



School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

Iowa standards implementation? This blog is for you

Want to ensure your staff is incorporating the Iowa Core with fidelity? With continuity? Are you confident that what your team is doing is the same as the teams across the state?

We are pleased to announce that Jane Schmidt, an educator from Maquoketa and 2014 Teacher of the Year, has debuted her interactive blog. Jane writes about, as she says, “the good, the bad and the ugly of Iowa Core implementation.” Readers will be able to add their thoughts, as well.

Share Jane’s blog today with your central office, which is on the Iowa Department of Education’s www.iowacore.gov. We are confident this will be a game changer on how your team views the Iowa standards.

Join the conversation today!



March 2016

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An update: Every Student Succeeds Act

I often emphasize the role the Iowa Department of Education plays as a partner to schools in the implementation of federal and state education policy.

Over the next year and a half, this role will become increasingly important as we make the transition from the No Child Left Behind law (NCLB) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

This federal legislation maintains a focus on transparency and accountability while returning more authority to states and local school districts to set goals and design interventions that will improve student achievement.

I believe Iowa has a huge opportunity with the passage of ESSA to think broadly, and in partnership, about what we as a state want this law to do in service of students.

Effective implementation of ESSA will be a huge undertaking. The law is nearly 1,100 pages long, and we’re working hard to understand what this transition will mean for schools, educators, and families and to shape it in a positive way.

There will be both short- and long-term changes that result from the transition from NCLB to ESSA. In the short term, the Iowa Department of Education has notified the U.S. Department of Education that we have chosen to develop and implement a transition plan for the 2016-2017 school year. Iowa will be required by the transition provisions in ESSA to continue to implement the same interventions in the 2016-2017 school year for schools that were identified



Director Ryan Wise

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Microsoft Settlement Update: teacher survey

This is a reminder that all elementary teachers who are receiving hardware or software from the 2nd Cy Pres Microsoft Settlement should be participating in the [teacher survey](#).

All users will need to activate an account by registering their email address and creating a password prior to accessing the site the first time. Teachers can begin entering data once this process has been completed. Teachers will be asked to enter the number of days they used each of the strategies, hardware, and software listed on the school's application. Teachers can go back to the first month the items were acquired.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey, contact Arlene de la Mora email adelamor@iastate.edu or 515-294-6919

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for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the 2015-2016 school year. However, the Iowa Department of Education will not be compelled to require school districts to provide supplemental education services (SES), public school choice, and the related notice to parents for the 2016-2017 school year. The transition plan, however, must ensure school districts provide alternative supports for SES-eligible students in the schools with the greatest need.

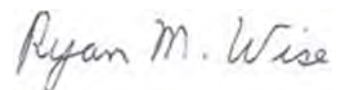
While we've notified the U.S. Department of Education of our intent to develop a transition plan, the actual plan itself must be finalized and publicly posted by May 6, 2016. The Iowa Department of Education will work throughout March and into April to gather feedback from stakeholders on how we will ensure that school districts provide SES-eligible students in schools with the greatest need with alternative support and improvement activities intended to improve student outcomes, consistent with allowable uses of Title I funds.

We will also need to provide an assurance in the transition plan that we will require school districts to permit students who previously transferred to another public school under NCLB to remain in that school until the child has completed the highest grade level in that school.

Over the longer term, the next 18 months, ESSA requires all states to have in place systems of accountability and supports that include annual accountability determinations for all public schools based on multiple indicators for the school overall and for each subgroup. These indicators include:

- Annual assessments (which may include a measure of student growth);
- Graduation rates for high schools;
- Another statewide "academic" indicator for elementary and middle schools;
- English language proficiency for English learners; and
- At least one additional statewide indicator of school quality or student success (e.g. school climate/safety, student engagement, educator engagement, postsecondary readiness).

The Department is eager to engage in a conversation with all stakeholders about developing an accountability and improvement system that ensures every student really does succeed, and that the definition of success is ambitious, realistic and one we can all feel good about.



Leadership program open for principals new to TLC

The Iowa Department of Education, in partnership with the New York City Leadership Academy, is offering a leadership program to principals who will have a Teacher Leadership and Compensation plan in the 2016-17 school year.

The TLC Administrator Support Program is a comprehensive, year-long professional development opportunity focusing on building the capacity of the principal to develop and facilitate distributed leadership in their schools, namely by supporting and leveraging teacher leaders as part of the leadership team. The program will include a three-day summer institute for principals, ongoing workshops during the school year for the principal and the building leadership team, and monthly one-on-one school-based coaching for the principal.

There are 130 openings for building principals for the 2016-17 school year, which translates to 14 slots for each Area Education Agency. If more than 14 principals apply within an AEA, there will be a lottery drawing for the slots. If multiple principals apply from a district, and the district is chosen, each principal from that district will be able to participate, as long as the number of participants does not exceed 14 per AEA. The Iowa Department of Education will also be able to support 10 additional districts if they choose to provide their own leadership coach.

For more details and links to the applications, go to TLC page on the Department of Education [website](#).

Teacher Leadership and Compensation survey coming soon

This spring all Iowa administrators and teachers are invited to complete a short online survey to share their experiences and feelings towards their professional learning, collaboration activities, and compensation structure.

This is an opportunity to provide feedback on the professional development supports provided by your district and school, whether or not your district has implemented the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) program.

This study is being conducted by the [American Institutes for Research \(AIR\)](#), which is an independent, non-profit research organization that has decades of experience conducting rigorous, impartial evaluations. This survey is supported by the Iowa Department of Education.



AIR will keep all survey responses completely confidential. At no point will anyone outside of AIR be able to view individual responses or identify survey participants.

Please watch for this survey later this spring. Your feedback is very important.

Summit will focus on workforce skills gap



There's been an ongoing disconnect in Iowa regarding its workforce. While there are plenty of available skilled jobs, there aren't enough skilled workers to fill them.

That conundrum will be the focus of the April 19 Governor's 2016 Future Ready Iowa Summit on at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. The all-day summit is open to the public, with space for about 1,000.

The summit is designed to attract a broad cross section of Iowans, including business, labor and nonprofit leaders, educators, students and parents, and state and local policy makers. The summit [website](#) includes information on how to register.

The summit will focus on how Iowa can close the skills gap that exists.

The keynote speaker for the summit is Andreas Schleicher, a global expert on education and skills at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Other featured speakers include Jamie Merisotis, president of the Lumina Foundation, Mary Andringa, chair of the board of Vermeer Corp., and Byron Auguste, co-founder of Opportunity@Work.

Students, educators, business and labor leaders, and entrepreneurs from around the state and nation are among other speakers and panelists. Audience questions and answers will wrap up each session.

Which of *your* students still need to apply for financial aid?

Have your students completed a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) for the 2016-17 academic year?

A completed FAFSA allows the U.S. Department of Education to determine a potential student's eligibility for [federal student aid](#) – a key factor in families' college decisions. It is also used to determine financial aid awarded by the [state of Iowa](#) and colleges/universities, all with their own specific deadlines.

As of early February, just over 4,300 Iowa high school students had submitted a FAFSA, leaving lots of students unaccounted for so far.

Do you wish there was a way to identify which of your students have completed a FAFSA? Iowa College Aid can make that happen. Through the Iowa FAFSA Completion Initiative, Iowa College Aid is able to share student-specific FAFSA completion information with Iowa high schools and school districts. Once a [data-sharing agreement](#) is in place, your student information can be at your fingertips. Learn more about the initiative by contacting [Keyli Keifer](#).



Summer enrollment open for Iowa Learning Online

Iowa Learning Online is now accepting enrollments for the summer 2016 semester.

The semester starts May 16 and ends July 29, with the enrollment period closing on May 23 at 4 p.m. Tuition is waived for the summer term. Courses are offered for original credit on an accelerated timeline. Find out more information and view the full offerings at our [website](#).

Students develop online skills for future learning and are in cohorts with peers from across Iowa. All classes are taught by Iowa licensed and appropriately endorsed teachers.

Contact Cale Roe at cale.roe@iowa.gov or 515-782-7680 for more information.



Iowa team to review literacy standards

The Iowa Department of Education has formed a state team that will review Iowa's academic standards for literacy.

The Literacy Standards Review Team represents the second phase of an ongoing state process for reviewing Iowa's academic standards, which also cover science, social studies, mathematics and 21st century skills, such as financial literacy.

The process was prompted by Gov. Branstad's Executive Order 83, which called for an ongoing review of Iowa's academic standards, including public comment, to identify areas for improvement. Iowa was the last state in the nation to adopt statewide standards, which outline consistent expectations for what students should know and be able to do.

The first phase of the standards review process ended last August, with the State Board of Education's [adoption of new science standards](#). The Department also has convened a [state team to rewrite Iowa's social studies standards](#).

Learn more, including who is on the [state literacy team](#).

Enhancing the performance of beginning teachers

A new website designed to expedite a new teacher's learning curve is seeking volunteers – both new and experienced – to participate in a pilot study.

The [Iowa Teacher Performance Assessment](#) provides beginning teachers and mentors a structured process for looking at teacher practice that makes teachers active players in their own learning as part of their first two years of teaching.

What's in it for beginning teachers and school districts?

- The beginning teacher and mentor will have an enriched discussion centered on the [Iowa Teaching Standards](#).
- The beginning teachers will receive targeted feedback to improve their practice.
- Evidence will be compiled to support the beginning teacher's mastery of the Iowa Teaching Standards.

The pilot aims to learn from the volunteers' experiences using the website to inform changes to the site.

For more information, visit the [website](#). For specific questions and information, send an email to dversteeg@IA-TPA.com or marietta.rives@iowa.gov.

Iowa Teacher of the Year 2017 nominations due April 25

Thousands of talented Iowa educators lead and inspire their students, but only one is chosen annually as the state's top teacher. The deadline to nominate the 2017 Iowa Teacher of the Year is April 25.

The award is an opportunity to recognize an exceptional Iowa teacher who is helping to redefine education. Nominations will be accepted from anyone, including students, parents, school administrators, colleagues, college faculty members and associations.

Nomination forms can be found on the Iowa Department of Education's website, click [Iowa Teacher of the Year 2017 Nomination form](#) to find the nomination form.

The Iowa Teacher of the Year award was established in 1958. The annual program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education through an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature.

The Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador to education and as a liaison to primary and secondary schools, higher education and organizations across the state.



Scott Slechta, a high school English Language Arts teacher from Fairfield Community schools, is congratulated by Gov. Branstad after he was named the 2016 Iowa Teacher of the Year.

Visiting Teachers from Spain

The Visiting Teacher from Spain Program provides local school districts with the opportunity to fill vacant Spanish and dual language teaching positions.

With this program, Iowa school systems have the option of recruiting highly qualified Spanish educators for a period of up to three years and at the same time provide Iowa students, parents, and communities the opportunity to work with professionals from other countries.

Visiting teachers from Spain are certified Spanish language educators with at least three years of experience. Local school districts hire the visiting teachers in accordance with all other local policies in terms of salary scale, licensure, and local system requirements.

For more information, contact Mary Smith-Johnson at mary.smith@iowa.gov.

Webinar available on Workforce Innovation, Opportunity Act

The Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services last October signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in regards to the updated Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Several webinars were held in December to share this information. The recorded webinar, PowerPoint presentation and a copy of the MoA can be found on the Department's [website](#) at the bottom of the page. A Frequently Asked Questions document will be available soon.

For additional information, contact [Kim Drew](#), 515-281-5265.



New online licensing system

The Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) is moving to a new online licensing system. We project that all licensure transactions will be completed through an online process later this year, thus removing mail-in paper applications.

Paper copies of licenses will eventually be phased out as well, since PDFs will instead be emailed directly to applicants. As always, administrators should utilize our [website search tool](#) for the most accurate licensure data.

We no longer accept paper applications for the following credential types:

- Activities Administrator Authorization
- Behind the Wheel Driving Instructor Authorization
- Statement of Professional Recognition - Nurse
- Coaching Authorization Application
- Out-of-state applications for teacher licensure

Now is the time to recycle any paper BoEE applications that you may have in your files as we begin this important transition. For more information, contact Joanne Tubbs at joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov.

An E-Rate Form 471 webinar

The E-rate program Form 471 application "window" for funding year 2016 (2016-17 school year) is now open and will close on April 29, at 10:59 p.m. The form is available through the "EPC" portal (click [here](#)). To ensure you apply correctly, you are encouraged to participate in one of the informational webinars (no advance registration needed).

E-Rate funding year 2016: Filing Form 471 (repeat sessions; select one):

Monday, March 7, 2-3:30 p.m. Join webinar [here](#)

Wednesday, March 9, 10-11:30 a.m. Join webinar [here](#)

Tuesday, March 15, 2-3:30 p.m. Join webinar [here](#)

Wednesday, March 23, 9-10:30 a.m. Join webinar [here](#)

For those unable to participate in any session, a recording will be made available after March 23 by connecting [here](#). For questions, contact Pamela Jacobs at pam.jacobs@iowa.gov or 515-975-0071.

Celebrate your students! Celebrate College!



You've heard of signing day for athletes, right? Let's celebrate academics in the same fashion.

Participate in National College Signing Day 2016, also known as College Decision Day, on April 26.

College Decision Day gives high schools and communities the opportunity to recognize high school seniors for their decisions to continue their education beyond high school and is step three of Iowa College Aid's 3 Step Process towards building a college-going culture.

Iowa College Aid invites you to celebrate your students' hard work by hosting a College Decision Day event at your school. Whether a large, city-wide event or a school-based day, the experience is sure to leave your students with a feeling of pride and excitement for their future. Click [here](#) for more information.

Why African American students thrive at this school

It's clear to see that Cedar Rapids' Washington High School holds the distinction that its African American students do better than any other school in the state: 74 percent of the students are proficient in reading and math, compared to a statewide proficiency rate of 54 percent among African Americans.

What's less clear is why.

Could it be the school's clearly articulated vision? Its high expectations for all students? A welcoming environment? Tradition of celebrating student success? The leadership team?



Or a 35-year principal (yes, he's been principal for 35 years) who knows nearly every student by name?

The long and short of it is "all of the above." [Read more.](#)

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Clarification of preschool instructional hours and tuition

Districts and their community partners participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) are encouraged to review updates in guidance regarding tuition in the [SWVPP Frequently Asked Finance Questions](#).

Preschool classrooms that include children supported by SWVPP funds must operate a minimum of 10 instructional hours weekly. Districts and community partners may offer additional hours beyond the 10-hour requirement. However, all hours reported as SWVPP instructional hours must be offered tuition-free.



Tuition may be collected for additional preschool hours offered beyond SWVPP instructional hours. Families may choose to participate in SWVPP instructional hours and decline additional programming requiring parent tuition and fees. Districts and community partners may not refuse participation in SWVPP if families decline additional programming.

Districts and community partners are encouraged to review methods for sharing available preschool options with families upon registration or inquiry about preschool to ensure that families are provided access to SWVPP instructional hours at no cost. Information related to additional preschool or child-care services, and the associated costs, should also be shared with families so that informed decisions can be made.

For questions regarding SWVPP funds or expenditures, contact Jeff Berger (jeff.berger@iowa.gov) or Tom Cooley (tom.cooley@iowa.gov).



Early Childhood Preschool Programs continued

Want a preschool program? Apply by April 7

Schools districts not currently participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program may apply to become part of the program. The application, which can be found on the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#), will be due April 7.

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) was established to provide an opportunity for all 4-year-old children in the state of Iowa to enter school ready to learn by expanding access to research-based preschool curricula and licensed teaching staff. The allocation of funds for the SWVPP is to improve access to high-quality early childhood education with predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding to increase the number of children participating in quality programs.

This program has grown from 64 school districts and their community partners to 322 of 336 school districts. Based on the fall 2015 certified enrollment count, 23,141 4-year-olds across the state will generate .5 SWVPP funds for 2016-17. An additional 1,599 children funded from other sources also participate in SWVPP classrooms.

For more information on the SWVPP, go to the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#) or contact Jennifer Adkins at jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov or 515-725-2219, or Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov or 515-725-2273.

Preschool program teacher licensure requirements

As districts and community partners that receive Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) funds prepare for the 2016-17 school year, be reminded of the qualifications required of SWVPP teachers.

Preschool teachers must hold a valid and current license issued by the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) under Iowa Code chapter 272 and hold an endorsement from the BOEE that includes prekindergarten. The teacher may be employed by the district or by a private provider or other public agency with whom the district has entered into an agreement under Iowa Code chapter 28E. Contact the [BOEE](#) for appropriate teaching endorsements and specific teacher information.

A teacher who has an Early Childhood Teacher – Special Education 15.2 (19) endorsement is not appropriately licensed to teach in the SWVPP because the endorsement does not include preschool general education. Teachers without an appropriate endorsement should apply to BOEE for a Class B conditional license in one of the acceptable teaching endorsement areas.



Applications should be submitted to the BOEE in spring or early summer to ensure sufficient processing time. Teacher folder information is entered as part of Fall Early Childhood Reporting and is reviewed by the Department for compliance prior to the certified enrollment deadline.

For more information on the SWVPP, go to the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#) or contact Jennifer Adkins at jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov or 515-725-2219 or Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov or 515-725-2273.

Nutrition and Health Services

Free fruit, vegetable program applications soon available

The Iowa Department of Education will soon be accepting applications from elementary schools for the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program for school year 2016-17.

This is a grant opportunity for schools to provide children with free fresh fruits and vegetables during the school day. The goal is to create healthier school environments by expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables consumed, and by making a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health.



Elementary schools having 50 percent or more of their enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals are selected for the program based on an annual application. Priority must be given to schools with the highest free and reduced-price populations. Applications will be moved this year to an online format in the IowaCNP. A notice will appear on the front page of the IowaCNP mid- to late March notifying schools that applications are now being accepted. Check out the [FFVP website](#) for more information or contact the Department's Stephanie Dross at stephanie.dross@iowa.gov or 515-281-4760.

New tool for Individual Student Meal Eligibility Status

An additional tool for answering the question "Can I use free and reduced-price student information for this?" is now posted on the Iowa Department of Education website.

You can access the web page with the new document as well as the Eligibility Manual by searching "Income Eligibility and Verification" or clicking [here](#). Both documents are under the heading "USDA Eligibility Manual for School Meals."

Governor's Youth Action Award

Every day Iowa students make healthy choices and encourage others to do the same. To recognize the healthy efforts of Iowa youth during National Nutrition Month, encourage students to participate in the Governor's Youth Action Award.



The Governor's Youth Action Award was established in 2015 to encourage Iowa youth, in kindergarten through 12th grade, to explore the benefits of healthy lifestyles, including activity, community and nutrition.

Governor Branstad, in conjunction with Live Healthy Iowa Kids, Midwest Dairy Council and Iowa Action for Healthy Kids Coalition, are pleased to recognize the outstanding achievement of Iowa youth through poster, essay and/or video submissions. For more information, visit www.livehealthyiowakids.org.

Nutrition and Health Services

Summer training opportunities for school nutrition

Is your school striving for a successful nutrition program? Summer “Short Course” training workshops are offered for school nutrition staff in June and July each year by the Iowa Department of Education’s Bureau of Nutrition and Health in partnership with Iowa State University Extension.

The 2016 workshops will include: Manager Update, New Manager Orientation, Smarter Lunchroom, Food Safety, Healthy School Meals, and a Financial Management workshop which is appropriate for business managers and all district staff involved in financial aspects of school meal programs.

All school nutrition personnel are now required to have documented training hours to meet professional standards. Professional standards ensure school nutrition staff have knowledge, training and tools needed to plan, prepare and purchase healthy foods to create nutritious, safe and enjoyable school meals. Encourage your school nutrition team to identify and attend training which is most valuable for their position.

Click [here](#) for Summer Short Course 2016 dates, program descriptions and registration. For more information, contact Jean Easley at jean.easley@iowa.gov or 515-725 2627.



Establishing good eating habits early

The primary goals of the national Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is to provide reimbursement for serving nutritious meals to children attending preschool and child-care centers and to establish positive eating habits.

In Iowa, 22 public and private schools participate in the CACFP at child-care centers in or preschool classrooms sponsored by the school. Additional schools vend CACFP meals to child-care centers and Head Start classrooms. Vending meals to CACFP is a way for schools to optimize their food service operations, improve cash flow, and provide a valuable service to the community at a reasonable price.

CACFP provides reimbursement for up to two meals and one snack or two snacks and one meal.

If your school is interested in exploring CACFP participation, contact Robin Holz at robin.holz@iowa.gov or 515-281-3484.

More information is available at [Iowa Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).





Legislative Update

Contact Shan Seivert for all legislative items at shanlyn.seivert@iowa.gov or 281-3399.

One funnel week down, another on the way

The first funnel week has come and gone, which is the final date for Senate and House bills to be reported out of their respective committees. Bills that do not make it out of committee during funnel week are typically considered to be dead for the current legislative session. However, there may be some policy language that is resurrected in the Appropriations Committee at the end of session. The second funnel week ends on Friday, March 11, and is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees.

Last month I shared that the House Education Committee approved SF 174 and SF 175, which addresses state supplemental and categorical aid for the 2016-2017 school year. The House and Senate are split over the funding level, with the House proposing 2 percent and the Senate proposing 4 percent. Both bills are assigned to a conference committee, and we have received no updated information on the status of the bills. The Senate put forth legislation to address the school aid bill for the 2017-2018 school year, identifying a 4 percent increase. Both bills, [SF 2092](#) and [SF 2093](#), were debated on the Senate floor and passed on a party line vote of 26-24. The bills were sent to the House where they have been assigned to a subcommittee. These bills may end up in a conference committee as well.

There is a bill, [HF 2264](#), which addresses the issue of varsity athletics eligibility of students in open enrollment who have been subjected to harassment or bullying. If the district of residence determines that a student was bullied and there is a founded incident of harassment or bullying, the bill allows those students to participate in varsity athletics immediately upon open enrollment. It passed on the House floor with a 95-1 vote. It will now be sent to the Senate.

The Department of Education (Department) introduced five bills, which all survived the first funnel, some with a few changes.

[HF 2324](#) - Computer Science Advisory Council – This bill would require all high schools to offer a high-quality computer science course by the 2018-2019 school year for grades 9-12 and adds a unit on computer coding to the existing technology education component of 7th and 8th grade. It also establishes an advisory council to make recommendations on the specifics of the course. The bill passed in the House Education Committee on a party line vote making it vulnerable. The House Democrats voted against the bill citing it was an unfunded mandate and is putting the “cart before the horse.” Since the majority in the Senate is Democrats, it is highly unlikely the Senate will pass this bill as currently written. Since being placed on the House debate calendar, there have been amendments added that could further complicate the passing of the bill. The Department is discussing strategies on how to effectively move the bill forward.

[HF 2392](#) – Career Technical Education (CTE) including Career and Academic Planning – This bill has taken some twists and turns. The Department’s bill included one of the task force recommendations which refocused the planning to ensure that the success plan included the student being both college and career ready. It requires school districts to designate a team to carry out academic and career planning duties and includes requirements for the team. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to set forth standards on career information decision systems related to student plans and develop an application and review process. The House Education Committee put forth a bill that included all of the task force recommendations. Some of

Legislative Update continued

the recommendations included terminology changes, including changing school-to-work to work-based learning. It also makes changes to regional CTE planning. The bill passed unanimously in the House Education Committee and is eligible to be debated on the floor. Since the bill is extensive, the Senate is waiting for the House's version rather than running their own bill.

[SF 2196](#) - Literacy Requirements in Teacher Preparation - This bill modifies the reading and literacy requirements for teacher preparation programs approved by the State Board. The bill requires preparation in reading theory, knowledge, strategies, and approaches as well as addresses all students, including those with disabilities, students at risk of academic failure, gifted and talented students, limited English proficient students, and students with dyslexia. This bill seems to be liked by most. It passed unanimously out of the House Education Committee and is eligible for debate on the House floor and passed unanimously on the Senate floor.

[SF 2200](#) - Online Learning Options – This bill was created to assist a local school district who did not have a licensed teacher to teach a specified offer and teach course. It allows them to offer online courses outside of the Iowa Communications Network if the course is not available through Iowa Learning Online. The bill passed on both the Senate and House floors and is expected to be on its way to the Governor soon.

This session there seems to be an increase in athletic related bills than what has been seen in past sessions. I have outlined some below that you may find of interest.

[HF 2421](#) – Coaching Requirements - Requires that holders or applicants for a coaching endorsement for schools must have a certificate of a course in basic cardiac life support and gives current holders until July 2017. The bill passed out of the House Education Committee and is eligible for debate on the House floor.

[HF 228](#) – Coaching Authorizations - This bill requires the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) to issue a non-renewable, one-year transitional coaching authorization to a person who is at least 21, has a verified offer of a coaching job, but who has not yet completed the required course work. The intent is to increase coaching applicants. It gives priority to teachers and persons with coaching authorization first. The bill had amendments and requires the supervision for the first two weeks. The bill passed in the Senate Education Committee and is eligible for debate on the Senate floor.

[SF 2225](#) – Concussion Reporting - This bill requires that the home team in a high school sport that involves collisions (football, soccer, wrestling, hockey, lacrosse) have an athletic trainer available. The bill has amendments which include adding doctors and physical therapists as contact sports professionals. Establishes a hardship exception for schools and a game time exception if a contact sports professional doesn't show up. The bill passed in the Senate Education Committee and is eligible for debate on the Senate floor.

[SF 2205](#) – Open Enrollment Eligibility - Currently, a student who is open enrolled is ineligible to participate in varsity contests and competitions for the first 90 days of their enrollment. This bill states that a student is ineligible for the first 90 days or 540 instructional hours of enrollment. The bill passed unanimously on the Senate floor and was sent to the House.

Although the first funnel week has come and gone, we know there will be no calm after that storm. A great deal of important work still needs to be done and in two short weeks the second funnel week will be upon us. Until next time...

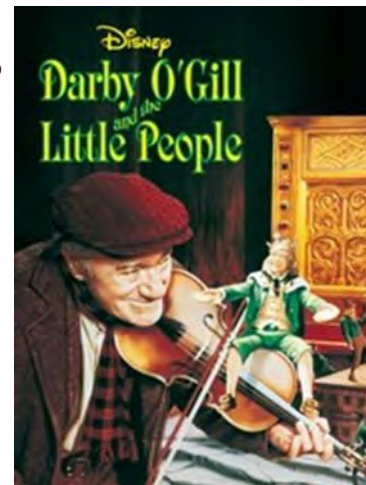


Legal Lessons

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

A Visit from the Little People

St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner and in my house this means the Leprechauns come to visit. We usually do not get a pot of gold but we do have quite the mess to clean up after they have decorated my house with green. Last year we had green milk, green toilet water, and green painted footprints all over my house. The kids always get a kick out of their special visitors and the fun things they leave behind. Another tradition we have is to watch an oldie-but-goodie Disney movie called "Darby O'Gill and the Little People." It makes the tradition of the Leprechauns come alive for me and my kids. My favorite part is watching the Leprechauns dance the Irish jig while Darby plays his violin. They dance as fast as they can as he plays faster and faster.



It brings back memories of when my elementary school music teacher, Mrs. Davis, would play in class the song "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg. We would start out the song by tiptoeing to the quiet music and then as the music got louder and faster we were dancing as fast as we could until we finally dropped to the floor exhausted by the end. I vividly remember this activity as one of the best activities we did in music class. To this day when I hear this song play, I have a flashback to grade school and start dancing around like a crazy kid. I highly recommend this activity as a way to burn off your elementary students' energy or maybe even try it with your teachers. In the spirit of dancing the Irish jig, with a little bit of Irish luck I hope we will dance as fast as we can into beautiful spring this March.

Now, in this Lucky March edition of Legal Lessons I bring you FERPA Guidance for School Resource Officers, an Updated Iowa School Health Legal Reference Summary, Guidance on the Use of Religious Music in Schools, and Materials from the Webinar on New Equity Guidance.

FERPA Guidance for School Resource Officers

Under the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA), parents have a right to access, seek to amend, and to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from their child's education records. Student education records cannot be released without the consent of the student's parent(s) unless an exception to FERPA applies. Directory information may be disclosed if the parent has consented to release of directory information. However, if a parent has opted out of directory information being shared, then it may not be shared without an exception.

So, what does FERPA mean to School Resource Officers (SROs) or Law Enforcement Officers (LEs)? What access do School Resource Officers (SROs) or Law Enforcement Officers (LEs) have to education records under FERPA? For what purpose? Can they have access to education records and redisclose those records to the local law enforcement agency? What responsibility do SROs and LEs they have to comply with FERPA?

Of course the answer is, in part, it depends. The Family Policy Compliance Office which monitors compliance with FERPA has provided guidance to SROs and LEs under FERPA Frequently Asked Questions on its website. Here are some of the

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Legal Lessons continued

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questions that have been addressed which I have compiled into this document:

[FERPA for SROs & Law Enforcement](#)

If you have questions, contact Nicole Proesch at 515-281-8661 or nicole.proesch@iowa.gov. Or for more information on FERPA, you may visit [the Family Compliance Office Website](#).

Updated School Health Legal Summary

The [Iowa School Health Legal Reference Summary](#) provides a quick resource for school administrators and school health staff on frequently asked mandates or regulatory issues pertaining to school health. The summary includes a compilation of links to federal regulations, state regulations, Iowa administrative codes, and resources. The Iowa School Health Legal Reference Summary is meant to be a quick resource and does not substitute for review of the laws or getting advice from your legal counsel on school health issues relating to your students.

If you have general questions on school health legal issues, contact Nicole Proesch at nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661 or melissa.walker@iowa.gov or 515-281-5327. If you need a legal opinion on a specific situation in your district, contact your district's legal counsel.

Use of Religious Music in Public Schools

The Executive Committee of the Iowa High School Music Association has adopted a position statement regarding the use of Religious Music in Public Schools. This guidance is newly revised and has been reviewed and is supported by the Iowa Department of Education. This guidance will prove to be a helpful tool to schools, administrators, and teachers as you address concerns and develop appropriate curriculums.

[Position Statement and Guidance](#).

If you have questions about the Position Statement and Guidance, contact Alan Greiner with the IHSMA at 515-432-2013 or alan@ihmsa.org, or Nicole Proesch, Iowa Department of Education at 515-281-8661 or nicole.proesch@iowa.gov.

Materials from webinar on new equity guidance (in case you missed it)

The Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Association of School Boards hosted a webinar on Feb. 22 to provide information on the new guidance on three policies and related procedures related to educational equity based on guidance provided by the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. The guidance is related to annual and continuous notice of nondiscrimination, and civil rights, anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies and procedures. If you missed the webinar, the materials may be found on our website for your review: [Webinar on New Equity Guidance](#). For more information, contact Nicole Proesch at nicole.proesch@iowa.gov.

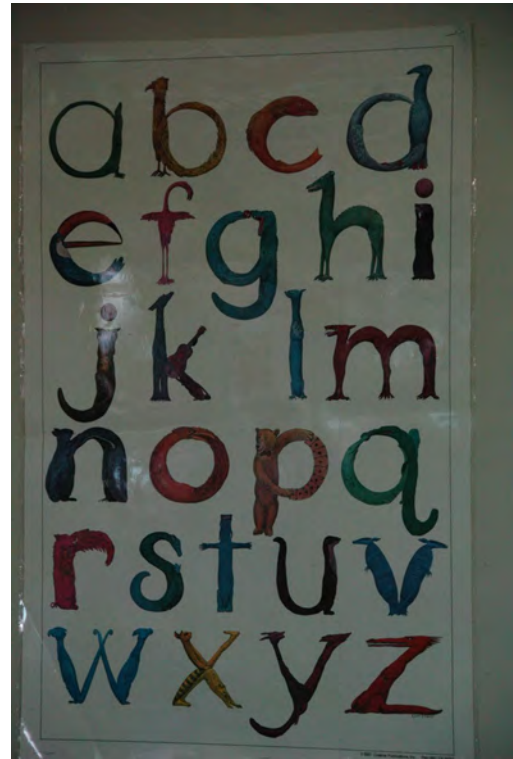
Students with Disabilities

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

Calendar

March 9 • At-Risk / Dropout Amendments / Corrections
due

March 31 • Last date to submit LEA electronic annual
audit of prior year to DE and Auditor of State's
Office



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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