



School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

May 2018

Build skills in instruction
for English learners

The 14th Annual Our Kids *Speaking for all Learners* conference has several keynotes and breakout sessions geared specifically to preschool teachers and instructional leaders in teaching and leading instruction for English learners. There is a preschool teacher strand, K-12 general education teacher strand and an instructional leader/administrator strand during this inspiring and enlightening two days of learning.

There will be three keynote addresses and many breakout sessions geared to a variety of instructional roles. Forward this information to your PK-12 content and general education teachers, instructional coaches, and leaders.

For more information, see [Our Kids Registration and Web-site](#). Registration is \$150 and includes continental breakfast and lunch on both days. For questions, contact Pam McDonnell at (515) 380-5115 or pam.mcdonnell@iowa.gov.



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Education, business: Together adapting to a whole new world

My kids and I recently watched the 1983 movie *War Games*, in which a young Matthew Broderick accidentally hacks into the United States' nuclear missile system and nearly launches World War III. While the film seemed wildly futuristic when I saw it in the theater as an 8-year-old, the technology central to the storyline (a home computing system complete with giant floppy discs, an old school dot-matrix printer, a robotic computer voice, and a phone modem) is obsolete today. As we sat in our living room streaming the movie via high-speed internet, I was again reminded of the pace of change in today's world.



Director Ryan Wise

I'm encouraged about Iowa's ability to adapt to change when I see schools preparing students to lead in an environment that can barely be imagined today. A powerful example of this was on display at the [Governor's 2018 Future Ready Iowa Summit](#), which was held on April 3 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. For me, the highlight of the day was a showcase of student work-based learning projects. The student projects demonstrated both the power of new technology and the evolving skill sets our students need to be successful beyond high school graduation.

For example, students from the [Waukee APEX](#) program eagerly explained their participation in a project with Accumold, an Iowa-based company that creates micro injection molded components for electronics, medical devices and other emerging technologies. These students had the opportunity to solve a real-world design challenge faced on the company's production line.

Cutting-edge projects like this are not just limited to urban and suburban communities. Creston Community School District partnered with local

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May is National Mental Health Awareness Month

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about mental health conditions and mental wellness for all. On May 30, Governor Reynolds will sign a proclamation establishing May as Iowa Mental Health Month. This topic is vital to schools, as one in five children ages 13-18 has or will have a serious mental illness, and 50 percent of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 ([NAMI](#)). To support schools in their efforts to promote mental wellness and respond appropriately to mental health conditions, the [Iowa Department of Education's website](#) provides a variety of resources. One such resource is [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) (YMHFA), an 8-hour course designed to equip adults with the basic skills needed to identify and provide initial support to youth who may be experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis. For more information about YMHFA, contact Nancy Ankeny-Hunt at (515) 326-1031 or nancy.ankeny-hunt@iowa.gov.

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radio station KSIB to live stream school and community events on their YouTube channel, [Panther TV](#). I enjoyed hearing high school students and community members jointly describe their enthusiasm for the project.

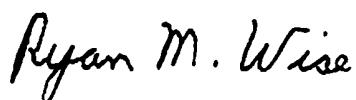
In addition, other rural schools are working to provide more students additional learning opportunities. For example, students from Iowa BIG North (which is a partnership between the Osage, Charles City, New Hampton, and Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock Community School Districts) partnered with a local business to create an innovative [certified nursing assistant program](#) designed to fit the busy schedules of high school students.

And in Danville, students designed a [museum exhibit](#) on Anne Frank's pen pal relationship with two local sisters. The end goal of this work is to raise funds to ship a World War II era railroad car from the country of Macedonia to Iowa, restore it, and fill it with 1.5 million postcards to represent the 1.5 million children who were victims of the Holocaust.

As I travel the state, I see examples like these every week, in which students are actively engaging with businesses to incorporate new technologies and make a difference in their communities. The [Governor's STEM BEST Program](#) and the [Iowa Work-Based Learning Intermediary Network](#) have helped facilitate many of these opportunities. And in the year ahead, the Department of Education will partner with the Area Education Agency system and Iowa Workforce Development to develop and implement Governor Reynolds' [Executive Order 1](#). This initiative will create the Iowa Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning, which will facilitate distance K-12 school-business partnerships and create an inventory of established and newly created work-based learning opportunities.

While we are now decades beyond *War Games* era technology, we face many of the same global challenges. There is no limit to the opportunities Iowa schools can create for their students to harness the power of technology and tackle these challenges. In addition, Iowa business and industry leaders are becoming engaged partners in this effort. As Brandon Busteed, the executive director for Education and Workforce Development for Gallup, said at the Future Ready Summit, "Iowa is easily the best ecosystem of K-12 educators and business leaders in the country."

I look forward to the work, and partnerships, ahead.



Title II, Part A—Supporting effective instruction

Title II A funds are intended to be used within a fiscal year. If public school districts anticipate having unspent funds by June 30, a request for an extension to utilize funds for up to additional six months is required and must be submitted to the Iowa Department of Education by June 15. Submit challenges for spending funds, and a description of how these funds are going to be spent by December 30. Nonpublic schools unable to spend funds by June 30 will need to submit challenges for spending funds and a plan for professional development services. The request for an extension will need to be submitted to the public school Title II A official by June 8. The public school will determine if the plan is allowable, necessary, and reasonable.

Districts must submit Title II, Part A claims via www.iowagrants.gov by July 16. Districts can upload claims throughout the school year. Make sure to upload a cover letter and a financial general ledger showing expenditures and finance codes. Below are the steps to upload claims as a district user:

1. Go to <https://www.iowagrants.gov>
2. My Grants
3. Title II A Application FY 18
4. Claims
5. Add
6. Type: Reimbursement
7. Enter Reporting Period
8. Save
9. Return to Components
10. Reimbursement
 1. Enter info
 2. Save
 3. Mark as Complete
11. Reimbursement Signature
 1. Enter Info
 2. Save
 3. Mark as Complete
12. Reimbursement Documentation
 1. Add
 2. Attach general ledger (you will need to attach the general ledger showing finance codes and a cover letter requesting reimbursement for the specific amount)
 3. Save
 4. Mark as Complete
 5. Preview
 6. Double check info
13. Submit



For questions, contact Isbelia Arzola at 515-326-5962 or isbelia.arzola@iowa.gov.

Bullying and Harassment Investigation on-line training

An on-line Bullying and Harassment Investigation training is now available on Area Education Agency (AEA) Learning Online. The module was developed by Iowa Safe Schools, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education, to provide guidance on the requirements and best practices for the investigation of bullying and harassment incidents in schools.

The module is provided at no cost to Iowa district and AEA employees. The training is intended for school personnel who are responsible for investigating reports of bullying and harassment at their building or district. Individuals interested in completing the module can find it at www.AEAlearningonline.org. Individuals will be asked to create a log-in to register for the course if he/she does not already have one. The title of the course is, Bullying and Harassment Investigation Training for Schools. For additional information, contact Barb Anderson at (515)725-9261 or barb.anderson@iowa.gov.



Gender violence and bullying prevention

The Center for Violence Prevention (CVP) and the Governor's Office of Bullying Prevention Task Force, in partnership with the



Iowa Department of Education and other Pre-K – 12 representatives, released its [Primary Prevention Action Report for Iowa Schools and Communities](#). This report expands on Iowa's harassment and bullying law, [Iowa Law 280.28](#), by examining current prevention practices and challenges that schools and communities experience, along with a recommended framework that supports both school and community leaders to increase the likelihood that gender violence and bullying will be significantly reduced or eliminated. For additional information, contact Alan Heisterkamp at (319) 273-3545 or alan.heisterkamp@uni.edu.

Gauge your current cybersecurity, productivity and performance



- Can your current security infrastructure accurately detect today's sophisticated attacks?*
- Do you know how applications are being utilized on your network?*
- How does your enterprise security stack up against similar organizations?*

The Cyber Threat Assessment can provide solutions to your unanswered questions. Iowa Communications Network (ICN) is partnering with LightEdge and Fortinet to provide authorized users with a free Cyber Threat Assessment test.

ICN will use a FortiGate to monitor key indicators within your network. After several days of gathering information, you will receive a Cyber Threat Assessment Report which is divided into three primary sections: 1) Security and Threat Prevention; 2) User Productivity; and 3) Network Utilization and Performance. For additional information, contact ICN's Account Consultants at ICN.CSS@iowa.gov or visit ICN's [website](#).

Some resources for ‘financial literacy’

Schools across the state are ramping up their efforts to teach students financial literacy, anything from understanding the importance of saving for a rainy day to investing for the long term.

Southeast Polk counselor named PBIS Person of the Year

Kara Buerger, a counselor at Centennial Elementary School in the Southeast Polk Community School District, has been named Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Person of the Year.

Walker receives 2018 Lillian Wald award

Melissa Walker, a consultant with the Iowa Department of Education bureau of nutrition and health services, is the Iowa Public Health Association 2018 Lillian Wald Award recipient.

Iowa’s high school graduation rate is 91 percent

Iowa’s high school graduation rate continues to show long-term progress, although the state experienced a slight decrease in 2017, according to figures released by the Iowa Department of Education.

Survey: What is the climate, culture at your child’s school?

Public school students from fifth through the 12th grade will be participating in a survey this spring that is meant to gauge school climate and culture.

School behavioral assessment training available

The Iowa Department of Education in collaboration with the Iowa School Safety Alliance will be hosting school behavioral threat assessment training that is part of developing comprehensive school emergency operations plans.

Iowa review teams release recommendations to reform developmental education

Two work groups charged with studying ways to reduce the need for developmental college coursework released recommendations that support Iowa’s vision for all students to graduate from high school ready for college and for college students to have the support they need to complete a degree or credential.

Learning opportunities abound this summer

The Iowa Department of Education is offering several learning opportunities this summer, ranging from a special education symposium to an English language institute to a Future Ready Iowa conference.

Students here never ask ‘Why am I learning this?’

Sioux City Community Schools is taking the conventional classroom model and turning it on its head.

Iowa’s U.S. Presidential Scholar Semifinalists

The state of Iowa has 10 semifinalists for the prestigious 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholars program.

Making huge gains with Specially Designed Instruction

Success with Specially Designed Instruction ignites passions, and raises hopes and expectations in Sioux City schools.

Iowa Learning Online fall registration now open

Iowa Learning Online (ILO) has opened registration for fall 2018. With more than 70 course segments available, including five world languages, there is something for everyone. View the ILO website to see [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](#).

Fall 2018 Cohort A: Aug. 23 to Dec. 19 (early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. on Aug. 29)

Fall 2018 Cohort B: Sept. 6 to Jan. 11 (early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. on Sept. 12)

Enrollment is still open for the [summer 2018 term](#) which starts May 23. French and Spanish levels 1 and 2 are available for the first time during summer. For enrollment questions, contact the Iowa Learning Online registrar at (515) 725-2075 or registrar@iowalearningonline.org.

What do we know now about increasing math achievement?

In 2018, we know so much more about what impacts student achievement with the Iowa Core Mathematics Standards. We have resources that have been field tested and are getting results nationally. The majority are available for free because many philanthropists have donated generously to support this work. This is so all students can have access and equity to a good education. See below for the most updated resources that are best practice and supported by research, including several professional development modules already created by national experts that can be adapted to suit your needs.

1. Instructional Time – page 422 <http://bit.ly/IAAIU>
2. Enacted Standards & Curriculum <http://bit.ly/IAESC>
3. Instructional Practice <http://bit.ly/IAIPP2>
4. Instructional Materials <http://bit.ly/IAIMP>

Implementing the Shifts in the Mathematic Standards <http://bit.ly/iacblog>. Please contact April Pforts @ april.pforts@iowa.gov for questions.

Data and Reporting

Spring BEDS opens May 14, certification deadline is June 22

Just like Mother Nature delayed spring this year, Spring BEDS will open on May 14 with a certification deadline of June 22.

Zoom training sessions will be held on May 8 at 10 a.m. or May 10 at 1 p.m. No registration is required and the links along with documentation will be available on the [Spring BEDS webpage](#) soon.

The appropriate staff for districts and buildings should have access to Spring BEDS in the Iowa Education Portal prior to the opening date. Contact local Portal security officers or the Portal Helpdesk to ensure staff have access. For assistance, contact Shelly Neese at (515) 281-3111 or shelly.neese@iowa.gov.

Bullying and harassment data collection moved to spring BEDS

The bullying and harassment collection has been moved to spring BEDS. The requirements and data elements remain unchanged and will be the same as they have been for the past two years. The Department is collecting data aggregated at the district level for all incidents found to be a violation of the law. View [additional information](#) about this collection and the required elements. For questions, contact Meredith MacQuigg at meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov.

Data and Reporting continued

Time for spring Student Reporting in Iowa

Spring SRI is focused primarily on 1) Graduates; 2) Attendance; 3) Non-fall Supplementary Weighting for courses; and 4) Discipline Removals. Spring SRI data are also used for 5) Participation Rate and Full Academic Year calculations for Assessment Accountability and 6) Regular Education Foster Care Claim. For questions, contact an SRI consultant.

Important dates

April 15 - VRF/SRI test sites opened

May 11 - Spring VRF/SRI test sites close

May 15 – Spring VRF/SRI/Assessment Accountability production sites open

June 20 – Spring SRI 2018 certification deadline (public and nonpublic)

June 21 – Spring 2018 Assessment Accountability certification deadline (public districts only)

Upcoming training opportunities for Student Reporting in Iowa

Iowa Assessment Accountability: This Zoom session will walk users through the new Iowa Assessment Accountability (IAA) application. The first live session is scheduled for [May 22 at 10 a.m.](#), with a live repeat session on [May 24 at 1:30 p.m.](#). This new application will be familiar to those that have done Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the past, with some minor changes as to where students are accountable.

Tips and Tricks for Spring SRI: A short Zoom session presenting some helpful hints in preparing and reviewing your spring SRI data. This session will be live on May 23 at 1 p.m. and will be most helpful to newer SRI users.

Non-Fall Supplementary Weighting: A short Zoom session walking through the non-fall supplementary weighting application that will open in May, to be certified in August. This session will be live on [May 23 at 2:30 p.m.](#)

New Users Training for VRF and SRI, 2018-19: Encourage new staff working with Student Reporting in Iowa (data upload and/or report review), Certified Enrollment and/or Supplementary Weighting, to [register](#) and attend Wednesday, Sept 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in B100 in the Grimes Building, Des Moines. More details will be coming.

School Information Update application

The School Information Update application is now available for updating school and district information for the 2018-19 school year. The application is located in the [Iowa Education Portal](#) under EdInfo.

Nonpublic School Update Certification Deadline: May 31

Public School District Update Certification Deadline: June 15

The following Information must be reviewed and updated according to the 2018-19 school year:

District Information	School Information
Address	School name
Phone number	Address
Superintendent name	Principal name and/or email address
Superintendent email address	Grade levels served

Additional actions available in the application include adding a new school, closing a current school, reviewing grade sharing arrangements, and requesting whole grade sharing supplementary weighting. Instructions for completing the application are located on the [School Information Update](#) website. For assistance, contact Margaret Hanson at 515-281-3214 or margaret.hanson@iowa.gov.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Support for IQPPS evidence collection for preschool desk audit

The Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Evidence portion of the Preschool Desk Audit will be scaled statewide for the 2018-19 school year. Every school district that is implementing the IQPPS at any location, including community partners, is required to complete this portion by providing IQPPS evidence in the Preschool Desk Audit between Sept. 15 and Dec. 15. Districts that will receive an onsite IQPPS visit during the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year are exempt from this requirement.

[Guidance for IQPPS Evidence](#) is posted on the [Differentiated Accountability web page](#). There will also be a series of Zoom webinars on this topic. Recordings of the first two webinars will be archived on the [Differentiated Accountability web page](#):

[May 16, at 3:30 p.m.](#)

[Sept. 19, at 3:30 p.m.](#)

[Oct. 18, at 3:30 p.m. \(Q & A\)](#)

[Nov. 7, at 3:30 p.m. \(Q & A\)](#)

For questions about the Preschool Desk Audit, contact Jennifer Adkins at (515) 954-5652 or jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov.

Save the date: Early Care and Education fall institute

The Early Care and Education fall institute is scheduled for Oct. 5-6 at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona. Co-sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, the fall Institute, titled *It Begins with Me*, provides opportunities to learn about early childhood research and initiatives, take advantage of the resources of supporting agencies, and learn from national experts and each other.

The institute is open to all professionals who work with infants and children, from birth to 8- years-old, including staff and consultants from Early ACCESS, area education agencies, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs, Early Childhood Special Education programs, and Shared Visions programs. School administrators, elementary teachers, and other early care educators and providers should also consider attending. For more information, visit the [Iowa AEYC website](#) or contact Betsy Lin at (515) 725-2039 or betsy.lin@iowa.gov

Early Care and Education Fall Institute

iaaeyc

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

October 5-6 2018

Pre-Institute Sessions: October 4

Save the Date

It Begins with Me

"A small change at one point in a complex system can have large effects elsewhere." - Albert Einstein

Mark your calendar! More Information to come.

Nutrition and Health Services

Prescription Drugs Are Still Drugs media campaign



The Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, led by the Iowa Department of Public Health, is working to help reduce the number of youth ages 12-17 and young adults ages 18-25 who misuse prescription drugs.

According to the 2016 Iowa Youth Survey, 1,299 11th graders reported using prescription medications that were not prescribed to them by their doctor or were using prescription medications that were prescribed to them by a doctor different from the directions.

The Prescription Drugs Are Still Drugs media campaign was created by the SPF Rx grant to help youth understand the dangers of prescription drug misuse. [Posters](#), [brochures](#), and two radio ads [Pain Went Away](#) and [No Ann Sanders](#) are available and free for schools to use. Contact Janet Nelson, SPF Rx project director, at Janet.Nelson@IDPH.iowa.gov to request materials.

Iowa Farm to School conference

The Iowa Farm to School Coalition is holding a conference in June for individuals who are interested in Farm to School to share ideas, resources and successes to help grow the farm to school and farm to early care movement in Iowa.

WHEN:

Thursday, June 28 5:30 – 9 p.m.: Social Gathering with Appetizers (optional)

Friday, June 29 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Iowa Farm to School Conference

Saturday, June 30 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Local Breakfast and School Garden Field Trip (optional)

WHERE: FFA Enrichment Center, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy, Ankeny, 50023

COST: \$25 (Thursday and Friday)

[Visit the ISU Extension and Outreach webpage to learn more](#)



Nutrition and Health Services continued

Summer Food Service Program outreach

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program to conduct outreach to households on the availability and location of summer meals.

Why is this important? Learning does not end when school lets out and neither does the need for good nutrition. Summer meals provide a healthy option for all children.

Even if your school does not participate in the Summer Food Service Program, you are required to provide information on summer meal sites in your area. As trusted community organizations, schools are ideal places to market summer meals. Listed below are some ways schools can outreach their own summer meal sites and outreach meal sites in surrounding areas.

- Sending informational flyers home with children.
- Sending letters or emails to parents or guardians.
- Including summer site location information in school newsletters.
- Posting a link to the Summer Food Rocks Site Finder and the National Hunger Hotline phone number and text option on the school's webpage and social media pages.
- Promoting summer meals via the school's robo-call system.
- Promoting summer meals on electronic message boards in front of the schools.

Outreach toolkit materials and templates can be found on the Iowa Department of Education Summer Food Service Program [website](#) under Promotional Resources. There is a new outreach resource available this year via the Prescription for Summer Food and Fun notepads. Access the [Prescription for Summer Food and Fun Outreach Notepad Order Form](#) if you are interested in ordering notepads for use at your school. Flyer templates are also available in the Download Forms section of the [IowaCNP](#). For more information, contact Stephanie Dross at 515-281-4760 or stephanie.dross@iowa.gov.

The image shows two promotional materials side-by-side. On the left is a teal-colored flyer with the text "FRIENDS, FREE MEALS AND FUN!" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this is a sandwich made to look like a face with cucumber slices for eyes, a tomato slice for a nose, and a yellow pepper slice for a mouth. At the bottom of the flyer is a white box containing the text "TEXT 'FOOD' TO 877-877" and "TO FIND FREE SUMMER MEALS NEAR YOU". At the very bottom, it says "Call 1-866-3HUNGRY to learn more." and features the "NOKIDHUNGRY" logo. On the right is a white prescription pad titled "Prescription for Summer Food and Fun". It has fields for "Name" (Kids and Teens), "Ages" (18 and under), and "Available at" (no charge). Below this is the "RX" logo. Further down, it lists "Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 2-1-1", "text "Food" to 877-877", and "or visit www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks". At the bottom, it says "SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM", "Signature _____", "Refill ALL SUMMER LONG", and "This institution is an equal opportunity provider".



Legal Lessons

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

Final countdown

How many more days of school do we have? This is a frequent question in my house this month. I think it means it's time for summer break. By my count, as of today my kids will have only 19 days left of school. Where does the time go? It's already time to sign up for summer camps, swim lessons, and other activities. While you're crossing off the days on your calendar don't forget these legal reminders for the end of the year.

Now, in this May edition of Legal Lessons I bring you the Top 5 Graduation Don'ts, Recent State Board Appeals and New Rules to be Noticed.

Top five graduations DON'Ts

It's that time of year again to revisit the Top Five Graduation don'ts.

1. ***Don't allow sponsored prayer at commencement.*** School districts cannot sponsor prayer at graduation regardless of the form of delivery. This includes the school choir singing a hymn that includes religious references. This does not mean that the school is going to get in trouble if a student speaker spontaneously begins to pray during the middle of his or her commencement speech. As long as school officials do not have prior knowledge of the student's intent to pray it is not considered school sponsored. The district should take affirmative steps to inform all speakers that prayer at a public school graduation is not legal. If, given the district's prior knowledge of the speaker, it is not unreasonable to assume that the speaker may offer a prayer; the district has an affirmative obligation to pre-screen the content of the planned speech.

2. ***Don't charge fees.***
Diplomas. Schools **cannot** charge a fee for a diploma if earned. The District must provide a diploma and there is no authorization to charge a fee. School districts **can** charge a fee for graduation cap, gown, tassel, and a diploma cover – as long as the purchase is voluntary; state law does not regulate this.
Senior Trip. If a school district still schedules a senior trip as part of the instructional days or hours, the presumption is that the trip is curricular in nature, and thus, the district cannot charge a fee. [See Declaratory Order](#) (upheld by district court).

3. ***Don't withhold diplomas for failure to pay.*** School boards cannot withhold diplomas for failure to pay fines, fees, etc. A student who has met graduation requirements has an undisputed right to receive his/her diploma. To withhold a diploma for non-academic reasons is tantamount to academic fraud. Having said that, the student does not have an undisputed right to receive the diploma at a commencement ceremony. If the student has committed some egregious misbehavior, the student may be properly banned from taking part in graduation exercises and the diploma can be mailed then to the student. Again, do not charge a fee for the diploma.

4. ***Don't use a breathalyzer or search students without reasonable suspicion.*** Iowa law prohibits searches of students without reasonable suspicion. So, in order for a school district to search a student, including use of a breathalyzer, the employee administering it must have a reasonable suspicion that the

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Legal Lessons continued

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specific student has violated school rules. The suspicion has to be individualized to a student. There is no broad authority to search a group of students unless there is reasonable suspicion that they have all violated school rules.

5. **Don't sponsor a baccalaureate.** A school district cannot sponsor a baccalaureate; this is an event that must be left to the local churches or similar organizations. Students cannot be required to participate in a Baccalaureate ceremony nor punished for failure to do so. Prayers and religious songs are unrestricted at a properly-sponsored baccalaureate.

Recent state board appeals

Here are two recent state board appeals that were approved by the state board in March.

In re Open Enrollment of L.T. is a late filed open enrollment case of an individual who was found to have been a victim of pervasive harassment that had subsequently subsided. The district also offered the student the option of transferring to another attendance center in the district. Since the harassment subsided and L.T. was given an option to transfer the state board affirmed the district's denial of the open enrollment.

[In re Open Enrollment of L.T.](#)

In re Expulsion of M.F. is an expulsion of a student who was on a readmission agreement with the school district due to a prior incident of discipline with the district in the previous year. Under the readmission agreement the student was advised that any other disciplinary issues would result in expulsion. Subsequently, M.F. came to school under the influence of drugs. The local board expelled the student and the state board affirmed the decision.

[In re Expulsion of M.F.](#)

New rules noticed by state board

Several new administrative rules will be noticed by the state board on May 10. The new rules include changes to Chapter 12 – Assessment and ESSA changes, Chapter 21 – Chapter 21 – Community Colleges, and Chapter 15 Iowa Learning Online changes. The text of these rules will be available on our website under the state board agenda for May 10 when it is posted. For comments or questions on the rules please contact Nicole Proesch at 515-281-8661 or nicole.proesch@iowa.gov.

Students with disabilities

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

Calendar

- May 1 • Second semester parental claim forms for nonpublic transportation reimbursement due
- May 11 • Spring VRF/SRI test sites close 6 p.m.
- May 14 • Spring BEDS opens
- May 15 • AEA budget proposal—resubmit unapproved budget
- May 31 • School information update application



It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, telephone number 312-730-1560, fax 312/730-1576, e-mail: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov



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