

School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

Teachers, others asked thoughts on educator standards

School leaders, teachers and school board members are urged to weigh in on recommendations regarding the educator development system in lowa – professional standards for teachers/ administrators and evaluation tools/processes – by Nov. 30.

Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise and the Council on Educator Development released to the field the <u>Preliminary Recommendations</u> along with a <u>survey</u> on Oct. 1.

The Council will use the survey results to enhance the final recommendations that are due to the General Assembly, the State Board of Education and the Governor's office on Nov. 15, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding the recommendations or the survey, contact Matt Ludwig at matt.ludwig@iowa.gov or 515-281-3750.



November 2015

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Good things are happening (despite car)

I have the privilege of visiting classrooms across the state this school year. I'm scheduled to be in 32 school districts, including at least two in each Area Education Agency, and more than a quarter of lowa's community colleges by the end of my first six months as director. I have logged thousands of miles and blown a car transmission, but what I've gained in learning has been well worth the car troubles and windshield time.



Director Ryan Wise

I believe one of the key roles of the lowa Department of Education is to communicate a compelling and consistent vision of what success looks

like for education in Iowa. Being in classrooms at least a day each week has allowed me to see both excellence and areas for growth.

I've seen many examples of schools preparing students well for post-secondary life. I visited the Sioux City Academies, which enable students to explore different career options and make connections between their coursework and real-world, work-based learning experiences. And in the Bondurant-Farrar Community School District, I spoke with students as they were building a house in the community – the 17th home built by students under the leadership of teacher Kyle Hammes.

These real-world connections aren't limited to high schools. At Spencer Middle School, a sixth-grader walked me through a computer modeling program he was using to design a basic children's toy. I also observed a computer coding lesson with first graders at Loess Hills Elementary in Sioux City and was interviewed by student news teams both there and at the United Community School District.

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Supplemental Education Services webinar

If you missed the live webinar on Supplemental Education Services (SES) in September, you may listen to the recording by following the link to webinar on the Iowa Department of Education's website. The purpose of this webinar is to provide technical assistance and support to schools and districts required to offer SES. Topics include the following:

- Background of SES
- Cycle of SES
- Key players
- Responsibilities
- Special considerations

For more information about SES or other sanctions of Schools In Need of Assistance (SINA), contact Susan Selby at susan.selby@iowa.gov or 515-441-0324.



BoEE offers searchable database

The lowa Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) provides a searchable database for final <u>board orders</u> regarding both disciplinary actions for the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics complaints and rule waivers that are of public record.

Users can search for disciplinary orders by either name or folder number or by year, standard violated, and sanction type. If there are any questions or concerns about a disciplinary note that appears in a search, contact Darcy Lane, BoEE attorney, at 515-242-6506 or darcy.lane@iowa.gov.

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In addition, I've also observed how lowa's focus on early literacy informs instruction. Earlier this week, I visited 11 classrooms at Hoover Elementary in the West Branch Community School District as part of the statewide instructional rounds network. I watched skilled teachers effectively use a variety of instructional strategies to reach a range of learners. I also chatted with a 33-year teacher who was ecstatic about the data provided by the FAST early literacy assessments and the lowa TIER data system.

I have also spoken with dozens of teacher leaders, including a lunch meeting with several teacher leaders and administrators in Davenport. They provided insight on how the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system has improved teaching and learning across the district. I'm thrilled that lowa is on track to have all school districts enter the system next year.

While there are countless bright spots, I've also had experiences that make it clear we can continue to improve. In one high school, I popped into several classrooms in which students were not fully engaged in their learning. And in another, students at an all-school assembly asked me why they needed to take math and science. In both schools, though, the teachers and administrators I spoke with were committed to ensuring their students develop clearer connections between school and their future.

While we have much work ahead and room for growth, I could write pages about all of the successes I've seen in schools, from preschool through community college. I am excited about the learning that's happening for students across lowa and look forward to being in more classrooms in the coming months.

Ryan M. Wise

Iowa again leads in graduation rates

lowa continues to lead the nation in high school graduation rates, according to preliminary data released by the U.S. Department of Education. Data show that 90.5 percent of lowa's seniors graduated from high school in the 2013-14 school year, up from 89.7 percent the year before. That compares to an 82 percent national



average for the 2013-14 school year.

Data also show that Iowa's education system is making progress in graduation rates among traditionally underserved students, including low-income students, minority students, students with disabilities and English Language Learners.

"We are proud that Iowa's students are graduating high school at the highest rate in the country and that Iowa is narrowing the achievement gap among groups of students," Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise said. "We're also focused on looking beyond the high school diploma in Iowa to better prepare students for success in college and career training."

E-Rate Form 470 webinar

The E-rate program is undergoing significant changes for the 2016 funding year (2016-17 school year). All E-rate applicants must use the new E-rate Productivity Center (EPC) portal (click here); the forms 470 and 471 will also be new.

To ensure you apply correctly, you are encouraged to participate in one of the informational webinars (no advance registration needed):

- Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 9-10:30 a.m. Join webinar here
- Thursday, Nov. 19, from 3-4:30 p.m. Join the webinar here
- Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 2-3:30 p.m. Join the webinar <u>here</u>
- Thursday, Dec. 3, from 10-11:30 a.m. Join the webinar here

For those unable to participate in any session, a recording will be made available after Dec. 5 by connecting here. Training webinars for completing the new E-rate form 471 will be announced in the January School Leader Update.

For questions, contact Pamela Jacobs (pam.jacobs@jowa.gov) or 515-975-0071.

One-day literacy intervention event Jan. 13

Deadlines for registration – as well as applications to share your stories – are looming for a one-day literacy intervention event to be held in Des Moines.

The event, called Celebrating Iowa's Success, is being sponsored by the Collaborating for Iowa's Kids (C4K), a collaborative comprised of the Iowa Department of Education, Area Education Agencies, and Iowa districts.

The keynote speaker and presenter, Amanda VanDerHeyden, a national expert, will be discussing Return On Investment (ROI) in education. After the keynote, schools from across the state will share successful literacy interventions. This event is designed for district and building administrators, reading specialists, classroom teachers and instructional coaches.

<u>Registration</u> for this event, being held at the lowa Events Center, is due by Dec. 18. Schools with successful literacy interventions are encouraged to apply and share successes with others across the state. <u>Applications</u> are due on Nov. 20.

For more information, **c**ontact Mary Jane Stites or Mark Crady, coordinators of C4K Training Cadre, at mstites@heartlandaea.org or mcrady@heartlandaea.org, or 515-270-0405.

Assessment: students with significant cognitive disabilities

Score reports for students who participated in the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM) during the 2014-15 school year have been delivered to districts.

Students who participate in the DLM Alternate Assessment are those who have the greatest learning challenges because of their significant intellectual disabilities.

The DLM Alternate Assessment is aligned to the Iowa Core Essential Elements-specific statements of content, skills, and expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities linked to the grade-level Iowa Core standards.

The student's overall performance is reported using the following four performance levels:

- The student demonstrates emerging understanding of and ability to apply content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements.
- The student's understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements is approaching the target.
- The student's understanding of and ability to apply content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements is at target.
- The student demonstrates advanced understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements.

For more information regarding the DLM Alternate Assessment, contact Emily Thatcher at emily.thatcher@iowa.gov or 515-281-3500.

Enroll your students for lowa Learning Online's spring semester

Iowa Learning Online's spring 2016 enrollment is open now. The term starts Jan. 4 and ends May 6, with enrollments accepted until 4 p.m. on Jan. 11.

No late enrollments can be accommodated for the spring semester. The lowa Department of Education currently waives any district fees for lowa Learning Online courses.

Now with more than 80 semester-based courses available, lowa Learning Online is here to help support students with complex schedules. Students can work on their class any period of the day. lowa Learning Online is accessible 24/7 and allows for flexible study times at home as well. To find out more, visit iowalearningonline.org and view a full course list.

Questions? Contact Cale Roe, ILO Student Services, at 515-782-7680 or cale.roe@iowa.gov



Students selected for Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council

Eleven lowa high school students have been selected to serve on the Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council (SYBAC).

The SYBAC has been established by the lowa Communications Network (ICN) specifically to engage students on a variety of broadband topics.



Throughout the school year, the students will meet with ICN Executive Director Ric

Lumbard to discuss the importance of true high-speed broadband to the next generation. Members of the SYBAC will talk about various technology issues like rural connectivity, wireless access, infrastructure, and cyber security.

The following students were selected to ICN's SYBAC for the 2015-16 school year:

- Caleb Beerbower, Southeast Polk High School
- Brent Brain, Muscatine
- Kaylee Daniels, Oskaloosa High School
- Gabe Golberg, Mount Vernon High School
- Austin Kallemeyn, Sioux Center Community High School
- Stephanie Lapointe, Newman Catholic High School
- Aaron Mark, Burlington High School
- Zachary Mass, Treynor Community High School
- Bryce Snell, Ballard High School
- Brookelyn Wahlert, CAM High School
- Hunter Werner, Louisa-Muscatine Jr./Sr. Schools

To keep updated on the SYBAC initiatives, visit the website.

Green Ribbon School applications available

Applications are being accepted for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition award, which honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions that are demonstrating progress in three pillars:

- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

 GreenRibbonSchools
- 1. Reducing environmental impact and costs, including waste, water, energy use and alternative transportation;
- 2. Improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and
- 3. Providing effective sustainability education.

Awardees are nationally recognized as some of America's most successful educational institutions in reducing their environmental impact and costs; improving health and wellness; and providing effective sustainability education.

Three applications for the Green Ribbon Schools program are available through the lowaGrants.gov website:

Individual School: FY16 Iowa Green Ribbon Schools - School Application

District: FY16 Iowa Green Ribbon Schools - District Sustainability Award Application

College/University: FY16 Iowa Green Ribbon Schools - College Application

Applications must be submitted through lowaGrants.gov to the lowa Department of Education by Jan. 8. The Department will review applications based on the applicant's demonstrated progress towards the goals of each of the three pillars.

Instructions for applying are located at the <u>Green Ribbon Schools</u> webpage. Visit the <u>ED-GRS</u> website to learn about the GRS program. For assistance, contact Gary Schwartz or 515-281-4743.



Aligning your resources to students' needs

Are your school's resources aligned to the students' needs? If you haven't had a school-wide discussion about it, your resources and efforts may be falling short.

Still, schools and districts can answer the question by unleashing the true potential of Multi-Tiered System of Supports, known as MTSS.

That's because MTSS – beyond being an effective tool for meeting the individual needs of learners – can be expanded to help guide schools and districts on how to align resources to maximize the education experience.

Read more.



Task force: Redesign career and technical education

Members of the Secondary Career and Technical Education Task Force today released their final recommendations, which set a new vision for career and technical education that is in line with the needs of students, employers and the state's economy.

The recommendations set the stage for high-quality career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare high school graduates for postsecondary training and credentials tied to high-demand career opportunities. They focus on improvements to career guidance, CTE programs, access to hands-on workplace experiences, training and professional development for instructors, and regional partnerships among CTE stakeholders such as schools, community colleges and businesses.

CTE, formerly known as vocational education, consists of programs that integrate the technical, academic and employability skills that students need to succeed in rewarding, high-demand occupations. In Iowa, CTE programs are organized within six broad areas: agriculture, family and consumer sciences, health occupations, business, industrial technology, and marketing.

Read more.

Watch videos from the Iowa Science Standards Kick-Off

If you couldn't attend the lowa Science Standards Kick Off, we're bringing it to you – in the form of videos.

Presentations are available for most of the videos by clicking on the "Download Attachments" button at the bottom of the description for each video.



Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards monitoring, 2015-16

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Verification Visits for 2015-16 have begun. School districts that are in their second year of Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program implementation that are implementing IQPPS in at least one classroom will receive an IQPPS verification visit.

All districts that will be visited during 2015-16 received communication previously from the Department about visit dates.

Preschool will be one of the grade levels included in the Differentiated Accountability pilot. Participation in the Differentiated Accountability pilot is separate from the IQPPS verification visits. Districts that are part of the Differentiated Accountability pilot will be notified at a later date about the level of support (universal, targeted, or intensive) that will be provided based on Healthy Indicators data.

Healthy Indicators for the Differentiated Accountability pilot year are based on Universal Instruction and Assessment and Data-Based Decision Making. Any additional information collected based on an indication of a targeted level of support will be determined at a later time. If intensive supports are indicated, an onsite visit may be conducted. Differentiated Accountability will be the model of accreditation and continuous improvement for districts, AEAs, and preschool programs going forward.

Given that preschool monitoring has been enveloped into the Differentiated Accountability System, IQPPS desk audits and IQPPS verification visits (with the exception of new districts) will no longer occur. Districts are required to complete Early Childhood Reporting, which also serves as the universal desk audit for preschool programming for Differentiated Accountability. See the <u>Differentiated Accountability System web page</u> for additional information.

For more information on the <u>Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program</u>, contact Penny Milburn at <u>penny.milburn@iowa.gov</u> or 515-281-7844, Jennifer Adkins at <u>jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov</u> or 515-725-2219 or Amy Stegeman at <u>amy.stegeman@iowa.gov</u> or 515-725-2273.

Allowable expenditures expanded for preschool program

The 2015 legislative session expanded the allowable expenditures for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program permissive costs (SWVPP).

In short, House File 658 allows outreach activities and rental of facilities not owned by the district to be included in administrative costs for the program. In addition, it allows children participating in the SWVPP to be transported by the school district along with other children and increases allowable administrative costs for the community partner.

The community partner may now use up to 10 percent of these funds for administrative and operations costs, and the partner may use these funds to pay for transportation of SWVPP students. Guidance and Finance frequently asked questions are now posted on the <u>Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page</u>. Review of the updated frequently asked questions is strongly encouraged to ensure appropriate fiscal practices and use of funds for this program.

For specific questions regarding Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funding and expenditures, contact Su McCurdy (su.mccurdy@iowa.gov), Tom Cooley (tom.cooley@iowa.gov), or Jeff Berger (jeff.berger@iowa.gov).

Nutrition and Health Services

School teams encouraged to register for Nov. 12 wellness conference

Schools can create environments that support healthy eating and physical activity by implementing policies and practices, and provide opportunities for students to practice these behaviors.



On Thursday, Nov. 12, the Iowa Department of Education along with partnering organizations will be holding a school wellness training at Iowa State University that will include the following learning opportunities:

- School Wellness and Academic Achievement: Dr. Greg Welk, Iowa State University
- School Wellness Policy Requirements: Carrie Scheidel and Patti Delger, Iowa Department of Education.
- School Health Guidelines: Melissa Walker, Iowa Department of Education
- SWITCH Program, Iowa State University
- Shared Use Agreements and Safe Routes to School: Stacy Frelund, American Heart Association

School teams of four, such as a physical education teacher, a principal, food service staffer, nurse and health teacher, are encouraged to attend. Substitute teacher and mileage reimbursement will be available. Register here or contact Carrie at car-rie.scheidel@iowa.gov for more information. Registration deadline is Nov. 5.

Bus inspection notification changes

A new process for notifying school districts of upcoming school bus inspections is being put into place.

At the beginning of each semester, a full schedule of the inspections will be emailed to all school districts. Each month, an additional notification will be sent to each district with inspections scheduled for the upcoming month. For example, districts with school bus inspections scheduled in December will receive a reminder notification in November.



The new process will allow districts to have a copy of the full inspection

schedule prior to the start of the current inspection cycle, followed by a notification the month prior to their actual inspection date. With these changes, we hope to avoid missed notifications and be better able to address scheduling conflicts, which should allow for a more efficient and trouble-free inspection process.

This process will be phased in over the next few months, with full implementation at the beginning of the second semester of the 2015-16 school year.

If you have any questions, contact Max Christensen at 515-281-4749 or max.christensen@iowa.gov.

Legal Lessons



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

Fall fun and much more

I love waking up and feeling the cool brisk fall air. Oh yes, fall is my favorite time of year! This year the kids will get to go on several field trips for school and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

Liam is geared up and ready to jump in the corn bin at the apple orchard and pumpkin farm and Sophia will go to a real creamery to see them make ice cream and enjoy a tasty treat. They are both excited! Oh what I wouldn't give to be back in school and enjoying the simple things in life.

Sophia has appropriately determined that she does not want to grow up because she does not want to work or pay the bills. Smart girl – I want her to enjoy being a kid as long as possible. I feel like they have to grow up so much faster than I did when I was in school.

Now, in preparation for a fabulous fall in this edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you the Top 3 things to know about school discipline, whether school officials have to give *Miranda warnings* to students, Iowa Safe Schools Week, and from Privacy Technical Center – the ABC's of Student Directory Information.

Top 3 things to know about student discipline

There have been several newsworthy events in recent weeks involving student discipline issues. When a situation occurs in your school that involves an issue with student discipline, here are some things to know:

- 1) Notice: The student handbook must give students fair notice of the type of conduct that will get a student into trouble, and must indicate a fair range of disciplinary options.
- 2) Due Process is key:
 - As long as school officials extend to a student all the process that is due to the student, neither the State Board of Education nor the courts will second-guess the punishment.
 - What process is due?
 - Short-term suspensions (10 days or less out-of-school suspensions, or OSS) require just two things:
 The student must be told why s/he is being punished and must be given a chance to explain his/her side.
 - Long-term suspensions (more than 10 days OSS) require the following:
 - Written notice of the accusation
 - · Opportunity for hearing before the school board
 - An impartial board (members with a conflict of interest must recuse themselves)
 - Opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine administration's witnesses
 - Opportunity to bring an attorney to the hearing
 - Written findings of fact, conclusions, and decision from the board

Legal Lessons continued

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3) Preponderance: Unlike criminal charges, which must be proven by evidence "beyond a reasonable doubt," the board just needs to find that the administration has shown that "a preponderance of the evidence" points to the student's guilt (the standard is even lower when only suspending a student from extracurricular activities).

As always, make sure you contact your school attorney and work with law enforcement when necessary to make sure you properly resolve these issues. For much more on student discipline, contact Nicole Proesch at 515-281-8661 or <u>ni-cole.proesch@iowa.gov</u>.

Do school officials have to give Miranda warnings to students?

In *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966), the Supreme Court adopted the *Miranda* warnings. These warnings are an advisory of rights designed to protect against self-incrimination.

They include 1) the right to remain silent, 2) the right to know that any statement can be used against the person in court, and 3) the right to have assistance of counsel. Failure to provide the *Miranda* warnings to an individual may result in a juvenile or criminal court order excluding any of those statements obtained in violation of the law.

The Miranda warnings apply when a suspect makes a statement during a custodial interrogation. The burden falls on the government to show that the suspect has made a voluntary, knowing and intelligent waiver of these rights before providing a statement. The requirement to inform a suspect of their Miranda rights only applies if two key things are present:

- 1) Custody: The suspect must be in law enforcement custody and not be free to leave.
- 2) Interrogation: The law enforcement officer must be interrogating the suspect.

School officials are not agents of the police. School officials are responsible to ensure safety and maintain order in schools and not to arrest criminals. Therefore, a student who is being questioned by a school official who does not have an School Resource Officer (SRO) or other law enforcement officer present or involved is not "in custody" for purposes of issuing Miranda warnings.

Once an SRO or a law enforcement officer is involved and a student is in custody and under interrogation, the duty to inform the student of Miranda rights arises. A juvenile suspect who is under the age of 14 may not waive Miranda rights in the absence of an interested adult, such as a parent.

As always, if an issue arises that requires law enforcement to get involved, contact your school attorney for assistance.

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Safe Schools Week

America's Safe Schools week was Oct,19-23. To commemorate the week, Gov. Terry E. Branstad signed a proclamation celebrating lowa's support of the national week of observance. "In lowa, we're committed to helping schools provide safe learning conditions for our children, and this is why several organizations statewide have banded together to provide expertise to schools so they can put in place effective safety plans." Several students from Ankeny, Des Moines, and Southeast Polk schools and Members of the lowa School Safety Alliance were also present for the event. Students also had an opportunity to meet with legislative representatives for a question and answer session following the bill signing.



To recognize the week, the Iowa Safe Schools Alliance released a new school safety bulletin each day focusing on a different topic. The topics covered were 1) emergency drills; 2) guns on school grounds 3) family reunification; 4) visitors on school grounds; and 5) evacuating students with disabilities. These bulletins and all past bulletins may now be accessed on the Iowa School Safety Alliance website at Bulletins. Here is a link to the Iowa School Safety Alliance website.

U.S. Department of Education's Privacy Technical Center video: ABC's of Student Directory Information In October, the U.S. Department of Education Privacy Technical Center (PTAC) released a new video for schools and school districts to use for all audiences about Student Directory Information and the protection of student data.

Under the Federal Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA), schools and school districts must designate certain basic student information as directory information, and share that information without consent if certain additional requirements are met. Each school district is required to have a policy that outlines what it considers to be directory information and provides this information to parents.

The video defines directory information and its uses for all audiences. Here is a link to the video The ABC's of Student Directory Information. his may be a helpful resource to use with teachers and parents to guide the discussion on student data. For other FERPA resources, you can visit the PTAC website or email questions to privacyta@ed.gov.

Students with Disabilities

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

Teacher usage survey to begin

Arlene de la Mora, a researcher with the Research Institute for Studies in Education, is in the process of finalizing the data collection website for the Microsoft Settlement 2nd Cy Pres Program.

De la Mora anticipates that data entry will become available in the early part of November.

The website will look very similar to the one previously used, but major changes have been made. The complete outline of the changes is located on this web page. For more information, contact de la Mora at 515-294-6919 or adelamor@iastate.edu, or John O'Connell at 515-249-0334 or john.oconnell@iowa.gov.

Calendar

November 2 • School board officers report due November 16 • School associations report due

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, 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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