



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

October 2014

Coming soon: New Iowa Core website

The Iowa Department of Education will launch a new Iowa Core website this month to help Iowans better access and use our state's academic standards, as well as give supporting resources that educators may use to implement the Iowa Core.

The website is part of a larger Iowa Core Resources project, which is designed to bridge the gap between the work to set rigorous standards at the state level and the work to put those standards into practice in classrooms.

The new Iowa Core website will have three sections: searchable standards, resources for educators, and resources for parents and the community.

Watch your email and the Iowa Department of Education's website, educateiowa.gov, for updates.



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Fall brings renewed sense of optimism

Fall is my favorite season. It brings colorful Iowa landscapes, a crispness in the air, football games, and a sense of excitement for what the school year has in store. It's also a time when education is in the news quite often.

First, the annual State Report Card for No Child Left Behind showed more Iowa schools and districts were labeled "in need of assistance" based on results from the state assessment. In the public's view, this list is synonymous with failure, even though that's clearly not the case. I've been clear about my belief that the No Child Left Behind law has outlived its usefulness as a lever for improving student achievement. In Iowa we must follow the law, but we need a different framework for accountability.

At the same time, there are some good things that came out of No Child Left Behind that are worth acknowledging. For one, my experiences tell me that the education culture has shifted for the better. No Child Left Behind put data front and center in schools and caused us to take a hard look at achievement gaps that exist among groups of students. We are much better at using data to guide our decisions. The law also caused us to confront pockets of low expectations in our education system and to become more focused on meeting the learning needs of all students. And the law created some urgency around improvement efforts in schools and districts. We understand that the time is now, and we'll never stop working to get better.

To that end, we have significant education priorities under way in Iowa that we know, when implemented well, will lead to even better outcomes for Iowa students.



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Nominate a Presidential Scholar

The director of each state education agency has the ability to nominate up to 10 students, five male and five female, for consideration in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which honors superior high school seniors. If you have an outstanding high school senior, consider a recommendation to Iowa Department of Education Director Brad Buck by Nov. 1.

The 2015 Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion. Reviewers will consider the following categories:

- Involvement and service (in school and community)
- Leadership and character
- Writing samples
- Academic achievements
- Discretionary points for extraordinary achievement, heavy workload, family responsibilities, or obstacles overcome.

Recommendations to Director Buck should include a statement of why the student deserves this recognition, along with the following information for each student:

- Name
- Home mailing address
- High school name and mailing address
- High School CEEB code

Send your recommendation by email to deborah.darge@iowa.gov no later than Nov. 1. Read more about the [Presidential Scholars program](#).

Continued from page 1

We're committed to supporting teachers with the most comprehensive leadership system of its kind nationally, having high standards for what students should know and be able to do, and we are working to ensure that all students read proficiently by the end of third grade. The bottom line is, the education system is working harder than ever to meet the needs of students, and for that, schools and districts deserve our respect and support.

Another newsworthy event involved a set of recommendations from the Financial Literacy Work Team. I convened this group in response to concerns about whether students are getting the financial literacy skills needed for success. The recommendations included taking a close look at the 21st century skills portion of our statewide academic standards to make sure the financial literacy portion is clear and age appropriate. The team also recommended more support for schools. This would include improving communication and providing better, more centralized resources for teachers. And the report suggests gathering information at the state level to see how school districts approach financial literacy education.

At the Department, we have moved the conversation forward by designating a staff member to the issue of financial literacy, and that's our social studies consultant Stefanie Wager. We're also working to provide leadership around professional development activities and a central online location for high-quality teaching resources. I would encourage you to read more about the work team's recommendations in the [report](#).

Finally, school districts are encouraged to apply for a second round of Teacher Leadership and Compensation grants by the Oct. 31 deadline. Districts that meet scoring criteria will be approved for either the 2015-16 or the 2016-17 school year. Please visit the [TLC section](#) of our website for application information. I'm optimistic about the direction we're moving in as a state. I wish you all a wonderful fall season.

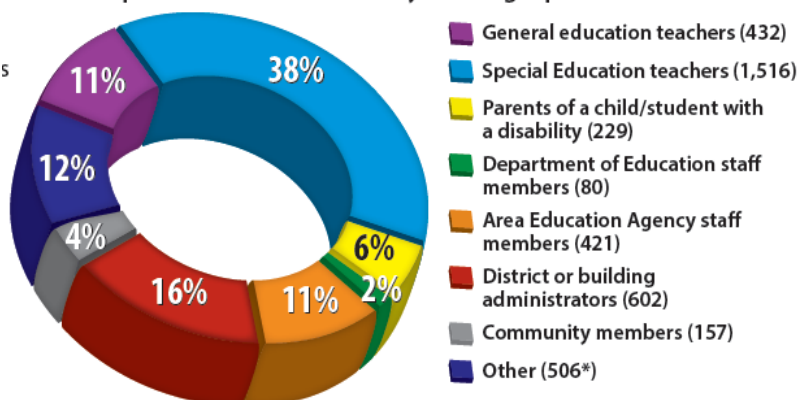


2014 special education survey: Beyond belief

The 2014 Special Education Survey revealed a lot about the state's special education community. For one, we're a passionate bunch. Another, we have strong opinions. But it's all good: We use those two attributes to move the special education community forward.

That's no small challenge, amid the historic education reform the state is experiencing. Read the October's issue of [Each and Every Child](#).

2014 special education survey demographics



*Includes self-identified counselors, paraeducators, school board members, nurses and others.

There is nothing puzzling about the IEP



If you've ever tackled a 1,000-piece jigsaw, you know the feeling: Where to start? But your goal, piece by piece, is to make it whole. It takes patience. And a whole lot of determination. That's not unlike the family who has a child on an Individualized Educational Program, or IEP. Particularly at the start of the child's education, it can be every bit as frustrating and intimidating as a 1,000-piece jigsaw. Learn about one family's [successful journey](#).

More schools, districts 'in need of assistance' under NCLB

More Iowa schools and districts were identified as "in need of assistance" under the federal No Child Left Behind law based on student performance on state tests taken during the 2013-14 school year, according to the *2014 State Report Card for No Child Left Behind* released by the Iowa Department of Education.

The results say more about the arbitrary accountability system under No Child Left Behind than it does about the work under way in Iowa classrooms, Director Brad Buck said.

"No Child Left Behind has outlived its usefulness as a lever for improving student achievement in our country," Buck said. "We need some different solutions. In Iowa, we embrace high expectations and accountability, but we must have an approach that dignifies growth and progress as much as proficiency on a test."

While most states have obtained a waiver from key components of No Child Left Behind, Iowa must continue to follow the federal law unless it is reauthorized by Congress or Iowa's system for educator evaluation is changed by state legislators to meet waiver criteria. Read more about the report [here](#).

Iowa Learning Online grows in popularity

Iowa Learning Online is partnering with 74 Iowa high schools this fall, representing a 45 percent increase over last fall. The growth in popularity is expected to continue into the spring semester, which is now open for [enrollment](#).

Iowa Learning Online, also known by its acronym ILO, is gaining popularity among school administrators and students alike because it offers more than 40 high school courses including economics with financial literacy, health, trigonometry, physics, anatomy and physiology, marine science, art appreciation, five world languages and many more. Visit the Iowa Learning Online website for [a complete list of course opportunities](#).

As the Iowa Department of Education's virtual learning program, ILO offers schools an opportunity to provide online course offerings to students at no cost to the student or district. Iowa Learning Online is not a school, but a support system for accredited Iowa schools, school districts, and dually enrolled home school families. Students remain enrolled at their local schools. Local school districts decide whether students participate in an ILO course and upon completion of the course, award the student credit on their local school transcript.



Iowa Learning Online is designed to serve schools by:

- Providing rigorous, Iowa Core-aligned courses taught by appropriately endorsed Iowa-licensed teachers.
- Expanding curriculum offerings.
- Assisting with scheduling frustrations, credit recovery, and credit advancement.
- Providing opportunities to experience high-quality learning in a collaborative and interactive online environment.
- Serving in an "offer and teach" capacity when a school has made every effort but has been unable to secure a properly endorsed teacher. A waiver request can be found at [educateiowa.gov](#).

Financial Know-How Challenge award is \$1,000

Your school could have a chance at \$1,000 when you assess your students' financial knowledge in the 2014-2015 Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge. Registration is free and simple; participation is flexible. You may choose to meet requirements in just a few class periods or run sessions through an entire semester.

Iowa high schools that register for the challenge and have students complete two online tools by Jan. 31 will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win one of 30 cash prizes. The drawing will award each winning school \$1,000 total for its financial literacy programs and scholarship fund.

Iowa Student Loan®, the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Jump\$tart Coalition, Junior Achievement of Central Iowa and the Iowa College Access Network are the sponsors.

The challenge requires you to incorporate two innovative online tools from Iowa Student Loan into your classes. Complementary curriculum guides for both tools are also available to help you plan specific lessons. The sponsoring organizations will draw winners from registered schools that have students complete both tools. You may register now for the [2014- 2015 Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge](#). For more information about the challenge, contact Tara Kamin at Iowa Student Loan at (800) 243-7552, ex. 7404, or tkamin@studentloan.org.



New teaching endorsements: Content specialists and STEM

The Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) has created a Content Area Specialist endorsement. This endorsement does not give additional instructional authority, but a district may choose to require or honor this endorsement for certain employee classifications. A master's degree or 30 semester hours of credit is required in the content area, an additional 15 semester hours in best-practice pedagogy, and content work experience.

The BoEE has also created the following new STEM endorsements:

5-12 Engineering – may teach 5-12 engineering courses

K-8 STEM – may teach science, math, and integrated STEM courses in grades K-8

5-8 STEM – may teach science, math, and integrated STEM courses in grades 5-8

5-12 STEM Specialist – may serve as a STEM specialist or coordinator

Drake University has approved programs for each of the new STEM endorsements, and a number of other institutions are starting programs. Contact Joanne Tubbs at joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov for more information.

Green Ribbon School applications on IowaGrants.gov

The aim of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) is to inspire schools, districts and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to strive for 21st century excellence by highlighting exemplary practices and resources that all can employ. The ED-GRS award recognizes schools, districts, and IHEs that:

- Reduce environmental impact and costs;
- Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
- Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Encouraging resource-efficient schools, districts, and IHEs allows administrators to dedicate more resources to instruction rather than operational costs. Healthy schools and wellness practices ensure that all students learn in an environment conducive to achieving their full potential, free of the health disparities that can aggravate achievement gaps.

Three applications for the [Green Ribbon Schools](#) program are available through the [IowaGrants.gov](#) website:

Individual School: FY15 Iowa Green Ribbon Schools – School Application

District: FY15 Iowa Green Ribbon Schools – District Sustainability Award Application

College/University: FY15 Iowa Green Ribbon Schools – College Application



Applications must be submitted through [IowaGrants.gov](#) to the Iowa Department of Education by Jan. 7. The Iowa Department of Education will review applications based on the applicant's demonstrated progress towards the goals of each of the three pillars. Nominees demonstrating exemplary achievement in all three pillars and every element will be ranked highest.

Instructions for applying are located on the [Green Ribbon Schools](#) website. Visit the [ED-GRS website](#) to learn about the program. For assistance, contact Gary Schwartz, facilities consultant, at gary.schwartz@iowa.gov or 515-281-4743.

21st Century Community Learning Center grant applications

Applications are due Dec. 12 for the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grants. The grants serve as a supplementary program that can enhance state or local reform efforts to improve student academic achievement and to support overall development.

The 21st CCLC program is a federal title program (Title IV, part B). At least 40 percent of the student population must be eligible for free and reduced-price lunches in order to apply. A student-needs assessment is required to set long-term student achievement goals.

Technical Assistance Meetings are being offered around the state. On Nov. 4, a statewide webinar will be offered followed by a question-and-answer session.

For more information, visit [Title IV - Part B - 21st Century Community Learning Centers](#). For questions, contact Vic Jaras at vic.jaras@iowa.gov.

Apply now for an ELL literacy grant

School districts are encouraged to apply for a state-funded English Language Learner Literacy Grant Program. The application deadline is Oct. 17.

The Iowa Department of Education created the competitive grant program to enhance the literacy skills of English Language Learners as directed by the Iowa Legislature.

Priority in issuing grants will be given to school districts with:

- High percentage of students identified as limited English proficient, or
- High number of students identified as limited English proficient, or
- An exceptional diversity of languages of origin spoken by students determined to be limited English proficient.

To access grant application materials, including instructions and supplementary information, click [here](#). For more information, contact Jobi Lawrence at 515-281-3805 or jobi.lawrence@iowa.gov.

Shared Visions Program grants for 2016

Shared Visions Program grants for fiscal year 2016 (July 2015-June 2016) will be awarded on a competitive basis contingent upon the state appropriation.

Shared Visions Parent Support Program funding shall be used for educational support to parents of children aged birth through 5 years with priority to applicants who serve parents of children aged birth through 3 years who are considered most at-risk. Information regarding the application requirements, process and timeline will be posted on the [Shared Visions Parent Program web page](#) as it becomes available. For more information, contact Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov.



iJAG: An end-of-year update

[Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates](#) (iJAG) reports another successful program. We continue to be Iowa's most successful dropout prevention program by developing leaders among our most at-risk population of students.

As a part of the iJAG model, we follow students for one year after high school. This transition planning is one of the keys to our success. Students create individual development plans during the program to interweave employer opportunities with additional credentials beyond their high school diplomas, effectively closing the gap between what employers are looking for in a skilled work force and what iJAG students know about the world.

The class of 2013 had astounding accomplishments including a 96 percent graduation rate. For the first time iJAG was recognized nationally by receiving the Five of Five Award.

PBIS, school wellness: A partnership

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a sustainable, multi-tiered system of support focusing on safe, healthy, and caring environments in the school. Teaching behavioral expectations and acknowledging students for demonstrating appropriate behavior are key features of PBIS.

PBIS and local school wellness policies provide an opportunity to create and support a healthy school environment. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 expands the scope of wellness policies so they are useful tools in evaluating, establishing and maintaining healthy school environments. PBIS utilizes incentives for positive behavior, which do not need to involve candy and other foods since they can undermine children's diets and reinforce unhealthy eating habits. For a wide variety of alternative rewards, [click here](#).

Sample Local Wellness Policy Goal

The school district will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through meals) as a punishment.

[PBIS](#) - Susan Bruce: susan.bruce@iowa.gov

[School Wellness](#) - Carrie Scheidel: carrie.scheidel@iowa.gov

No-cost suicide preventing training

In Iowa, suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds and the third leading cause of death for 5- to 14-year-olds. Educators play an important role in ensuring students receive the help they need. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education received a Garrett Lee Smith State Youth Suicide Prevention Grant and is providing, at no cost, an online, evidence-based Gatekeeper training for all middle and high school educators in Iowa.

The Kognito Gatekeeper training equips educators to identify at-risk youth and to better manage communication with students about suicide and depression. The training is on the best practice registry of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.



Additional information regarding this training opportunity is available [here](#) and the training is available [here](#). For more information, contact Patrick McGovern, Suicide Prevention coordinator, at IDPH at pat.mcGovern@idph.iowa.gov or 515-281-5444.

Applications for Title II, Part A allocations

School districts must complete applications before they can receive funding for preparing, training and recruiting quality teachers and principals (Title II, Part A). Funds totaling more than \$16.8 million will be distributed through the Iowa Department of Education.

To complete an application, you will need to go to the [Iowa Department of Education Portal](#). Allocations are available [Title II, Part A](#) (U.S. Department of Education, *Title II Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals – Part A FY15 – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund (CFDA 84.637A) Improving Teacher Quality State Grants – S367A140014*).

If you have any questions regarding the allocations or the application, contact Isbelia Arzola at isbelia.arzola@iowa.gov or 515-281-3954.

Webinar: Changes in the E-rate program

The Universal Service Fund E-rate program is going through significant changes that will affect all districts and schools that apply for funds. You are encouraged to participate in one of the informational webinars (no advance registration needed).

Changes to the E-rate program: (select one)

- Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 10 to 11 a.m. Connect [here](#).
- Thursday, Oct. 16, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Connect [here](#).
- Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 2 to 3 p.m. Connect [here](#).

For those unable to participate in any session, a recording will be made available after Oct. 21 by clicking [here](#). Training webinars for completing the new E-rate forms will be announced in the November School Leader Update. For questions, contact Pamela Jacobs at pam.jacobs@iowa.gov or 515-975-0071.

Supplemental services webinar available

If you missed the live webinar on Supplemental Education Services (SES), 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:

- Key player responsibilities
- Identifying eligible students
- Funding
- Monitoring requirements
- Timeline of SES
- Provider eligibility and approval

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.



Register for language, culture conference

Registration is under way for the Nov. 10-12 Iowa Language and Culture Conference at the Coralville Marriott Hotel in Coralville. In some instances, the conference is required for districts.

The conference will provide participants with the opportunity to network with other educational professionals and to discover new strategies for working with English Language Learners (ELLs). Professionals from Iowa and a number of other states are already registered for this annual professional learning opportunity. Topics include English Language Proficiency Standards and the Iowa Core, Immigration Trends and Changing Demographics, ELL Literacy, Differentiated Instruction, Newcomer Programming, Formative ELL Assessment, and much more. Full-day pre-conference workshops will be held on Nov. 10, and general sessions will take place Nov. 11 and 12.



The conference is required for districts that did not meet Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives for two or more consecutive years and highly recommended for districts that didn't meet them for one year. Title III funding may be available to support attendance and to better understand attendance requirements; contact your AEA to explore the possibilities. The conference is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education, Heartland AEA, Prairie Lakes AEA, and Grant Wood AEA. For more information or to register, visit the [ICLC website](#).

New report aids efforts to close Iowa's skills gap

The Iowa Department of Education is supporting a statewide effort to reduce a shortage of skilled workers by providing better data about the [employment and earnings](#) of Iowa community college graduates. For the first time, the Department has produced employment and wage information that will help Iowans choose career and technical education programs based on the likelihood of becoming gainfully employed. The *Iowa Community Colleges Education Outcomes: Diploma, Certificate and Associate Degree Programs Report* also provides information to help Iowa's 15 community colleges further plan to meet the middle-skills needs of employers.

Economic change has generated more jobs that require higher levels of skill and education. A lack of skilled workers has left jobs in many of the most thriving industries unfilled, hampering economic growth in states like Iowa. The report was created through a research partnership between the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Workforce Development. Among the report's findings:

- An overwhelming majority of community college students found employment within a year of graduation. This information was further broken down by award and program. For example, 98.9 percent of students who received an Associate of Applied Science in nursing were employed within a year and earned a median annual wage of \$43,614.
- The vast majority of Iowa community college students stayed in Iowa the first year after graduation (86.3 percent). More than half continued their education at an Iowa college, while more than one-third (33.9 percent) joined the workforce. Conversely, a small percentage of graduates transferred to a college or sought employment outside Iowa (5.7 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively).
- On average, 48 percent of associate-degree students completed within two years. The two-year completion rate was 56.7 percent for students in diploma programs and 61.7 percent for students in certificate programs.

Date and Reporting

Certified enrollment deadline looms

For public school districts:

The following applications are required for the completion of your fall student-level data submission: VRF, Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI), and Certified Enrollment. If you are new to a position or to the district, see your portal security officer for access to particular applications. Portal security officers have been identified by the district superintendent.

In order to complete Certified Enrollment accurately by Oct. 15, the following dates provide checkpoints that will lead to successful completion of Certified Enrollment:

1. Submit files for all buildings through Pearson SIF Works – VRF Data Collector beginning Oct. 1.
2. Move SRI data to Certified Enrollment no later than Wednesday, Oct. 8.
3. Certify your Certified Enrollment by the end of the day Wednesday, October 15. (IC 257.6)

Certified Enrollment will contain your:

- Non-fall supplementary weighting from spring 2014
- Fall 2014 supplementary weighting
- Fall 2014 enrollment

The process is the same as last year. Any changes to your student information must be completed in your student information system and a new file or files uploaded to VRF.

Since all data are submitted by the attending district and Certified Enrollment is based on resident district, no district can see complete counts until the last district in the state has moved data into Certified Enrollment.

Ideally, data will be uploaded and moved into Certified Enrollment by Oct. 8, so your attending non-resident students will be visible to the resident districts. Then everyone will have a week to verify counts, communicate with the attending districts, and allow time for corrections by the attending districts. For more information, contact [margie hanson](#) at 515-281-3214, [rachel kruse](#) at 515-281-4153 or [gary kirchhoff](#) at 515-281-6278.

For nonpublic schools:

The Certified Enrollment/NP application will be available for completion from Oct. 1 through Oct. 15. The application is available in the [portal](#). For individuals new to the school, tutorials for creating an A&A account or requesting applications are available at this same location. Contact ed.portal@iowa.gov for assistance.

Nonpublic schools submitting student-level data through VRF and Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI) must complete this part of the collection before completing Certified Enrollment. The information from your data submission will pre-populate the Certified Enrollment student count by resident district. Once a school's data have been moved to Certified Enrollment, only the textbook request will need to be completed and certified.

For nonpublic schools not submitting electronic student files, there is no change to the process. Directions for both methods of completing Certified Enrollment for Nonpublic Schools can be found at the [Nonpublic Schools-Certified Enrollment](#) website. All nonpublic schools must certify on or before Oct. 15. For more information, contact [carla schimelfenig](#) at 515-281-3111.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Qualifications for preschool teacher associates

Districts and community partners participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) and/or any early childhood program serving a child on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) must comply with one of three program standards: Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS), Head Start Program Performance Standards or National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Teacher associate requirements specific to IQPPS, Head Start and NAEYC program standards can be found on the SWVPP web page under “Application Documents and Guidance” in an updated document titled [Qualifications for Preschool Teacher Associates](#). Teacher associates who have an associate’s degree or two years of college meet requirements for qualifications needed of teacher assistants in programs that have adopted IQPPS standards or Head Start standards. NAEYC standards would also be met if a teacher associate had an associate’s degree, but would need a total of 12 hours of college credit for requirements to be met.

For programs that have adopted IQPPS standards, teaching assistants with a bachelor’s, associate of arts degree or two years of college in fields other than early childhood education must have a staff development plan addressing how early childhood expertise is being provided to guide the curriculum. In addition, teacher associates assigned to a child based on an instructional IEP may not count in the ratio of teacher to children.

For more information on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program or the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, visit the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#) or contact Penny Milburn at penny.milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844, Jennifer Adkins at jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov or 515-725-2219 or Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov or 515-725-2273.

Preschool Literacy Screener (IGDIs) and Iowa TIER

Training registration is now open for districts that would like to use Iowa TIER and the Individual Growth and Development Indicators (i.e., IGDIs) to universally screen literacy skills of 4-year-old preschool children. Eligible programs include district-operated preschools, Early Childhood Special Education programs, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program classrooms and their SWVPP community partners, and district-operated Shared Visions Preschool Programs.

Please note, the use of IGDIs is not required to meet the legislative requirements of Iowa Code 279.68. Training dates and locations are listed below with links to process registration. See registration page for more detailed information related to target audience and outcomes. It is encouraged that at least one representative from participating sites, whether school-based preschools or partner programs, attend. Registration fee is \$75.

Registration closes Oct. 10. Please note there are some minimum technology requirements which are detailed [here](#). *Please be sure to attend to these technology requirements to ensure successful use of Iowa TIER and IGDIs.* For questions, contact Mark Crady mcrady@heartlandaea.org or Greg Feldmann greg.feldmann@iowa.gov

October 21	Iowa City	Sheraton Hotel	https://prodev.aeapdonline.org/4dcgi/RE034399991501INV
October 22	Des Moines	Iowa Events Center	https://prodev.aeapdonline.org/4dcgi/RE034399991502INV
October 23	Storm Lake	Buena Vista Univ.	https://prodev.aeapdonline.org/4dcgi/RE034399611501INV



Legislative Update

Contact Shan Seivert for all legislative items: shanlyn.seivert@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399.

Keeping an “i” on the legislative season

As the new policy liaison at the Iowa Department of Education, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Shanlyn Seivert, but I prefer Shan. As a child growing up, my mother used my full name of “Shanlyn” when I was in big trouble. Since I was a mischievous child, I heard Shanlyn a lot and usually through clenched teeth. Yes, I was one of those students who knew the principal’s office décor quite well and with each trip was cordially greeted and directed to my chair by the ladies in the office.

Shanlyn is an unusual name, so I am frequently asked where it came from. Since Iowa is not known for large luxury yachts cleverly named after loved ones or hobbies, when I explain my name was taken from a boat, most look at me a bit perplexed. Apparently there was a boat on Clear Lake back in the mid 1960’s that was named the *Shanlyn Ray* and my mother (remember this was the ‘60s) fell in love with the name...not the boat.

Recently, we completed a team building exercise at the Department using the DiSC behavior profile. If you are not familiar with the profile, it is a powerful tool you can use to understand your behavioral style and how it affects others as well as maximize your strengths. Each letter in DiSC represents a behavior profile. What I discovered is that I’m an “i!” Some of the descriptors of an “i” are enthusiastic, social and influential, which I’m optimistic will serve well in my new role.

Beyond my “i” classification, I have a master’s in public administration and completed the Iowa Certified Public Manager Program, both through Drake University.

My career started at the Eldora State Training School for Boys, before moving onto the Iowa Department of Human Services in different roles. Though I left for the private sector, I eventually returned to state employment at the Iowa Workforce Development, first as an unemployment insurance manager and most recently as the statewide reemployment services and federal bonding coordinator. Both positions require the development, implementation, and monitoring of program policy and procedures and many of the duties overlap with what I am doing in my current position.

What I am most looking forward to in this position is the legislative session. In the past, I provided information and responded to requests from legislative staff, legislators and the Governor’s office, but this position will allow me to be an active participant representing the agency in the process.

As a mother of a special-needs child, I am very thankful to the teachers, principals and administrators that we have had the pleasure of working with throughout our journey. All showed genuine concern and commitment for the children they served and an in-depth passion for their craft. My daughter is now a happy, healthy and independent adult. Now, it is my turn to give back and my new position allows me to be an active promoter in maintaining and building Iowa’s tradition of educational excellence.

I am honored to be representing the Department and look forward to the adventures and challenges that lie ahead. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding policy or legislative issues. I can be reached at my office at 515-281-3399, on my cell at 515-326-5595 and by email at shanlyn.seivert@iowa.gov.



Legal Lessons

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

Fall fun: Transformer or 'Frozen'? Oh, and some legal stuff, too

I know it sounds crazy but I love fall! This is when I got married and gave birth to Liam. I just love the cool crisp fall air, the leaves changing colors on the trees, sipping apple cider or a pumpkin latte, and of course going to the pumpkin patch to pick our pumpkins for Halloween.

This year Liam has decided he will be Optimus Prime for Halloween (for those of you who don't know – this is a Transformer) and Sophia has decided she will be Elsa from the movie *Frozen*. These costumes are particularly fitting for both of them. Liam has more cars and trucks than I can count. He spends a great deal of time lining them up across the entire length of the floor and blocking my walkway. And Sophia will often break out into a short verse of "Let it Go" wherever we are. This last weekend we were at a restaurant and she began belting it out. Yes, I'm *that* mom with the loud kids in the restaurant. I would apologize but it's actually nice to hear her sing. I have not thought about what I could be for Halloween but I generally like to coordinate with the kids. So here are my options: Olaf the snowman from *Frozen* or Wheeljack, Bumblebee, or Cliffjumper from the Transformers. I'm leaning toward Olaf, but I would be interested in your vote so let me know. Make sure you make time for some fun this fall and let the kid in you come out.



In this fall edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you some appropriate topics for this time of year. Here is some information on school immunizations and enrollment, procedures for open enrollment appeals, and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education on enrolling immigrant students.

School immunizations and enrollment

With the cold and flu season fast approaching, it's a good time to review school immunization requirements. School immunization laws were first established to control outbreaks of smallpox and are currently used to avoid epidemics of contagious vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, whooping cough and polio. These laws lessen the chance of infection and outbreaks in schools and communities by reducing the number of unprotected people who may be infected and subsequently transmit the disease.

Iowa Code 139A.8 requires all students enrolling in an Iowa school to submit proof of immunizations to the admitting official using an Iowa Department of Public Health certificate of immunization or a provisional certificate, unless a valid certificate of religious or medical exemption has been submitted.

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

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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).

What is provisional enrollment?

Students may be provisionally enrolled if they have received at least one dose of each of the required vaccines or they are transfer students from other U.S. school systems. The provisional certificate should be issued upon enrollment in the school. The provisional certificate allows for the vaccine to be administered as soon as medically feasible but shall not exceed 60 calendar days (IAC 641-7.7(2)). It is the responsibility of the applicant, parent or guardian to ensure the applicant receives all necessary immunizations during the provisional enrollment period and submit a certificate of immunization to the admitting official at the end of the provisional enrollment period (IAC 641-7.7(3)).

What happens when we don't receive a certificate of immunization?

At the end of a provisional enrollment period, if an enrollee has not submitted a certificate of immunization, the admitting official shall immediately exclude the applicant from the benefits, activities and opportunities of the school until the applicant submits a valid certificate of immunization (IAC 641-7.7(5)).

For questions regarding these requirements, contact me at 515-281-8661 or nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or Don Callaghan with Iowa Department of Public Health at 515-281-7301 or donald.callaghan@idph.iowa.gov.

Procedures for open enrollment appeals

The appropriate process that both districts must follow when they receive an application for open enrollment in cases of pervasive harassment or a serious medical condition under Iowa Code section 282.18(5) is outlined in 281 IAC 17.5(1). Here is a summary of the districts' responsibilities.

Resident District Responsibilities:

- The board of the resident district shall act on the request within 30 days of its receipt.
- If the board denied the request, it has three days in which to notify the parent.
- If the board approves the request, the superintendent has three days to notify the parent and five days to notify the receiving district of the approval.

Receiving District Responsibilities:

- The board of the receiving district shall act to approve or deny the request within 30 days after receiving the approval from the resident district.
- The superintendent shall notify the parent and resident district of either the approval or denial of the application within 15 days of board action.

281 IAC 15.5(1).

The resident district must act first. The law contemplates that the resident district is in the best position to make a decision about an open enrollment application filed on the basis of the student being a victim of pervasive harassment or having a serious medical condition since the student is attending its district.

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If the resident district denies the application, then an appeal can be filed. If the resident district grants the application, then it is sent to the receiving district to act. If the receiving district denies it, then an appeal can be filed. But before it can act, the board of the resident district has to act. From a procedural standpoint the receiving district cannot act to deny the application until the resident district has acted.

Please make sure you follow these procedures or the appeal could be sent back to the district to follow appropriate procedures. For more questions on appeals see the following link: [Appeals](#).

GUIDANCE from the USDE on enrolling immigrant students

This September the U.S. Department of Education released new guidance on enrolling new immigrant students in school. This guidance is a supplement to previously issued guidance on educational services for immigrant students (the link for this guidance is also provided below). This guidance answers questions about documentation, funding, data collection, and other enrollment procedures. It's important to review this guidance and make sure you are providing all children equal access to education regardless of the parents' actual or perceived national origin, citizenship, or immigration status.

Here is the department's guidance:

[Unaccompanied Children - Fact Sheet II](#)

[Educational Services for Immigrant Children - Guidance](#)

Students with Disabilities

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

Eligible elementary schools for the Microsoft Settlement

A list by Area Education Agencies of eligible elementary schools that can apply for the second round of the Microsoft Settlement is posted on the Microsoft Settlement web page located on the Iowa Department of Education [website](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, contact John O'Connell at john.oconnell@mchsi.com, john.ooconnell@iowa.gov or 515-249-0334.

Calendar

- October 1 • Board Resolutions for Whole Grade Share Supplemental Weighting
- October 1 • Last date for an election to reorganize effective July 1 is December
- October 15 • Last date to notify the SBRC if district incurred Negative Unspent Balance

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