



School Leader Update

Iowa Department of Education

April 2008

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Iowa Core Curriculum Podcast Now Available

I would like to invite you, our *School Leader Update* readers, to “tune in” to our most recent podcast.

Now available online at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/category/27/639/1157/> is a 10-minute podcast on the Iowa Core Curriculum. The podcast provides basic information about the Iowa Core Curriculum, explaining what it is and what it isn't.

I invite you to listen to it and then share it with others, such as board members, other administrators in your district, teachers, and parents.

Points covered in the podcast include:

- Teachers and districts have been requesting more detail and assistance. The Iowa Core Curriculum was developed as part of a legislative mandate to provide additional detail and help to teachers and schools.
- The Iowa Core Curriculum helps teachers know *what to teach* by providing them with a progression of identified essential concepts and skills in the areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies in grades K-12. Also included will be 21st century skills such as civic literacy, health literacy, technology literacy, financial literacy, and employability skills.
- The Iowa Core Curriculum is aligned with Iowa's core content standards in reading, math, and science.
- The curriculum also provides model units that teachers can review as a resource when determining how to incorporate the identified skills and concepts into their classrooms.
- The Iowa Core Curriculum is not based on or modeled after any specific textbooks. It does not mandate certain textbooks to be used. It does not mandate specific classes be taught.
- When developing the curriculum, working teams of Iowa educators and business leaders drew from a variety of resources. The following sets of expectations were used to develop and were incorporated into the 9-12 literacy, mathematics, and science model core curriculum: ACT's College Readiness Standards; College Board's Standards for College Success; Information provided by Iowa Testing Programs; International Center for Leadership in Education's Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills; NAEP Frameworks in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science; Standards from the National Council of Teachers of English/International Reading Association, National Science Teacher's Association, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; ACHIEVE; 21st Century Skills; Reports from the Alliance for Excellent Education; Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).
- The Iowa Core Curriculum component and the accompanying professional development around the core curriculum are the critical pieces to actually setting higher expectations and infusing more rigorous content into classroom instruction.
- The initial timeline for implementation for high school implementation is by 2012; and K-8 implementation is by 2014.

Please take a few minutes to listen to this podcast.

Judy Jeffrey

NEWS FROM THE DE

State Board of Education to Meet April 3 & 4

The State Board of Education will hold its next meeting April 3 and April 4 at the Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines.

Agenda items include action on the Iowa Core Curriculum, review of the Community College Condition of Education Report, and more. The full agenda and materials for the meeting are on the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1004/1542/>.

Microsoft Settlement Voucher News

It was recently determined that, based on free/reduced lunch rates, 75 percent of Iowa's public school buildings will be eligible to participate in the Microsoft class action settlement.

In February 2007, a class action lawsuit filed in Iowa against Microsoft was settled following a three-month trial. According to the settlement, Iowa schools would receive a portion of the funds not claimed by consumers.

The value of the funds will be distributed through vouchers for software and hardware products, as opposed to cash, to eligible attendance centers. All details, including a list of the eligible buildings, will be available early in May. More information will be forthcoming in the May *School Leader Update*.

Iowa Named 21st Century Leadership State

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, the nation's leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education, has named Iowa to its State Leadership Initiative.

The announcement makes Iowa the seventh state in the nation to join the Partnership's initiative. The other states include Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

For more information, please go to <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1252/1569/>. To hear a podcast about this announcement, please visit <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1361/1562/>.

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Five-Year State Plan

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funds are critical to the continued provision of high school and postsecondary career and technical programs in Iowa. Based on a review of data and research, a stakeholder group has recommended a change in how Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education funding is allocated among K-12 and community colleges.

The formula used to distribute funds between the two sectors was implemented by the state per the Perkins IV legislation. The formula used to distribute the funds between the two sectors was determined and implemented for Perkins 3; the same formula is used in Perkins IV with the split calculated utilizing most recent data available. The formula for the funds received through Perkins IV was based on input from a taskforce composed of administrators of secondary school districts and community colleges.

Three factors are utilized to determine the distribution of funds received through Section 112 (1)(a) to the two sectors. The factors gave consideration to the enrollments (contact hours) in career and technical education programs in each of the sectors, the costs incurred by each sector to operate the programs, and the factors (population data) utilized by the U.S. Department of Education to distribute Career and Technical Education Assistance to the States.

These factors were selected because together they provided a means to give full consideration to the comprehensive nature of career and technical educational programs and the needed investment of additional resources in both sectors to enable the achievement of the state's vision for its Career and Technical Education system.

Based on these factors, 50.6 percent of the funds received in Section 112(1)(a) has been distributed to the secondary sector and 49.4 percent of the funds has been distributed to the postsecondary sector.

The State Board of Education is scheduled to take final action on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Five-Year State Plan on Thursday, April 3.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Summary

As the legislative process approaches the second "funnel" date, here is an update of progress on specific bills.

Signed by the Governor

[HF 2140](#) – Allowable Growth for FY10

[SF 2101](#) – Entrepreneurs with disabilities programs to Voc. Rehab.

[SF 2111](#) – Adjustments to Dental and Lead Screening Mandates

Moving and expected to pass

[HF 2103](#) – Changes to membership on College Student Aid Commission

[HF 2137](#) – Changes to membership on the Board of Educational Examiners

[HF 2164](#) – Adjustments to Voluntary Desegregation Plan statute

[HF 2365](#) – Monitoring high school academic progress
[HF 2450](#) – Targeted Industries Development
[HF 2487](#) – Educator Quality adjustments and funding
[HF 2507](#) – IPERS II
[HF 2526](#) – Disposition of school property
[HF 2530](#) and [SF 2307](#) – State K-12 Research and Development School
[HF 2531](#) and [SF 2268](#) – Summer Youth Corps and Green Corps programs
[HF 2533](#) and [SF 2159](#) – 4 year old preschool program adjustments
[HF 2557](#) and [SF 2282](#) – Paperwork reduction
[HF 2597](#) – Adjustments to open enrollment athletic ineligibility
[HF 2598](#) – Workforce Innovation for Regional Econ. Growth
[HF 2649](#) –Senior Year Plus
[SF 2216](#) – Mandated Iowa Core Curriculum
[SF 2265](#) – Mental Health Services System for children and youth
[SF 2329](#) – Categorical fund formula roll-ins –TQ compensation, TQ PD, ED Ex Phase II
and Class Size/Early Intervention
[SF 2373](#) – IPERS I

Moving and Future Uncertain

[HF 2066](#) – SILO
[HF 2197](#) – Requiring Postsecondary to provide specific textbook information
[HF 2239](#) and [SF 2278](#) – DE Misc. Code Corrections
[HF 2364](#) – PPEL coverage of energy savings contracts
[HF 2535](#) – Adjustments to child care provider provisions
[HF 2544](#) and [SF 2251](#) – Mandated eye exams prior to age 6
[HF 2566](#) – Increased funding for dropout prevention
[HF 2623](#) – Change compulsory attendance age from 16 to 17+
[HF 2645](#) – Changes to public employee collective bargaining
[SF 2218](#) – Fiscal sanctions for non-reporting
[SF 2279](#) – Healthy Kids Act of 2008
[SF 2378](#) – Changes to open meetings and records law

Already dead or not likely to pass

[HF 459](#) – PPEL expansion – software
[HF 469](#) – PPEL expansion – transportation equipment
[HF 2012](#) and [HF 2146](#) and [SF 2079](#) – Mandated high school personal finance course
[HF 2028](#) – Allow busses into other districts for open enrollment
[HF 2031](#) – Mandated teacher training on autism spectrum disorders
[HF 2032](#) – Exceptions to kindergarten enrollment age
[HF 2040](#) – Requiring school bus seat belts
[HF 2171](#) – Schools must be sensitive to effects of cleaning products
[HF 2178](#) – Mandated character education in schools
[HF 2186](#) – Administration of epinephrine in schools
[HF 2198](#) – Content Standards and Assessment – ITW recommendations
[HF 2204](#) and [SF 2135](#) – Defibrillators in schools
[HF 2319](#) – Requiring preschools to test facilities for lead
[HF 2334](#) – School food and vending standards
[SF 2066](#) – Add curriculum director to shared operational functions

Information on all of these bills can be tracked at <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/legisupdate.asp>.

You can also access general information about the legislature at www.legis.state.ia.us. For additional information or to provide comments or concerns, contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399.

QUALITY TEACHING

Iowa Schools are Engaged in Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW)

Currently, nine Iowa schools are engaged in Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW), an initiative focused on student engagement, higher order thinking, disciplined inquiry, deep understanding of rigorous content, and value beyond school.

It also builds collaborative communities of practice among teachers and provides highly motivating professional development.

AIW is research based (Newmann, King, & Carmichael) and complements the work being undertaken to implement the Iowa Core Curriculum.

The Iowa Department of Education is planning on expanding this program during the 2008-2009 academic year. To be identified, schools must complete the application process. To acquire more information about AIW and the application process contact deborah.humpal@iowa.gov. In addition, please go to <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1345/1157/> for a podcast on this initiative.

Adolescent Literacy Research and Development Report and Executive Summary

In 2006, the Iowa Department of Education (DE), in cooperation with the area education agencies, organized an Adolescent Literacy Research and Development Team.

One outcome of the team's efforts is a report and an executive summary containing a synthesis of the key findings and best practices in the area of adolescent literacy. Both documents are now available on the DE website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/732/729/>.

The report provides Iowa's educators with a resource for information on accelerating the literacy development of all middle and high school students. For more information, contact Deb Squires at deb.squires@iowa.gov or Mary Cameron at mary.cameron@iowa.gov.

Professional Development Opportunities Available

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is offering two professional development opportunities for elementary school teams to participate in starting June 2008.

The first effort is focused on supporting school teams in "Using Lexile Ranges to Differentiate Instruction" and the second effort is focused on "Implementing the Picture Word Inductive Model." Funding is available to support school team's participation.

Applications are due to the DE on April 25, 2008. Go to <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/729/729/> or <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/category/15/487/526/> to download the applications.

For more information, please contact Carlene Lodermeier at 515-281-8423 or carlene.lodermeier@iowa.gov.

LEGAL LESSONS

The contact for all Legal Lessons items is Carol Greta, carol.greta@iowa.gov; 515-281-8661.

"Day of Silence" and "Day of Truth"

Students and community members have been asked about these observance days. Both days of observance are geared toward students and are voluntary, which is why school administrators may find the following information useful.

Friday, April 25th has been designated by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Network of the United States Student Association as this year's "Day of Silence." This is the 12th annual such day, which intends to "bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying, and harassment in schools. This year's event is held in memory of Lawrence King, an 8th grade student in California who was shot and killed by a classmate because of his sexual orientation."

Monday April 28th, has been designated as this year's "Day of Truth" by the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), a legal alliance "dedicated to defending the right to hear and speak the Truth. More specifically, ADF launched this project in 2005 to ensure the free speech rights of Christian students to prevent an opposing viewpoint to those organizations that promote homosexual behavior in schools."

Students and staff who desire to observe either day may do so if their observance does not create a substantial disruption of the educational environment. Observance usually is marked by wearing a t-shirt with a message supportive of either day and the handing out of cards explaining the purpose behind the day.

Students observing the Day of Silence also sometimes carry with them a card to explain to instructors that the student chooses not to speak voluntarily that day. This most likely does not disrupt the educational environment because students previously scheduled to give classroom oral presentations (either solo or as part of a group) on April 25th are still expected to do so.

Teachers' ability to participate may be regulated by their employers. "Speech" includes wearing apparel, ribbon, and pins, and districts may restrict teacher speech in the classroom and while on duty for the district

(such as lunchroom or study hall duty). [The Iowa Department of Education is neither encouraging nor discouraging such regulation within schools; we merely note that such regulation is allowed.]

In summary, do not approve student or teacher participation in just one of these upcoming days to the exclusion of the other. And before barring student participation in both days, check with your school attorney to see if s/he believes that such a move is legally defensible.

To learn more about Day of Truth, go to <http://www.dayoftruth.org/main/default.aspx>; to learn more about Day of Silence, go to <http://www.dayofsilence.org/>.

Iowa Pride Network 2007 School Climate Survey

The Iowa Pride Network has released the results of the 2007 school climate survey. The summary can be found at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/503/710/>.

Guidance Booklet on Athletic Eligibility Rule Changes

On April 3rd, the State Board of Education (barring some unforeseen circumstance) will change the “scholarship rule” regarding high school student participation in interscholastic sports in two ways: (1) no longer will there be a requirement that the student serve his/her period of ineligibility in a sport in which the student is a “bona fide” competitor, and (2) the period of ineligibility is changed from 20 school days to 30 calendar days.

The new language is: “if at the end of any grading period a contestant is given a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the contestant is ineligible to dress for and compete in the next occurring interscholastic athletic contests and competitions in which the contestant is a contestant for 30 consecutive calendar days.”

The document was released at the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association Spring meeting in Des Moines on March 31st. The new guidance will be posted on all the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union websites.

Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

Schools that are in disaster areas, as designated by either Governor Culver or President Bush — or both — are **not** relieved of the obligation to make up days lost to weather conditions. A proclamation of a state or federal disaster merely entitles persons or entities within the affected area to public financial assistance.

Copyright of Attendance Cards, Student Records Folders

Some schools use attendance cards, permanent record folders, or cumulative record folders that were made available years ago by the Iowa Department of Education (DE). These documents have a copyright, so schools call us to get permission to use them when the supply at the school runs out. (A third party printer will not reproduce without our permission when the printer sees the notation of a copyright.)

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EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

2008-2009 Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds Application Now Available

Please check the Iowa Department of Education website for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children REVISED 2008-2009 Application and the REVISED 2008-2009 Technical Assistance Guidance Manual. For more information, please contact lorri.cooper@iowa.gov.

Please note these important dates:

- Application Iowa Communications Network (ICN) Broadcast April 9, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Repeated Application ICN Broadcast April 11, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Letter of Intent due April 15, 2008
- Application due May 9, 2008

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children Grant Application awards will be based on the 2008 legislative appropriation. Additional application requirements may be included if legislatively mandated.

The REVISED 2008-2009 Application **MUST BE USED** in applying for funding in Year 2 (2008-2009).

Districts Awarded Year 1 Funding (2007-2008)

The 64 current districts who received grant funds for Year 1 (2007-2008) Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, DO NOT have to re-apply for a grant.

As one of the 64 districts receiving grant funds, the first year grant provided start-up funding for your preschool program plan described in your awarded application. The preschool (four-year-olds) certified enrollment count that you provided to the Iowa Department of Education on October 1, 2007 will sustain your preschool funding for each subsequent year. This is the same process used for districts and the School Foundation Aid Formula only at rate of .60 per pupil cost for the preschoolers. (Only those districts awarded Application Grant Awards submitted certified enrollment for four-year-olds.)

Application Packet ICN Technical Assistance

The Iowa Department of Education will provide a broadcast only Iowa Communications Network (ICN) session addressing the Application and Technical Assistance Guidance Manual. Registration is not required. The content will be repeated on two dates for your convenience.

The ICN on April 9, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. is scheduled for the following sites: Mason City Community College 1; Estherville Community College, Algona Community College, Sioux Center AEA, Maquoketa High School, Chariton High School, Des Moines, Department of Education, Fort Dodge AEA, Creston AEA, Johnston AEA, Cedar Rapids AEA, Marshalltown AEA, Storm Lake Buena Vista, Council Bluffs AEA, Ottumwa AEA, Burlington AEA, Waterloo Department of Human Services, Dubuque AEA, Carroll High School, Red Oak High School, Davenport Community College, Shenandoah High School, Boone High School, Oskaloosa Library, Iowa City Library, and Decorah Library

The ICN content will be repeated on April 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. is scheduled at the following sites: Algona Community College, Sioux Center AEA, Maquoketa High School, Bloomfield High School, Fairfield High School, Des Moines, Department of Education, Fort Dodge AEA, Creston AEA, Clear Lake AEA, Johnston AEA, Cedar Rapids AEA, Marshalltown AEA, Storm Lake Buena Vista, Council Bluffs AEA, Ottumwa AEA, Burlington AEA, Waterloo Department of Human Services, Dubuque AEA, Carroll High School, Red Oak High School, Estherville High School, Shenandoah High School, Davenport North High School, Boone High School, Iowa City Library, and Decorah Library.

DATA AND REPORTING

DE Data Warehouse Survey

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is embarking on a data warehouse initiative to collect, store, and report on data from a variety of different sources. This project is designed to provide a common platform for enhanced reporting and analysis tools for education stakeholders. We need your input in order to properly design and implement the data warehouse. Please take the time to give us your input.

If you attended one of the data warehouse focus groups, we thank you for your time and would appreciate your response to the survey as well. Please pass this on to other educators that would be interested so DE can take their input into consideration in designing the system, too.

The survey will be available until April 15. Click this link to complete the survey.

https://www.surveymk.com//s.aspx?sm=g8UMSaTUqCxS_2f9XMu1iGAQ_3d_3d

STUDENT HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Don't Miss this Great Opportunity

The research is clear that the school health environment impacts academic learning. Nutrition education programs and the school meal programs help students make healthy food choices; other characteristics of the school environment also play a role.

Dr. Yibo Wood, Nutritionist with the Child Nutrition Division of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will share examples of successful nutrition education programs in schools April 16th from 3-5 p.m. via Iowa Public Television K-12 Connections programming. She will also discuss findings from the latest research about the school environment and nutrition content of school meals.

Dr. Wood will be sharing with dietitians and other health professionals on April 17th at the Current Issues in Nutrition, a national conference sponsored by Iowa State University, and has agreed to come to Iowa early in order to offer this special interaction time just for school personnel that day.

To register for the April 16th session, free for viewing through any Iowa Communications Network (ICN) site, go to http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8466 and follow the instructions. For questions regarding the content of this presentation, contact Catherine H. Strohbehn, PHD, RD, CFSP, Iowa State Extension 515-294-3527 or Sandra.Fiegen@iowa.gov.

Direct Certification of Free Meal Eligibility Refresher Training

Direct certification training will be available on April 29, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). This training is targeting staff who are still struggling with the process, staff who want a refresher and staff who will be assuming the responsibilities for direct certification next year for the first time. The big download will be available in late July/early August, and if your staff are ready, these students' eligibility statuses can be determined about the time of school registration. Please take a few moments and assess your staff members' comfort levels with the process and any anticipated staff changes.

Registration information is available at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/category/16/442/866/>. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Christensen at 515-281-5663 or nancy.christensen@iowa.gov.

CALENDAR

Deadlines and Dates to Remember

- April 3 & 4, 2008 State Board of Education Meeting

- April 9, 2008 Four Year Old Preschool Program Application ICN Broadcast 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

- April 11, 2008 Repeated Four Year Old Preschool Program Application ICN Broadcast 9:00 a.m.10:30 a.m.

- April 16, 2008 School Nutrition Program presented by Dr. Yibo Wood.

- April 17, 2008 Rebroadcast of Civil Rights Training, 2-4 PM, over K12 Connections. Register at http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8711

- April 25, 2008 Teaching in Taiwan application due (See the February issue of the *School Leader Update*)

- April 29, 2008 Direct Certification Training, 1-3 p.m., available over ICN

You can view a complete Iowa Department of Education calendar of events at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/calendar/calendar.html>.

SCHOOL LEADER UPDATE is produced monthly by the Iowa Department of Education for school leaders of Iowa. Comments and submissions should be sent to Elaine Watkins-Miller at elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov or 515-281-5295



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

April 1, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The school official who bears this letter has the permission of the Iowa Department of Education to directly or indirectly reproduce certain documents bearing a notation of a copyright by the Department of Education. These documents include attendance record forms, permanent student record folders, and cumulative student record folders. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy A. Jeffrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director