



School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

June 2018

TLC end-of-year report due June 29

The Teacher Leadership and Compensation End-Of-Year Report is due on June 29.

Below are links to assist you in the reporting process:

[TLC Webpage](#) - Contains the recorded End-of-Year Reporting Webinar and a list of supporting resources.

[End-of-Year Report](#) in Survey Monkey

[Resources](#)

For questions or support contact Lora Rasey at 515-419-2088 or lora.rasey@iowa.gov.



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Fifty more visits, five new lessons

I have visited roughly 50 school districts in each of my three years as director of the Iowa Department of Education. These visits are the best part of my job. They allow me to connect the dots between policy and practice and to identify ways in which the Department can better support schools in providing excellent educational opportunities.

Like many educators, I find that the end of a school year provides the opportunity for reflection. Following my first year as director, I reflected on the [challenges and opportunities](#) facing our schools, all of which are still true two years later. Last year, I shared [five lessons](#) I learned in my school visits. This year, I'm adding five new understandings to the mix.



Director Ryan Wise

Career and technical education (CTE) is for all students.

Earlier this year, the Department published articles on how CTE programs are [preparing students for post-secondary success](#) and [helping build Iowa's talent pipeline](#) for the careers of today and tomorrow. As was noted in these articles, CTE programs prepare students for a wide range of careers, including agriculture, business, computer science, advanced manufacturing, engineering, health care, and culinary arts. I have observed powerful examples of each of these this year, including students building a house in Carlisle, operating a school-based restaurant in West Bend-Mallard (I recommend the strawberry bruschetta!), and creating businesses like Rocket Manufacturing in Rock Valley and Big Cat Industries in Logan-Magnolia. These programs shatter the myth of vocational education programs tracking academically challenged students into low-quality classes. Today's CTE programs in Iowa offer high-quality learning opportunities for all students.

Delivering a well-rounded education is critical in preparing students for post-secondary success Iowa's recently approved [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) plan emphasizes the importance of a well-rounded education. This isn't just lip-service to

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IDEA Part B Data Profiles available for districts and AEA's

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

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

For more information contact:

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

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

Continued from page 1 disciplines and activities that were often overshadowed during the days of No Child Left Behind. As I've visited schools and attended events around the state, I'm constantly reminded of the important role the arts and extra-curricular activities play in preparing students for post-secondary success. As a member of the Iowa High School Athletic Association Board, I attended state tournaments in soccer, baseball, football, wrestling, basketball and track and witnessed individual and team performances that created indelible memories for students and instilled lessons like the importance of integrity and perseverance. I also watched outstanding fine arts performances like the Des Moines Roosevelt High School Bridges2Harmony group at a Martin Luther King Day event and the student-directed "Friday Night Lights" production at Waukee High School. These opportunities help students develop learning and leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

Iowa's statewide focus on early literacy is making a positive impact in every elementary school.

In 2012, Iowa enacted legislation that elevated the importance of early childhood literacy. Schools responded by implementing an early warning system to identify and support students at-risk of not becoming proficient readers, strengthening the literacy instruction provided to all students, monitoring student progress, and communicating with families. This approach has been universal in all of the schools I've visited. As I've mentioned before, the share of students who met or surpassed the state benchmark on a screening assessment increased three percentage points in 2016-17, following a four percentage point gain in 2015-16. As we await data from the 2017-18 school year, I'm confident the efforts I see in schools will continue to move us in the right direction.

Small, rural schools can provide big opportunities

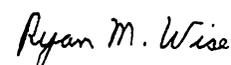
I have visited many schools where the number of square miles covered nearly approaches the number of students served. Rural districts often face acute challenges of declining enrollment, recruiting teachers and administrators, and accessing services. While these issues can lead to district reorganizations, they can also spark partnerships and creativity that provide students great learning experiences. For example, students in a web design/introduction to programming course in Kingsley-Pierson demonstrated their technology skills in an [interview](#) with me, Edgewood-Colesburg teachers and administrators described the dozens of work-based learning and internship opportunities they've created for their students, and the small West Central school district highlighted that in the past four years, 22 students have earned degrees from the local community college at the same time they earned their high school diploma.

Student voice is a key component of school improvement.

Giving students more ownership over their learning and providing them with authentic opportunities to shape the future of their schools is critical in increasing student engagement and in improving student learning. In addition to the student-driven CTE projects I mentioned, I saw students play an active role in the strategic planning and continuous improvement process in the Pella Community School District and I met with student leadership groups in the Ar-We-Va, Eastern Allamakee, and Decorah school districts. In each of these schools, and in many others, students were considered active participants in ensuring their education met their current and future needs.

As this school year draws to a close, I again want to send a sincere thank you to all teachers, administrators, school boards and community members for all you do to continually strengthen the quality of education your students receive. I wish you all a summer filled with rest and reflection.

[Editor's note: View photos of Director Wise's trips around Iowa in the past year.](#)



New members join State Board of Education

Joshua Byrnes, Kimberly Wayne, and Fez Zafar (student member) have joined the State Board of Education. The State Board is made up of nine voting members who serve six-year terms and one non-voting student member who serves up to a two-year term.



Joshua Byrnes

Joshua Byrnes of Osage is the general manager of Osage Municipal Utilities. Josh spent 8.5 years teaching high school science and over 10 years as an administrator in the community college system. He was also an Iowa State Representative for three terms where he served as the Iowa House Transportation Chair. He received a master's degree in educational leadership from Winona State University, a B.A. degree in biology from Luther College, and completed some Ph.D. coursework in educational leadership from Iowa State University.

Kimberly Wayne of Des Moines is the regional manager of Quality and Continuous Improvement at the Siegwirk Company. Kimberly is a doctoral candidate in educational leadership at Drake University. She earned a master's of business administration degree from Iowa State University and a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University. She has a passion for empowering youth and founded Jewels Academy, an informal STEM enrichment organization for underrepresented young women.



Kimberly Wayne

Fez Zafar of Clive is the student State Board member. He attends Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, where he participates in student government, varsity swimming, and Original Oratory Speech and Debate. Fez is also the founder of Rider Films and serves as an International Inclusion and Diversity Ambassador at Roosevelt High School. Outside of school, Fez founded the non-profit foundation, Site for Smiles and Smarts, to raise awareness and funds for the education and well-being of children here in Central Iowa and around the world. He is an avid national award-winning filmmaker and was recently recognized at the White House. Fez also has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.



Fez Zafar

The other State Board members are Brooke Axiotis of Des Moines, Michael Bearden of Gladbrook, Bettie Bolar of Marshalltown, Angela English of Dyersville, Michael Knedler of Council Bluffs, Mike May of Spirit Lake, and Mary Ellen Miller of Wayne County. Brooke Axiotis serves as President, and Michael Bearden serves as Vice President of the board.

Kindergarten programming for 2018-19 enrollment

As districts prepare for enrollment for the 2018-19 school year, the Department of Education has continued to receive questions about kindergarten type programming. Kindergarten includes programming for children who are kindergarten age eligible based on birthdate rules (five years of age on or before September 15) [IAC 281-12.5(2); Iowa Code 282.3].

An age-eligible kindergarten student generates 1.0 funding on Certified Enrollment if the student is reported with grade level “KG” and is participating in a kindergarten program (alternative or transitional kindergarten included) that follows the expectations for kindergarten including curriculum and assessments aligned to Iowa Core, instructional hours/days, and the implementation of Early Literacy Implementation (ELI) requirements [IAC 279.68].



If children will be participating in a mixed-age classroom with both Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programming (SWVPP) and kindergarten programming being implemented simultaneously, expectations for both Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 16 for SWVPP and Chapter 12 for K-12 would need to be addressed.

For more information, see also [Appendix D](#) of the Early Literacy Implementation Technical Assistance Companion Document. For questions, contact Kimberly Villotti at 515-339-5519 or kimberly.villotti@iowa.gov.

Instructional materials from the Iowa Department for the Blind

Students who are blind or visually impaired may need specially formatted learning materials that can be acquired through Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB). Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) often coordinate ordering these Braille or Large Print materials for individual students; however, the student’s school team can support success with this process.



Rendering textbooks and worksheets into Braille or Large Print formats is time-consuming, so it is important that districts have the IDB guidelines on submitting materials which makes the process as efficient as possible.

The Library Services at IDB created a [Handbook for Ordering Instructional Materials](#) that is available online. This handbook details the ordering process and includes an order form to submit with materials. Key points include submitting materials as early as possible for the next school year, and if a textbook is to be rendered into Braille, a hard copy must be included with the order.

NASDTEC Clearinghouse available to school districts

The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Clearinghouse is used by educator certification/licensure agencies to keep students safe by screening out-of-state licensure applicants to identify those who have had an adverse action taken against their certificates. The NASDTEC Clearinghouse is now available to public and private local school districts.

Why is the Clearinghouse important?

Since most adverse actions taken against an educator’s certificate are not prosecuted as criminal offenses, the educator’s misconduct will not show up in a traditional criminal background check. By including the NASDTEC Clearinghouse in its screening of certified and non-certified applicants, a school district can make fully informed hiring decisions. Visit the [NASDTEC website](#) for more information about the NASDTEC Clearinghouse. Submit the online form and NASDTEC will be glad to answer your questions and provide additional information including cost.

Support the growing number of English Learners in Iowa

More than ever, it is important for all educational leaders to understand how to support the needs of English Learners to ensure their academic success in our schools. David Cassel Johnson, Associate Professor of Foreign Language and ESL Education at the University of Iowa indicates that the need for preparing educators across the state is great.

According to Johnson, “As the numbers of ELLs grow, educators increasingly realize they need to accommodate them but are not necessarily equipped to do so. This is true all over the country, really, but especially in places (like Iowa) where the numbers of ELLs have increased so dramatically and recently. This raises a big question about equity and I think districts are aware of that.”

He further reminds us of the growing numbers of English Learners to support noting that in 2017, the English learner student population had increased 292% over the previous 20 years while the native English speaking population had decreased. This certainly bolsters the idea that all educators need to have skills to support English learners and their success in Iowa schools.

Plan to attend the inspiring and enlightening 14th annual Our Kids Conference: Speaking for All Learners, scheduled for June 12 and 13. Learn how to support and guide teachers of English Learners from a national expert in the field. Ayana Cooper will be one of the highlighted keynote speakers and will also offer breakout sessions geared toward instructional leaders.

For more information see [Our Kids registration and website](#). Registration for the 2-day conference is \$150 and includes continental breakfast and lunch on both days.



Increase student achievement for English Learners

Engaging parents and families of English Learners in educating their children has always been best practice. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has taken this a step further as Title III now requires districts to provide family engagement.

The general goal of this requirement is to assist parents and families to become active participants in the education of their children. When parents and families understand and are engaged in the efforts of the school, students are more successful. Not only do students gain English language proficiency more quickly, but they attain greater competence in academic learning. Family engagement activities must be deliberate and part of a greater plan to engage families. As you engage families of English Learners, consider the following basic guidelines for success:

Family engagement should:

- Establish mutual respect and trust between families and educators
- Be based on needs assessment; there is no one size fits all for family engagement
- Support families from preschool through grade 12.
- Focus on student learning and achievement

For questions about family engagement or topics related to English Learners, contact Pam McDonnell at (515) 380-5115 or pam.mcdonnell@iowa.gov , or [Family Engagement Resources \(TESOL\)](#).

Is coaching mathematics different than other content? Yes!

[Aligned Coaching Mathematics Tool](#)

This tool names the specific actions (Core Actions) and behavioral indicators (Indicators) to look for to determine whether students are getting to the intent of the mathematics standards through the content of the lesson. This set of observable actions are designed to help teachers, coaches, and peers identify evidence of where and when instruction aligned to college- and career-ready standards, including the Common Core, is taking place.

1. [Digital](#) and [Print](#) version
2. Used to:
 - a. Understand the relationship between the instructional Shifts
 - b. Identify teacher and student actions that may be present in aligned lessons
 - c. Observe and reflect on the alignment of a lesson using the Coaching Tool
3. Additional resource: [Beyond the Lesson Guide](#)
4. <http://bit.ly/IACSLU>

Implementing the Shifts in the Mathematic Standards <http://bit.ly/iacoblog>. For questions, contact April Pforts at (515) 314-6243 or april.pforts@iowa.gov.

Iowa Learning Online fall enrollment now open

Iowa Learning Online (ILO) is currently accepting enrollments for the fall 2018 semester. With more than 70 course segments available, including five world languages, there is something for everyone. View the ILO website to see our [course offerings](#) or [sign up](#).

To better meet individual student needs and diverse schedules of Iowa schools, ILO will provide two separate cohorts during the term offset by two weeks. For each term, after the three week grace period, the local school will be billed a \$260 fee per enrollment. The fall 2018 Cohort A is from Aug. 23 to Dec. 19 (early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. on Aug. 29). The fall 2018 Cohort B is from Sept. 6 to Jan. 11 (early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. on Sept. 12).

Planning to start your own online courses? Iowa Learning Online is here to help schools take the first step to offering their own online service with [ILO's Branch Out](#).



Nutrition and Health Services

School nutrition summer training

Iowa Department of Education Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are partnering to hold school meal trainings this summer. Course description and details can be found at the [registration link](#).

Encourage your director to attend.

- Procurement Basics – June 5: An introduction to school nutrition procurement requirements.
- ServSafe ®– June 19: At least one employee at each school location is required to be a Certified Food Protection Manager.
- HACCP 101 – June 20: School nutrition programs are required to have an up-to-date food safety or HACCP plan.
- Manager Update - June 28: Keynote speaker Katie Wilson will speak on leadership. Katie has a wealth of school nutrition experience to share from being a director, Executive Director of the Institute for Child Nutrition, and Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.
- Healthy School Meals – July 31 – Aug. 1: A training on nutrition and meal pattern requirements.
- New Manager Orientation: July 31 – Aug. 2: Includes an extra day specifically for newer school nutrition directors.

[Emergency operations plans: What you need to know](#)

As schools across the state begin ramping up their high-quality emergency operations plans, the Iowa Department of Education is putting together a series of initiatives, materials and trainings, as well as participating in state and national task forces.

[Changing workplace demands rethinking K-12 curriculum](#)

[Future Ready Learning](#) one-day conference is aimed at connecting careers and civic life to instruction of the Iowa Academic Standards. The conference is designed for curriculum leaders, including members of the statewide content area leadership teams, administrators, curriculum directors, teacher leaders, and teachers.

[Want to teach the natural resources of Iowa?](#)

Want to up your game in teaching the natural resources of Iowa? Here's a class for you.

[Students selected as Presidential Scholars](#)

Three Iowa students have been named 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholars. The three were among 161 scholars named as presidential scholars across the United States.

[3 R's of summer: Rest, recreation and reading](#)

As summer break approaches, thoughts turn to summer activities. Among them, reading – whether for pleasure or professional or both – is a favorite among educators.

[Student member joins State Board](#)

Fez Zafar, a 16-year-old sophomore at Des Moines' Roosevelt High School, has joined the State Board of Education as its student member. The appointment lasts for up to two years.

[Children's mental health: Raising hope, ending stigma](#)

For the nation, May 10 marks National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. But for those who work daily with Iowa's school children, every day is all about the mental health of those young people.

[Report: Significant growth in high school CTE courses for college-credit](#)

More secondary career and technical education programs across the state now include college-credit courses that give high school students a jump start on industry credentials and college degrees, according to a report released by the Iowa Department of Education.

[Schools honored for improving the impact of AP classes](#)

Three high schools are being honored by the College Board for their efforts to increase access to Advanced Placement (AP) coursework while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students scoring three or higher on AP Exams.

[Upping the ante in science classroom](#)

Educators are focusing heavily on future ready practices in their classrooms.

[Dubuque school tapped as 'Green Ribbon School'](#)

St. Columbkille Elementary School in Dubuque elementary school has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Green Ribbon School.

[Literacy efforts prove to be a moving target for this school](#)

Principal Candace Lynch likens her school's previous literacy efforts to teaching students how to ride a bike. This analogy suits the efforts of many schools across the state: You can teach the parts, but until you teach the whole – recognizing there are many components to effective reading and not a one-size-fits-all approach – many students are never going to get into that bike's seat.

[Teachers can visit Living History Farms June 22 for free](#)

As a thank you to all of the teachers who put in the time and effort to bring learning to life for their students, Living History Farms is offering free admission to all teachers who present a school ID on Friday, June 22.

[Iowa earns approval for state education plan under ESSA](#)

The U.S. Department of Education approved Iowa's plan for school accountability and support under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

[Districts take stock of science standards implementation](#)

Two Iowa districts, Bettendorf Community School District and Davenport Community Schools, are taking steps to improve their science education programs.

[Teacher leaders need to connect the pieces to see the whole](#)

Teacher leaders, to what extent have you had the opportunity to work effectively within your system and been able to understand your school improvement process and the changes leveraged by teacher leadership?

[Systemic Thinking](#)

For the Hampton-Dumont Community School District's [Teacher Leadership and Compensation \(TLC\)](#) program, the role of TLC coordinator has been critical in achieving a systemic approach to school improvement.

[Outgoing Teacher of the Year: 'This will change your life'](#)

The outgoing 2017 Teacher of the Year is ending her tenure May 31 – a tenure that involved driving up to 10,000 miles over Iowa's roads, meeting some 5,000 people along the way, delivering 50 keynote speeches.



Legal Lessons

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

Give me a break

It's official – I'm done with school – and I am not even in school anymore. I can always tell that it's time for summer break in the last few weeks before school is out. The weather is nice and the kids just want to play outside as the sun sets. They have no interest in homework and honestly I have no interest in making them do their homework. We are all just ready to enjoy a break! I hope you enjoy what little break you get if any – we know you will all be busy over the summer gearing up for a new school year. We will be busy at the Iowa Department of Education working to implement newly passed legislation for the upcoming school year. We have our work cut out for us – so stay tuned.

Now in this short June edition of Legal Lessons I bring you School Safety & Emergency Operations Plans and Good Conduct Policies in Summer.

School Safety & Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)

Now that the legislative session is over the Department is getting questions on Senate File 2364 which mandated that all Iowa school districts and accredited non-public schools develop a [high-quality emergency operations plan](#) by June 30, 2019. Here is the new Legislation: Iowa Code § 280.30 on High-quality school building emergency operations plans. We have good news to share! The Department will be working with the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Iowa Department of Homeland Security (HSEM) to help schools and school districts begin the emergency operations planning process, if you haven't already. With some grant money provided by DHS and HSEM and collaboration with our partners at the Area Education Agencies and the Iowa School Safety Alliance, we will be working on the following initiatives:

- 1) **Behavioral Threat Assessment Training** – Training has already been offered at one AEA for Behavioral Threat Assessment from the U.S. Department of Education and REMS-TA (Readiness Emergency Management for Schools – Technical Assistance). The Department will continue to work to get more training set up at every AEA so that all schools can participate in this beneficial training.
- 2) **See Something, Say Something Iowa** – Prior to the 2018-2019 school year, all Iowa schools public and nonpublic will receive See Something, Say Something Iowa posters to display within their schools. All Iowa high schools will also receive banners. We will also be pushing out a See Something, Say Something Iowa social media and public service announcement campaign. The goal is to raise awareness on reporting of local terrorist activities including school shootings.
- 3) **EOP Planning Workshops** - In the fall of 2018, the Department along with DHS will also be offering training at every AEA to get schools started on the emergency operations planning process. This will be just the beginning of the process. We are planning to contract with a school safety contractor to oversee the planning process and assist schools in this process over the next year.
- 4) **School Safety Contractor** - Hiring a contractor to help schools with the EOP planning process as described above.

We have a lot of great initiatives we are working on in school safety to help schools. We are looking forward to helping you get your plans in place. More guidance will be forthcoming. In the meantime, here are some resources to get you started on [Emergency Operations Planning](#).

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Legal Lessons continued

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Good Conduct Policies – In Summer

Do you think good conduct rules don't apply over the summer? Out of state? Out of the country? If the activity is legal? THINK AGAIN. I wanted to share this old case with you that serves as a reminder that even though a student is on summer break, a school's good conduct rule can subject the student to discipline for behavior over the summer in the right set of circumstances.

In 2000 the Iowa Court of Appeals held that a district's good conduct rule applied to the conduct that occurred over the summer, outside the state, outside the country, and was otherwise legal. The facts of this case involved a 17-year-old student who drank beer in Germany (where the legal age to drink is 16) while on a summertime trip arranged by the school district, approved by the board, and chaperoned by a high school teacher. All students were informed before they left on the trip that if any of them drank beer or alcohol while in Germany, they would be punished under the district's good conduct rule. Finally, since this was not the student's first violation of the good conduct rule, the court found the board's punishment of a 12-month suspension from all extra-curricular activities was not unreasonable.

Here is a link to the full case: [*Martin v. Marshalltown Community School District, #00-154 \(Iowa App. 2000\)*](#).

Students with Disabilities

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

Calendar

- June 15 • School information update application closes for publics
- June 15 • Nonpublic transportation reimbursement claim due
- June 22 • Spring BEDS closes
- June 29 • TLC end-of-year report due
- June 30 • Last day to pay PSEO tuition due to eligible post secondary institutions
- July 1 • Vehicle information system update due
- July 1 • Joint employment whole grade sharing application due



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