often ask how to handle this situation when it occurs. Here is the answer:

The child is still entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). If the child is excluded, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team will formulate an alternate placement and program for this child. The child is entitled to services but may not be entitled to them in a comprehensive school. IEP status does not exempt from vaccination requirements.

The administrative rules can be accessed by following the link: [Chapter 7 Immunization and Immunization Education: Persons Attending Elementary or Secondary Schools, Licensed Child Care Centers or Institutions of Higher Education](#). At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year and thereafter, students entering seventh grade born on or after Sept. 15, 2004, shall have one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (A,C,W,Y). Students entering twelfth grade born on or after Sept. 15, 1999, shall have two doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (A,C,W,Y); or one dose if the dose was previously received when the student was sixteen years of age or older. There is no provisional period to implement this requirement if the seventh-grade or twelfth-grade student has received no meningococcal conjugate vaccine. Health requirements for school enrollment can be located on the Iowa Department of Education's [Student Health Requirements](#) webpage. There is a "Questions and Answer" document for more information regarding the requirement available on the Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) Immunization Program [webpage](#).

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Legal Lessons continued

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For additional information or questions, contact Nicole Proesch, Department of Education attorney, at 515-281-8661 or nicole.proesch@iowa.gov, Melissa Walker, Department of Education school nurse consultant at 515-281-5327 or melissa.walker@iowa.gov, Don Callaghan, chief, IDPH Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis, at 1-800-831-6293 or donald.callaghan@idph.iowa.gov, or Bethany Kintigh, IDPH immunization program manager, at 1-800-831-6293, Ext. 7 or bethany.kintigh@idph.iowa.gov.

Win \$1,000 for your School Iowa Safe Schools Alliance (ISSA) video contest

The Iowa Safe Schools Alliance (ISSA) is sponsoring a video contest for Iowa high school students. The winner of the contest will take home \$1,000 for your school. Get your students started on this project now and they will have plenty of time to work on it over the summer.

The theme this year is “See Something, Say Something.” The theme should focus on the mission of the ISSA with emphasis on mitigation. The mission is to assist schools in preparing for, mitigating, responding to and recovering from natural and man-made threats and incidents. Sample topics could be identification of external or internal threats such as a student with a weapon, intruder, hazardous material spill outside the school, etc. The topics should not be focused on bullying or harassment. For guidance, check the bulletins on iowaschoolsafety.org, or visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s website at www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something. Submission deadline is Sept. 19. [Click](#) to get information on how you can win.



Students with Disabilities

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



Calendar

- June 15 • Nonpublic transportation reimbursement claim due
- June 30 • Last day to pay PSEO tuition due to eligible postsecondary institutions



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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