



# School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

September 2015

## An update on assessments

Members of the State Board of Education took a step toward choosing a new state assessment during their August meeting.

Board members directed the Iowa Department of Education to draft proposed administrative rules on adoption of the Smarter Balanced Assessments as outlined in the first [recommendation](#) of a legislatively created task force in December 2014.

The draft rules will go to the board at its September meeting. The board can then decide whether or not to start the rule-making process for adoption. The process, which takes up to 180 days, includes public hearings and reviews by a legislative committee.

For more information on the administrative rules process, click [here](#).



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## Working as a team for the students of Iowa

One of the best parts of my role is the opportunity I have to meet teachers and administrators statewide, from classroom visits to community college tours to state-wide conferences. There are so many inspiring educators who work tirelessly to make a difference for students.

I have a lot to learn from all of you, which is why I've made it a priority to visit schools and community colleges all across Iowa this year. My goal is to better understand your schools and communities, since each has its own story.

In Iowa's education system, we all have our own context but we also share a common purpose: to make Iowa's schools places where adults can collaborate and students can thrive.

It's this shared purpose that I want to emphasize as director of the Department.

This purpose is reflected in both the Department's mission and vision. Our mission is focused on creating excellence in education through leadership and service.

My own definition of leadership was shaped by one of my graduate school professors, Frances Frei, who said that leadership is creating the conditions under which others can do their best work. This is our goal at the Department. We want to create the conditions under which you all can do your best work to meet the needs of your students.

We do this in service of our vision: Iowa learners experience high levels of success and develop the capacity to continually grow as successful, healthy, and productive citizens in a global community.



**Director Ryan Wise**

*Continued on page 2*

## Starting with a substitute teacher? Some guidance

The Board of Education Examiners has received questions regarding starting the school year with substitute teachers.

If a district cannot find a teacher who is properly licensed for an open position, a substitute should not be used. Districts should instead find licensed candidates willing to pursue the necessary coursework and apply for conditional licensure.

In addition, districts may not use a substitute teacher to temporarily cover a position while a recent graduate waits to pass the required assessments for licensure.

School districts may only start the year with a substitute teacher under the following conditions:

- A substitute may fill in for a regularly licensed and contracted teacher who is on extended leave but will be returning.
- With BoEE approval, a substitute may fill an unusual last-minute resignation or last-minute new section until the position can be filled. A diligent search will need to be conducted immediately.

For more information, contact Joanne Tubbs at [joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov](mailto:joanne.tubbs@iowa.gov).

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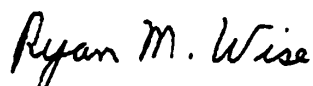
What I love about this vision is that we take a broad view of learners, starting before kindergarten and going beyond 12th grade. I also appreciate that we take a broad view of success that includes being healthy and productive citizens.

I believe the Iowa Department of Education has five critical functions:

- First, we partner with stakeholders to effectively implement federal and state education policy. As you know, we developed and are implementing Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation System and our Early Literacy Initiative through partnerships within the education system. These initiatives will achieve results because of the strength of these partnerships.
- Second, we provide and interpret information and data to support transparency, accountability and continuous improvement. For example, the Differentiated Accountability system that will be piloted this year streamlines reporting and compliance and connects the process to our system's priorities and emphasizes results for kids.
- Third, we communicate a compelling and consistent vision. One way the Department and State Board of Education do this is through the Breaking Barriers Award, which celebrates schools that have raised achievement among students who traditionally face challenges.
- Fourth, we convene critical conversations in a number of ways, including task forces, trainings and summits. An important example is the current work of the Secondary Career and Technical Education task forces, which will make recommendations this fall on how Iowa can modernize CTE education and ensure all students, regardless of geography, have access to hands-on, real-world learning opportunities.
- Finally, we have the ability to develop, pilot and scale promising practices. One of these is Iowa Learning Online, which partners with school districts to meet student needs. ILO's high school course offerings have jumped from nine to 41 in just two years, and fall enrollment has more than tripled since last year.

I'm energized about all of this important work in the year ahead. And I know that to be successful we must work effectively together. There are 230 of us at the Iowa Department of Education. Yet working as a team, with you, we can positively impact the lives of nearly a half-million students and countless families and communities.

Let's have a fantastic school year!



Read about some of Director Wise's [philosophies](#).

## TLC + Iowa Learning Online = opportunity for you

Iowa Learning Online is able to provide two options for supporting your district's Teacher Leadership and Compensation efforts.

1. If you wish to provide a secondary-level teacher leader with release time from one or more subject-area classes for a semester or year, you may enroll his/her students with Iowa Learning Online. Iowa Learning Online will provide an appropriately licensed teacher to serve in your teacher's place and deliver an equivalent class to your students in an online format. This service will be free-of-charge to your district.

2. If releasing a secondary-level teacher will impact your ability to meet an "offer and teach" course requirement, you will need to fill out a short Department of Education Chapter 12 Iowa Learning Online (ILO) Substitution Waiver for General Accreditation Standards. This waiver can be [downloaded](#).

For more information, contact Gwen Nagel at [gwen.nagel@iowa.gov](mailto:gwen.nagel@iowa.gov) or 515-419-3275.

## ILO has 3-fold enrollment increase

The Iowa Department of Education's Iowa Learning Online has experienced a three-fold increase in the number of enrollments this fall.

There are more than 1,500 enrollments in the various classes – ranging from French to algebra – for the fall semester. The spike is attributed directly to the more-than-double increase in the number of schools participating, up to 148 this fall.

Participating schools say they like ILO because it helps with scheduling problems, offers new courses, and provides students with an online learning experience.

The no-cost ILO is accepting enrollments for the [spring](#).



## Just for the fun of it...

As we look to the future in education, it's also meaningful to consider the past and how far we've come.

Take the one-room school house, once ubiquitous across Iowa's country landscape. Numbering an astonishing 12,000 to 14,000 at one time, depending on what report you use, Iowa had more one-room school houses than any other state in the union.



Read the [story](#) and check out more [photos](#).

# 2015-16 open enrollment billing

The amount of open enrollment tuition for the 2015-16 school year for a regular education student is \$6,366, which is the state cost per pupil from the previous fiscal year.

The tuition bill for open-enrolled-in students should also include the following supplemental funds if applicable:

- [Teacher Leadership](#), if both districts are receiving an allocation for having an approved TLC plan.
- Non-English speaking supplementary weighting [Eligible concurrent enrollment and Project Lead the Way \(PLTW\) courses](#) (under the June 2015 School Business Alert, page 4).

For a student served pursuant to an Individualized Education Program, open enrollment tuition is calculated on actual costs of special education rather than the prior year's state cost-per-pupil amount.

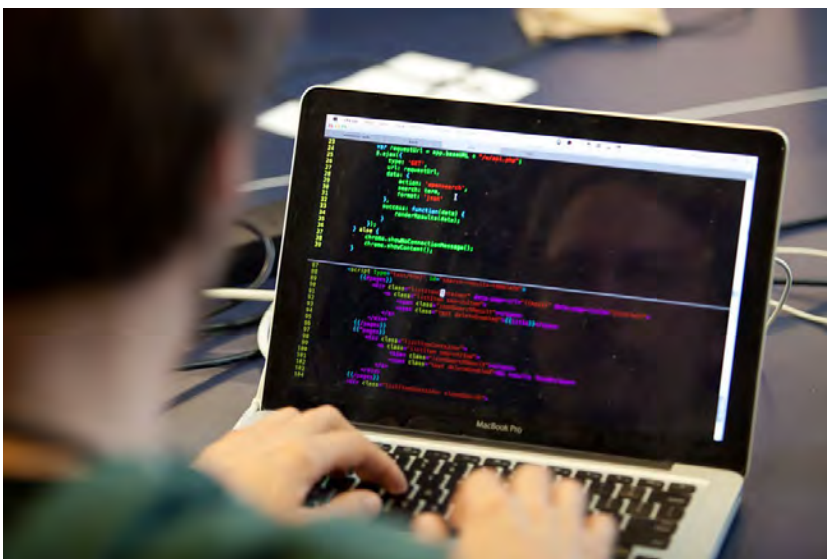
Open enrollment tuition is billed and paid on a quarterly basis. Under special circumstances that terminate or suspend open enrollment status, it is necessary to prorate tuition in a quarter on a per diem basis.

For assistance, contact Eric Heitz at 515-281-4726 or [eric.heizt@iowa.gov](mailto:eric.heizt@iowa.gov).

## CAM and Clayton Ridge virtual schools open enrollment changes

During the 2016 legislative session, two exceptions were added to the 1 percent limit on the number of resident students who may attend the online schools at CAM and Clayton Ridge.

The new law states the 1 percent limitation for resident students attending a virtual school at CAM and/or Clayton Ridge may be exceeded if the limit would prevent siblings from enrolling in the same school district for a virtual school or if a sending district determines that the education needs of a physically or emotionally fragile student would be best served by educational instruction and course content that are delivered primarily over the internet.



If you have any questions, contact Eric Heitz at 515-281-4726 or [eric.heizt@iowa.gov](mailto:eric.heizt@iowa.gov)



## Have a student seeking public service?

Students are urged to apply for the United States Senate Youth Program, which is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service.



Established in 1962, annual program will be held in Washington, D.C., from March 5-12. Two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity will gather for an intensive week-long study of government and those who lead it. In addition, each selected delegate receives a \$5,000 scholarship. The overall mission of the program is to help instill knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service.

There are numerous deadlines in applying for the program, the first of which is Oct. 2. The United States Senate Youth Program coordinator for Iowa is Stefanie Wager. Contact her at [stefanie.wager@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.wager@iowa.gov) or 515-725-7842. Additional program information, including the student application, is available [here](#) or by accessing the United States Senate Youth Program website [here](#).

## Have your classes participate in Constitution Day activities

The Iowa Department of Education has partnered with the Iowa Judicial Branch and the Iowa Bar Association this year to help schools actively take part in celebrating U.S. Constitution Day, which is Sept. 17.

In the spirit of the day, celebrations and observations have been scheduled:

- Sept. 16-17: The Iowa Supreme Court will hear three oral arguments over the course of the two days involving constitutional issues. Social studies classes are invited to bring students to hear the live oral arguments. If you are interested in bringing a class, email [stefanie.wager@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.wager@iowa.gov). In addition, the event will be live-streamed so local schools can watch the process in real-time. You can access the live streaming [here](#).
- Sept. 17: Know Your Constitution Contest Theme Released. Go [here](#) for more information.



Congress enacted legislation requiring all public schools to set aside one day during the week of Sept. 17 to teach all students about the U.S. Constitution and about citizenship. This year is the 228<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our national Constitution. While compliance is mandatory, the implementation details are left to local districts.

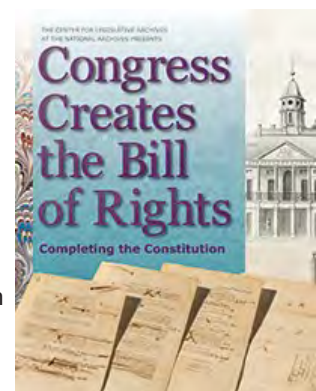
More information, including additional Constitution Day resources, is available [here](#). If your district is planning something special to celebrate Constitution Day or you have any questions, contact Stefanie Wager, social studies consultant, at [stefanie.wager@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.wager@iowa.gov), or 515-725-7842. If you have legal questions about the matter, contact [nicole.proesch@iowa.gov](mailto:nicole.proesch@iowa.gov).

## Yep. There's even an app for this.

Engage students with the [Congress Creates the Bill of Rights](#) mobile app and eBook.



The free mobile app, available for download on iPads in the App Store, enables students to explore how the First Congress proposed amendments to the Constitution in 1789. The educational resources are made possible through the Center for Legislative Archives in Washington, D.C.



# Nominate a Presidential Scholar by Oct. 15

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 Ryan Wise by Oct. 15.

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.



In addition to those nominations, you are encouraged to nominate additional students to be included as candidates for recognition for excellence in career and technical education (CTE). The director will recommend five CTE candidates for consideration of the national honor.

This new component of the program will honor students on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. All high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and June of 2016 and are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. Reviewers will consider the following categories:

- Academic rigor
- Technical competence (mastery of technical skills demanded by industry)
- Employability skills (team work, decision-making, problem-solving)
- Ingenuity and creativity (real-world problem solved through technical skills)

Recommendations to Director Wise 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 address, and high school CEEB code.

Send your recommendation by email to [deborah.darge@iowa.gov](mailto:deborah.darge@iowa.gov) no later than Oct. 15. Read more about the [Presidential Scholars program](#).

## District hits homerun in back-to-school approach

An Iowa district took a novel, fun and compelling approach to getting ready for a new school year.

The [West Des Moines district](#) teachers and staff were treated with a flash mob through the lens of the musical Les Misérables. It is a must see.

If you have something you'd like to share, email [jim.flansburg@iowa.gov](mailto:jim.flansburg@iowa.gov).

## Bridge funding extended for career-path program

The bridge funding to pay for I Have a Plan Iowa (IHAPI®) has been approved and the contract will be extended through next June 30.

As a result, districts utilizing the [state-designated career information system](#) to fulfill the mandate for [Iowa Code 279.61](#) may continue to use IHAPI® without an interruption in service. Training for new and existing IHAPI® users will be delivered in academic year 2016, including training in the use of the flexible component, Student Success Plan (SSP), released this August.

Districts using a vendor other than IHAPI® will continue to report using the [forms](#) provided on the Iowa Department of Education website.



The [Secondary CTE Task Force](#) has drafted a recommendation on career guidance to set in place policy and administrative rules that promote college and career readiness and to ensure all students receive a high quality career planning experience as part of an overall student success plan. Students will develop the student success plan that leads to further education and, ultimately, a rewarding career. Schools will have access to a best practices virtual tool kit for K-14 (including two years' post-secondary) stakeholders.

Contact [Amy Vybiral](#) or [Nancy Ankeny Hunt](#) with questions.

## 'Future Starts Here' campaign promotes adult education

Iowa's Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) programs provide adults with the opportunity to acquire and improve functional skills necessary to compete in today's economy and enhance the quality of their lives.



A new campaign to increase awareness of the adult education and literacy programs throughout Iowa has been launched. The "Your Future Starts Here" campaign connects Iowans with resources and information to pursue achieving their High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED), increase their basic skills and participate in English as a Second Language classes.

In order for Iowans to get started, the "Your Future Starts Here" campaign has created a website and a hotline. At [www.yourfuturestartshereiowa.org](http://www.yourfuturestartshereiowa.org),

students will be connected to their local program and find resources ranging from career exploration and interactive lessons to details on the required testing. Resources are also available in Spanish. When students call 800-316-6850, they will be connected based on their zip code with their local program.

Visit [www.yourfuturestartshereiowa.org](http://www.yourfuturestartshereiowa.org) or call 800-316-6850 for more information.

## New mindset, behavior counseling standards released

There are new guidelines for Iowa's professional school counselors that describe the knowledge, skills and attitudes that students need to achieve academic success, college and career readiness and social/emotional development.



The standards were developed by the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) and are based on research and best practices in student achievement and school counseling program.

The guidelines were written during 2015-16 school year, by groups of Iowa school counselor leaders, Area Education Agency school counseling consultants and Iowa Department of Education staff.

Called the "ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success: K-12 College- and Career-Readiness Standards for Every Student," the standards guide the development of counseling strategies and activities, and create counseling programs designed to help students achieve their highest potential. The 35 Mindsets and Behaviors standards align with local and state initiatives, including the Iowa Core Standards and Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

A copy of Iowa's new Mindsets and Behaviors Standards, training module and revised Iowa School Counseling Framework are now available on the Iowa Department of Education [website](#). For more information, contact Sandra Dop at [san-dra.dop@iowa.gov](mailto:sandra.dop@iowa.gov).

## Professional development focuses on psychological distress

There is a professional development resource available at no cost to all schools in the state through the Department of Public Health. Many schools are slotting this in now for the 2015-16 professional development calendar. These online simulations teach all K-12 school personnel how to identify, approach, and refer students showing signs of psychological distress to appropriate support services. See a three-minute video [here](#).



Some *At-Risk* and *Step In, Speak Up!* training simulation fast facts:

- Takes 45-60 minutes on average;
- Can be completed online in one or multiple sittings; and
- Includes practice role-play conversations building skills to talk with students.

Send this link to your school staff, and have them create an account: <http://www.kognito.com/iowa/>. Learners can choose from the high school, middle school, or elementary school module once inside. At the same link, click on the orange "Tips & Resources" button to find email templates, slides, and even facilitator guides if you'd like to coordinate a follow-up discussion with your staff.

If you have any questions, contact Pat McGovern at [pat.mcgovern@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:pat.mcgovern@idph.iowa.gov).



## No-cost suicide prevention training is offered

Suicide Prevention Week is Sept. 7-13, and marks an important time to remind everyone of an evidence-based online suicide prevention training at no cost to Iowa's middle and high schools.

The training is critically important in that the second leading cause of death in Iowa for people ages 15 to 24 is suicide.

The Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant, administered by the Iowa Department of Public Health and partnered with the Iowa Department of Education, teaches participants how to identify, approach and refer students showing signs of psychological distress. An informational three-minute video is available [here](#).

To access the training, you may send [this link](#) to school staff, and they will be able to create an account.

If you have any questions, contact Patrick McGovern of the Iowa Department of Public Health at [pat.mcgovern@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:pat.mcgovern@idph.iowa.gov) or 515-281-5444.

## Update on renewing Evaluator Approval

In the wake of the pending recommendations from the Council on Educator Development (such as teaching/leadership standards and evaluation process and tools), an administrator and/or evaluator seeking renewal for his/her evaluator approval has three options:

- Take iEvaluate 1.2 through AEA PD Online for two licensure renewal credits; or
- Take Assessing Academic Rigor as offered through your AEA for two licensure renewal credits; or
- Take Fierce Conversations as offered through your AEA for two licensure renewal credits.

If you are new to Iowa or were prepared at an out-of-state preparation institution and seeking your Iowa administrator license, you must take iEvaluate 1.2 through AEA PD Online.

For any additional administrator/evaluator licensure questions, contact Greg Horstmann ([greg.horstmann@iowa.gov](mailto:greg.horstmann@iowa.gov)). For evaluator course information, contact Matt Ludwig ([matt.ludwig@iowa.gov](mailto:matt.ludwig@iowa.gov)).

## Teachlowa.gov certification training slated

Frontline Technologies, home of Teachlowa's AppliTrack system, will be coming to Iowa this month to offer a certification training in the Teachlowa system.

The certification programs are a training where you will learn how to configure and run your Teachlowa system based on your district's specific needs. This training is free and is available to all Teachlowa users.

Stand-alone district users will want to attend a training session scheduled for Sept. 28 and 29 at the West Des Moines Learning Resource Center. Registration information can be found [here](#).

Regular (consortium) users will want to attend a training session scheduled for Sept. 30 at the Prairie Meadows Event Center. Registration information can be found [here](#).

## 21st Century Community Learning grant competition

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant serves as a supplementary program that can enhance state or local reform efforts to improve student academic achievement and to support their overall development through after-school programs. The 21st CCLC program is a federal title program (Title IV, part B). Schools must have a minimum of 40 percent free and reduced-price lunch to be eligible.

Technical assistance meetings will be held around the state to assist districts that are interested in applying for the grant in this fall. The new competition information will be posted on the Iowa Department of Education website in September. This competition will award \$6,243,000 in grants for after-school programs in Iowa.



It is important that you be aware of companies offering “free” grant writing services that then ask you to sign a contract for compensation – compensation that you cannot pay for out of the grant. In Iowa, we provide three months to work on your proposal. We provide best practice examples for key sections of the grant and technical assistance to help you with questions as you develop your application. Contact Vic Jaras [vic.jaras@iowa.gov](mailto:vic.jaras@iowa.gov) for any questions. For more information on this program, visit the [Iowa Department of Education website](#).

## Apply for early literacy grant

The Iowa Legislature has appropriated an additional \$8 million for public school districts to use during the 2015-16 school year for implementation of Iowa Code Section 279.68 - Early Literacy Progression.

In order to obtain your district’s share, you need to submit a brief application found on the [IowaGrants website](#). This process is similar to that used to distribute last year’s funds. The grant opportunity is currently open. You’re urged to submit your information as soon as possible. Implementation guidance and instructions for accessing the grant application are found on the [Department’s website](#).



## One school’s journey into summer reading program

Starmont Elementary School in Arlington in northeast Iowa is taking its literacy program to the next level by focusing on an intensive summer reading program.

The new focus is driven by a desire to make sure all students are reading at grade level. It’s also good preparation for a legislative requirement that all Iowa schools have intensive summer reading programs in place for struggling third-graders by May 2017.

The summer reading requirement is part of Iowa’s early literacy progression law, which aims to ensure all students reach reading proficiency by the end of third grade. Research shows reading proficiency by the end of third grade is an important predictor of school success, and early intervention for struggling readers is critical. Read what [Starmont](#) is doing to shore up its literacy program.

## State Board of Education adopts new science standards

Members of the State Board of Education adopted new state standards for what Iowa students should know and be able to do in science from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The board's vote was based on a [state review team's recommendation](#) that Iowa adopt the Next Generation Science Standards with some modifications. The board accepted that recommendation and directed the Iowa Department of Education to develop a timeline and plan to help schools statewide put the new science standards into practice.

The Next Generation Science Standards is the name of learning expectations in science for grades K-12 that all states can consider adopting and adapting to meet their needs. Twenty-six states, including Iowa, led the development of the Next Generation Science Standards, which refocus the way science is taught to help students truly grasp the subject and apply what they've learned. [Read more.](#)



## New Iowa Reading Research Center director announced

Dr. Deborah Reed has been named the new director of the Iowa Reading Research Center, which has a critical role in a statewide effort to make sure all children read well by the end of third grade.



Reed has served as a researcher and faculty member at Florida State University's Florida Center for Reading Research, where she has focused on identifying and intervening with struggling readers in general and special education classrooms.

She begins her new role as the Iowa Reading Research Center transitions to a new home at the University of Iowa. The center, which was created by the Iowa Legislature and is overseen by the Iowa Department of Education, launched in 2012 at Grant Wood Area Education Agency in Cedar Rapids.

The Iowa Reading Research Center's purpose is to turn research into best practices so that schools provide the most effective reading instruction and all Iowa children become successful readers by the end of third grade. While reading is important at all grade levels, the end of third grade is widely considered the point at which most children transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." [Read more.](#)

# Developing high-quality emergency operations plans

We all are well aware of the string of tragedies like Columbine and Sandy Hook in recent years. We used to say, “It can’t happen in Iowa,” but the sad reality is that events like those can happen anywhere and at any time. We must be adequately prepared for a variety of emergencies that potentially threaten the young lives we are responsible for each day.

To that end, the Iowa Department of Education received federal grant funding to provide training for assisting school districts with the process of updating existing Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).

The Department has contracted with Emergency Preparedness Consulting to assist school districts and schools with upgrading to high-quality EOPs. The training uses the

[Readiness and Emergency Management for](#)

[Schools Technical Assistance Center \(REMS-TA Center\)](#) through facilitated workshops to assist in the drafting and testing of upgraded EOPs. The process involves working collaboratively with district and community partners on the development and/or updating of existing plans. The Department strongly encourages all school districts to participate in this school emergency management training process.



Districts can prepare for this training by identifying teams of two to four individuals who might lead the planning process and participate in this training. These teams could include district administrators, principals, teachers, risk managers, school board members, school safety coordinators, facility managers, nurses, counselors or public information officers. These individuals will work directly with local response partners in the development of EOPs that reflect the unique capacity and organizational structures of each community.

A [webinar](#) will be held on Sept. 22 at 3 p.m. to provide information on the goals, outcomes, and timeline regarding the Training and Technical Assistance to School Districts for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans initiative. This session will provide information about upcoming trainings and resources for developing high-quality emergency operations plans. Note that the webinar may be viewed on your computer. Viewing on iPad or iPhone is available by downloading the free ZOOM Cloud Meeting app from the App Store.

For questions, contact [Gary Schwartz](#) at 515-281-4743 or [Jane Colavecchi](#) at 515-491-6088.



# Data and Reporting

## Annual check coming up to ensure IDEA requirements

The Iowa Department of Education will make annual determinations for each school district and Area Education Agency to ensure there is compliance with and implementation of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B and Part C requirements.

Determination letters will be emailed to district superintendents and Area Education Agency special education directors during the month of September.

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

IDEA Part C Data Profiles for Area Education Agencies are also posted on the [Iowa Department of Education's website](#).

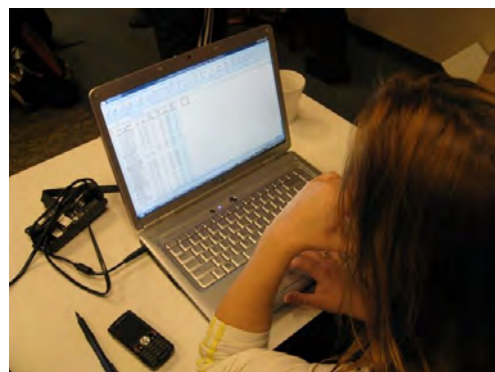
For more information, contact Meredith MacQuigg (Part B) at [meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov](mailto:meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov) or 515-494-5610 or Kate Small (Part C) at [kate.small@iowa.gov](mailto:kate.small@iowa.gov) or 515-281-5437.

## Microsoft Cy Pres teacher usage survey to begin in October

Due to the late start for schools, data collection for the 2nd Cy Pres will begin with September, so that means that teachers will not be able to enter data until after the first of October.

Building personnel will be notified of the website activation in the October School Leader Update and on the Iowa Department of Education website. The website will look very similar to the one used previously.

For further information on the survey, click [here](#).



## Fall deadlines established for BEDS

Here are important dates to remember:

Sept. 8	Fall BEDS opens
Sept. 8	Fall BEDS staff opens
Oct. 30	Fall BEDS due
Oct. 30	Fall BEDS staff due
Oct. 30	Operational sharing due (Must have Fall BEDS staff completed by Oct. 15.)

## Data and Reporting continued

### Important dates to remember for SRI, Certified Enrollment

For those unable to attend the August Statewide Data Conference, most of the presentations from the day are posted at this [link](#).

And below is a reminder of important dates for Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI) and Certified Enrollment:

DATE	APPLICATION	TASK
Sept. 1	Fall VRF test site opens	Start sending test files
Sept. 15	Fall SRI and Certified Enrollment test sites open	Move test data onto SRI and Certified Enrollment to catch Level II and Level III errors
Sept. 27	Fall test sites close	
<b>Oct. 1</b>	<b>COUNT DAY</b>	
Oct. 1-Oct. 7	VRF, SRI, and Certified Enrollment sites open	Continue sending files. Verify student and course records
Oct. 8-14	Certified Enrollment	Continue to monitor for all resident students and no state duplicates
<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>Click “certify” on Certified Enrollment</b>	

### Changes to equity review process, new guidance

The Office for Civil Rights has approved a new targeting plan for Iowa for the 2015-16 school year which is used to determine the districts who will receive a focused equity visit.

The Iowa Department of Education is changing the accreditation process from the five-year cycle (20 percent cohort) to an accountability system which includes a review of data on all districts every year. Starting in the 2015-16 school year, under the new state accreditation system, districts will be selected for desk audits and accreditation onsite reviews based on data with a targeted approach to determine the level of support needed.

In the past, focused equity visits were conducted in conjunction with comprehensive school improvement site visits. Because Iowa is moving to a differentiated accountability system starting in 2015-16, focused equity visits will be conducted separate from school improvement visits.

Equity-related information can be found on the Equity Education [webpage](#). For more information, contact Margaret Jensen Connet at [Margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov](mailto:Margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov) or 515-281-3769.

# Early Childhood Preschool Programs

## Early childhood reporting deadline is September 15

All Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) districts and Early Childhood Special Education classrooms are required to provide updated preschool information to the Iowa Department of Education.

Districts also are requested to report 3-year-old preschool sessions as well as any session including children receiving special education services. This information is entered into Early Childhood reporting by Sept. 15 each year prior to completing Student Reporting in Iowa. Early Childhood reporting is accessed through the [Iowa Education Portal](#) and users must have an A & A account and have EarlyChildhood access.



Districts are required to address the 2015-16 school year data in Early Childhood reporting that includes information about the preschool program contact, SWVPP assurances (including partner collaboration, preschool integration and professional development), curriculum/assessment, preschool sessions, and session program standards. In addition, Early Childhood reporting will be the universal desk audit for pre-kindergarten for districts participating in the Differentiated Accountability pilot for 2015-16.

A webinar addressing reporting is available on the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program](#) web page.

For more information go to the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program](#) web page or contact Penny Milburn ([penny.milburn@iowa.gov](mailto:penny.milburn@iowa.gov)), Jennifer Adkins ([jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov)) or Amy Stegeman ([amy.stegeman@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.stegeman@iowa.gov)).

## Early childhood sessions scheduled

Early childhood educators are urged to attend upcoming sessions focusing on “Supporting Children with Disabilities” and “Using your Observations of Children to Individualize Instruction” at the Early Care and Education Fall Institute in September at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona.

“Supporting Children with Disabilities” is a two-day workshop Sept. 16-17 that will focus on how to use The Creative Curriculum® to provide a high-quality program that is inclusive of all children. Teachers will learn how to incorporate the principles of Universal Design for Learning to offer children multiple ways of acquiring knowledge and skills and to provide a variety of formats for instruction, learning, and assessment.



“Using your Observations of Children to Individualize Instruction” will be held Sept. 17 and is designed for experienced GOLD™ assessment users. Teachers will be guided through the process of relating their observations of children to the objectives for development and learning and scaffolding children’s learning accordingly.

To register, visit the [Iowa AEYC website](#) or contact Betsy Lin at [betsy.lin@iowa.gov](mailto:betsy.lin@iowa.gov).

### Disconnect between parents, Iowa's breakfast program

Iowa's school breakfast program faces a Catch-22: While a majority of parents agree that a nutritious breakfast is important physically and mentally to their children, a full 31 percent say their children never or rarely eat breakfast.

That disconnect is seen in the state's school breakfast program, in which Iowa ranks 48th out of the 50 states when it comes to school breakfast participation compared with rates of lunch participation for children who are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals.



A survey was conducted by the Iowa Department of Education and the University of Iowa to see why Iowa's participation rate lags behind most every other state. The goal of the survey is to see if effective solutions can be put in place to dramatically bolster participation.

Among the 8,982 parents surveyed statewide, the findings were many and varied:

- Many parents mistakenly believe that school breakfasts aren't nutritional.
- Respondents also said they didn't fully understand the various components of the breakfast program, such as for whom it is intended, the cost and other details.
- Some said there is a stigma attached to participating in the breakfast program, saying that it could identify their children as low-income.

Read more about the [survey](#).

### Webinar will focus on food program scheduled

The Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services is holding a webinar on Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. which will discuss changes to the USDA Diverted Foods program for school year 2016-17.

The Diverted Foods program allows schools to allocate pounds of a bulk material to a selected manufacturer. This bulk material is paid for by their USDA Foods budget, which schools receive when participating in the National School Lunch Program. When schools purchase food from this manufacturer, they receive a discount for the bulk material provided. Staff affected by, and interested in this change, include administration, food service directors or personnel that order USDA Food, and business managers.

Registration will be available via the Department of Education [calendar](#). For more information, contact Sarah White at [sarah.white@iowa.gov](mailto:sarah.white@iowa.gov)





## Legal Lessons

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

### My kindergartner is an alien. Again.

As we get ready to launch a new school year, I am steadily preparing to send my youngest off to school every day and all day like his big sister. This brings back memories of when I sent Sophia off for her first year of kindergarten.

I remember thinking what a new and exciting adventure this would be. I had visions of the great conversations we would have when she got home from school and her talking about how great her day was.

At that time, I had no idea how much work it would be in the first year for both of us. For the first few months, Sophia was exhausted and of course mommy was exhausted, too. For a minute I thought my sweet little girl had her brain invaded by aliens because she was anything but sweet when I picked her up. I can't decide if her first year was harder on me or her.

Looking back on this time I know it was a major transition period for her and it required a lot of patience on my part.

Once we made it through this initial period and got our new routine down, it was smooth sailing and my visions came true, well for the most part. I know this year that Liam will be equally exhausted during his first year and I know patience will be the most important part of getting through the first few months. At least this time I have a little experience with aliens and I know I have made it through once before so I can do it again. Wish me luck battling space invaders! I hope you enjoy a smooth transition back to school.

Now, in preparation for yet another school year in this edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you the changes in equity, a review of student visas, definition of homeless students, and an appeal decision on religious music in schools.

### Changes in Equity

The Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) are issuing new guidance on three policies and related procedures related to educational equity based on guidance provided by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education. Because of the timing of the release of this new guidance, districts will have up to one year to implement the changes to current policies and procedures. By Sept. 1, 2016, districts will be accountable for implementing new policies and procedures that align with this guidance.



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# Legal Lessons continued

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The following graphics outline prior guidance and the new guidance for 2015-16:

Prior Guidance	New for 2015-2016
<p><b>Annual and Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination.</b></p> <p>Prior to August 2015, the guidance for the publication of the annual and continuous notice of nondiscrimination indicated a district could use the same terminology for both notices.</p>	<p><b>Annual and Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination.</b></p> <p>Beginning Sept. 1, the new guidance for the publication of the annual and continuous notice of nondiscrimination indicates there are two different notice requirements:</p> <p>The annual notice of nondiscrimination must be published prior to the beginning of each school year; must include all of the protected classes; the name, title, address, telephone number and email address of person(s) designated to coordinate Title IX and Section 504 compliance; the district's grievance procedure; and must include a brief summary of the recipient's program offerings and admissions criteria for career and technical education programs.</p> <p>The continuous notice of nondiscrimination must include all of the protected classes; the name, title, address, telephone number and email address of person(s) designated to coordinate Title IX and Section 504 compliance; and the district's grievance procedure. Continuous notice requirements is met by prominently publishing the nondiscrimination notice on an ongoing basis in all major district publications.</p> <p>The new 2015-16 Guidance for Nondiscrimination Notices can be found soon <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

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# Legal Lessons continued

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<p><b>Civil Rights Grievance Procedure.</b></p> <p>Prior to August 2015, the IASB sample policy and related procedures described a four-step process for filing a grievance related to discrimination.</p>	<p><b>Civil Rights Grievance Procedure.</b></p> <p>Beginning Sept. 1, the new IASB sample policy and related procedures include steps required by OCR. The new procedures have been simplified and align more closely with related bullying and harassment complaint procedures.</p> <p>Related IASB Sample Policies: 102 Series</p>
<p><b>Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures.</b></p> <p>Prior to August 2015, the IASB sample policy for procedures to report complaints related to bullying and harassment included a first step for the complainant to “Communicate to the harasser that the individual expects the behavior to stop, if the individual is comfortable doing so.”</p>	<p><b>Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures.</b></p> <p>Beginning Sept. 1, the new IASB sample policy and related procedures will remove this first step based on guidance from OCR and research in best practice. The complaint procedure aligns more closely with related grievance procedures in the case of discriminatory harassment.</p> <p>Related IASB Sample Policies: 104 Series</p>

**Student visas**

We are revisiting student visas. The most important thing to know about students with visas is that the governing law is not education law. This area is regulated by the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). If there is an issue, you are strongly encouraged to contact DHS. That being said, here is a short explanation of the different visa categories and what that means for enrollment of the student.

**Students with J-1 Visas.** These are foreign exchange students who are sponsored by a Rotary club or some other sponsor. Since foreign exchange students are not residents of the district, they can attend school in any district without regard to where the host family lives and they do not fill out open enrollment papers. Districts do not receive any state funding for enrolling these students and districts do not charge tuition to these students. Under state law, these students are immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics. Although districts are not required to enroll a student with a J-1 visa, the Department encourages that districts consider doing so.

**Students with F-1 Visas.** Students with F1 visas are not considered foreign "exchange" students. For F1 stu-

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dents, the school becomes the sponsor. This means that the school must be registered with the federal SEVIS, which stands for Student Exchange Visitor Information System. There is a cost to register. Federal law also requires that the school fill out a new I20 form so that Department of Human Services will know that a new school is willing to take on this student and be his or her sponsor. Federal law requires the school to charge tuition from F1 students. One little state law quirk is that while J1 students are immediately eligible for sports, F1 students are considered transfer students, so if the student plays athletics the student must sit out 90 days.

**Students with B-2 or Similar Dependent Visas (those that end in the number 2).** These students may not be enrolled in school without changing their visa status. Under 8 CFR 214.2(b)(7), an individual on a B-1 or B-2 visa is specifically prohibited from study in the United States while on that visa. It does not matter if the student is here in Iowa with a parent or guardian and residing in your school district. That student must obtain another visa status before he or she can enroll or risk having the visa revoked. Here is a link regarding how to obtain a different [visa status](#).

**Immigrant Students (non-visa holders).** The first three categories above deal with non-immigrant students; that is, students who do not intend to make the United States their permanent home. It is perfectly legal to ask for the visa status of a non-immigrant student. On the other hand, immigrant students are those who reside in the U.S. with the intention that the residency be permanent. Districts are to consider only whether such students and their families reside in the district. If yes, districts are absolutely forbidden to ask about whether the student and family are in the U.S. legally. Pursuant to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Plyler v. Doe*, districts provide a tuition-free education and all educational programming and services that are provided to other resident students.

For more information on the Student Exchange and Visitor Program, click [here](#).

## Definition of homeless students

During tough economic times, schools see a rise of homeless youth, and many schools have raised the question of who is considered to be a "homeless youth." The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 (reauthorized in January 2002) – Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act – Sec. 725 is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of homeless children and youth.

The definition of the term "homeless children and youth" is as follows:

- Means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
- Includes the following:
  - ◇ Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or awaiting foster care placement;
  - ◇ Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is public or private not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
  - ◇ Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train

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stations, or similar settings; and

- ◇ Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purpose of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in the first and third clause.

In Iowa, the rules regarding Education for Homeless children are located in [281--Iowa Administrative Code 33](#). These rules add further guidance to school districts regarding education of homeless children and youth and cover the following:

- A homeless child or youth of ages 3-21;
- A child who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:
  - ◇ a child who is sharing the housing of others (includes doubled-up families) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
  - ◇ a child living in a hotel, motel, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations;
  - ◇ a child living in an emergency or transitional shelter;
  - ◇ a child who is abandoned in a hospital;
  - ◇ a child who is awaiting foster care placement;
  - ◇ a child who has a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
  - ◇ a child who is living in a car, park, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting;
  - ◇ a migratory child/youth who qualifies as homeless because of the living circumstances described above;
  - ◇ or youth who have run away or youth being forced to leave home.

### **Educational Rights of Homeless Youth**

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there;
- Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed, or the school in which the child was last enrolled;
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin;
- Enroll in school immediately, even if there are missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records;
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for transfer of records;
- Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services;
- Have access to free school meals/lunch programs;
- Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited.

Every Iowa public school district is required to have a liaison for homeless students.

A toolkit for the liaison as well as more detailed information about the McKinney-Vento Act and [Iowa Administrative Code chapter 33](#) is available on the [Homeless Education webpage](#).

### **Religious music appeal decision**

In a recent appeal to the State Board of Education, the Board in a 5-3 decision upheld the decision of the local school district to continue its current practices of the school choir performing "In This Very Room" among other religious songs during choir performances and performing a Church Tour. The appellants argued that these practices convey a preference for Christianity

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and as such violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In reviewing governmental action for a violation of the Establishment Clause, we apply a three-prong test set out in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602, 612-613 (1971), and its progeny. After applying these prongs to the facts and circumstances in this case, the State Board found the district correctly applied the Establishment Clause jurisprudence to the facts and as such the district has not abused its discretion in choosing to continue its current practices. The State Board is required to affirm the decision of the local board unless the local board's decision is "unreasonable and contrary to the best interest of education." *In re Jesse Bachman*, 13 D.o.E. App. Dec. 363 (1996). Thus, the test is *reasonableness*. Thus, the Board upheld the decision of the local board.

Several State Board members commented that although the district's practices may not be illegal, local school districts should try to be more inclusive of their students when they make decisions related to musical programming. This serves as a reminder to districts to strive to be inclusive and attain equity for all students regardless of their religious preferences. See the link below for the full text of the case cited above.

*In re: Religious Music*, <https://www.educateiowa.gov/documents/appeal-decisions/2015/08/book-27-decision-609>

### **Students with disabilities**

For questions regarding students with disabilities please contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or [thomas.mayes@iowa.gov](mailto:thomas.mayes@iowa.gov).



## Calendar

### Grant aims to improve special education

A \$5.3 million grant received by the Iowa Department of Education will be used to get more students with disabilities to meet their reading benchmarks by the end of third grade.

The program focuses on Specially Designed Instruction, in which the delivery of instruction is designed to maximize the educational experience for all students. The grant is specifically aimed at students on Individualized Education Programs, or IEPs. The program will focus on learners in preschool through the third grade. [Read more.](#)

- September 1 • New Regional Academy applications due
- September 1 • Vehicle Information System update due
- September 4 • Exhibits and requests for SBRC for October 6 hearing deadline
- September 8 • Fall BEDS opens
- September 8 • Fall BEDS Staff opens
- September 15 • CAR, SES, Transportation Reports due
- September 20 • Facilities, Elections, and Sales Tax Data Collection due
- October 30 • Fall BEDS due
- October 30 • Fall BEDS Staff due
- October 30 • Operational Sharing due (Must have Fall BEDS Staff completed By October 15)

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