



School Leader Update

Iowa Department of Education

May 2009

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Don't Fail to Provide Enhanced Services to Today's Students — Invest ARRA Funds!

Talking to education leaders across the state, I have heard some concern about investing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds in fear of a future "funding cliff."

I strongly encourage education leaders to not let this fear paralyze decisions that can boost supports to students. Make a commitment to help struggling students who are sitting in your classrooms today.

Look for short-term investment opportunities that may provide long-term benefit. Extending learning time through summer school and before- and after-school activities, providing tutors, and adding time for professional development are all short-term strategies that will improve learning for the students who are currently in our schools.

If we can help even five students graduate who would have otherwise dropped out, we have made a wise investment. Seize the opportunity extended to schools through ARRA funds and invest in students.

Please know that the Iowa Department of Education (DE) will continue to provide information regarding ARRA funds on its website. This includes continuing Webinars and information sessions.

As always, please feel free to contact the DE if you have questions.

Judy Jeffrey

NEWS FROM THE DE

H1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza A)

The Iowa Department of Education is providing information regarding the Novel Influenza (H1N1) Virus (Swine Flu) on its Website at www.iowa.gov/educate. Links to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provide accurate up-to-date information about the H1N1 flu. Due to the rapidly changing status of the flu, guidance will be updated as it becomes available, so please check the Websites frequently.

Any immediate statewide information for schools will be provided through email from the Iowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey.

Current Steps

At the current stage of the H1N1 outbreak (as of April 30), school districts and colleges should:

- *Collaborate and coordinate with local public health and emergency management providers*
- Communicate information on the prevention of transmission;
- Take actions to delay the spread of infection (cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing);
- Instruct students and employees to wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water, especially after a cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. Allow time for adequate hand washing throughout the day;
- Instruct students and employees to avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth;
- Advise students and employees to stay home when sick;
- Closely monitor for symptoms of illness (fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue);
- Conduct normal facility cleaning routines and procedures with emphasis on ensuring cleaning is done as often and thoroughly as required by standard procedures.

School districts should use their district/community pandemic plans in dealing with local responses.

Reporting

School districts and colleges are also advised to communicate with their *local* public health agencies on reporting influenza-like illness and absenteeism.

IDPH requests that schools continue reporting days where absence due to illness exceeds 10 percent of enrollment to the Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network. Submit reports directly to IDPH influenza staff Ariel Pleva at apleva@idph.state.ia.us or Meghan Harris at mharris@idph.state.ia.us. The report template is found at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/iowa_school_absenteeism.pdf.

The Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network is looking for additional schools to track influenza-like illness. Schools in the network are asked to track enrollment and absence due to illness on a weekly basis. Reports are submitted once a week through a simple web-based reporting system. Reporting is by individual school building. Schools interested in participating should contact Ariel Pleva at apleva@idph.state.ia.us or Meghan Harris at mharris@idph.state.ia.us.

Resources

Resources for school districts and colleges include:

- Swine Flu (H1N1) Information Schools & Child Care Facilities: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/swine_flu_schoolsandchildcare.asp
Fact sheets, planning check lists, planning tools, posters for schools, and more.
- School District (K- Fact sheets, planning check 12) Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist: www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/school/schoolchecklist.html
Planning check lists, with key actions in planning and coordination, continuity of student learning and core operations, infection control policies and procedures, and communications planning.
- IDPH Swine Flu Website: www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/swine_flu.asp
General resources and information about swine influenza infections, prevention and control measures, testing protocols and the scope of the incident.
- Pandemic Iowa Schools Influenza Planning Guide, Planning Tool, and Checklist: www.idph.state.ia.us/pandemic/families.asp
General pandemic flu preparedness and planning resources for schools including recorded Iowa Communications Network (ICN) sessions, planning tools for schools, and more.
- School Planning: <http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/school/index.html>
This site provides general pandemic flu planning materials, including U.S. Department of Education guidance on school closures, and more.
- Iowa Department of Public Health: www.idph.state.ia.us
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/swineflu/
- U.S. Department of Education, Emergency Planning: Pandemic: www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/pandemic/index.html.

Please check these resources daily for the most up to date guidance. In addition, the IDPH has established the Iowa Swine Flu Hotline at 1-800-447-1985 for the general public. For further assistance, please contact Charlotte Burt at charlotte.burt@iowa.gov or 515-281-5327.

Iowa Professional Development Model (IPDM) Technical Guide Revised

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is pleased to announce that the and is now available for use. The **Technical Guide** replaces the original IPDM Training Manual and the IPDM Administrator's Guide.

The new version of the IPDM Guide includes information on the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Act (2007) and connections to the Iowa Core Curriculum. Input from Iowa practitioners was used to make the document more concise and useful to district leadership teams.

The DE recommends that local education agency (LEA) administrators, district and school leadership teams, Teacher Quality Committees, area education agency (AEA) administrators and AEA Leadership teams study the IPDM guide and use it as a tool for guiding professional development planning and decision making. The guide will be very beneficial for developing the Iowa Core Curriculum Implementation Plan. This plan includes the outcome, "Educators engage in professional development focused on implementing Characteristics of Effective Instruction and demonstrate understanding of Essential Concepts and Skill Sets."

This guide may be reprinted and posted on Websites for use in Iowa education programs. The document is also available on the Iowa Department of Education Website. See http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=232&Itemid=1286#pddocuments

Teacher Development Academies to be Offered

Teacher Development Academies will again be offered to new school teams or expanded school teams, with initial training taking place this summer and follow-up training occurring during the school year. Iowa Department of Education (DE)-sponsored academies will be offered in Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW), Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), and Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction (CORI). These academies offer teams the opportunity to engage in professional development based on the Iowa Professional Development Model and closely aligned to the Iowa Core Curriculum. Information and application procedure will be available soon on the DE Website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=797&Itemid=2487. For more information, contact Deb Hansen at deb.hansen@iowa.gov or 515-281-6131.

True Aim Website Now Available

In most schools, print-based instructional materials such as textbooks are a prime way of delivering curricular content. This system works fine for many learners, but such materials are not usable for students who struggle to read because of physical, sensory, cognitive, or learning differences. These students need Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) in order to access the general education curriculum. Access to the general education curriculum is guaranteed in federal statutes, such as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind, as well as Iowa's Rules of Special Education. The True Aim Website is a resource for Iowa Educators, parents, and students to learn more about:

- Accessible Instructional Materials
- Identifying students
- Understanding statutes
- Finding and utilizing AIM

The Website link is <http://trueaim.iowa.gov>. Questions and requests for more information can be directed to Steve Maurer at 515-281-3576 or steve.maurer@iowa.gov.

Potential for Increase in Bullying/Harassment of GLBT Students

There is heated discussion around the state regarding the Iowa Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage. The language and behavior that is heard by students at home and in the media are often repeated at school. School staff will want to be prepared for a potential increase in bullying/harassment of GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) students and students of same-sex parents. This would be a good time to reinforce a district's anti-bullying/anti-harassment policies with staff, students, and parents. For assistance with issues related to GLBT students or students of same-sex parents, please contact Cyndy Erickson at cyndy.erickson@iowa.gov or 515-281-8514.

Volunteer for a Site Visit Team

Iowa educators are encouraged to volunteer to participate in one of the 2009-2010 Iowa Department of Education school improvement site visits. Serving on a site visit team has many benefits. Participants can better understand accreditation expectations, the preparation process, and can also obtain in-depth information and examples from other districts. Participation information and site visit schedule will be available around May 15th at www.state.ia.us/educate. For more information, contact Elizabeth Calhoun at elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov or 515-281-8170.

Physical Therapy Researched-based Interventions

Physical therapists (PTs) provide services to students with mobility and posture limitations including those with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, brain injury, Down syndrome, and other genetic disorders. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind place a priority on researched-based interventions.

As a result, Iowa area education agency PTs have identified and analyzed a collection of peer-reviewed research related to teaching and learning strategies for developmental and functional motor skills. This information will help provide more consistent PT service delivery across Iowa and result in better Individualized Education Plan (IEP) outcomes.

Because this collection of research is unique, educational agencies around the country are requesting that Iowa share these documents. Iowa is sending the research summaries to other PTs as a way to promote more effective interventions and successful outcomes for children wherever they live. For more information, please contact Kathy David at kathy.david@iowa.gov or 515-281-7144.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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The contact for all Legislative Update items is Konni Cawiezell, konni.cawiezell@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399.

The 2009 Legislative Session came to an end during the early hours last Sunday. Sine Die for the House was around 5:00 a.m. and the Senate about an hour later. The final legislation being considered during the night included infrastructure, bonding, federal stimulus funds, and Standings — a compilation bill for state employee salaries, property tax credits, and residual policy issues.

For education groups, House File 820 was especially important because it appropriated the federal stimulus funds for education stabilization. Nearly \$386 million was appropriated to schools, community colleges, and regent universities. For school districts there was a \$40 million appropriation to school aid for the current fiscal year, \$202.5 million of stabilization funds will be used to fund a portion of the Fiscal Year 2010 allowable growth and \$2 million will go to professional development for implementing the Iowa Core Curriculum.

Senate File 478, the Standings bill, originally cut both Phase 1 teacher salary supplements and the state's portion of the instructional support aid. Lawmakers later restored the instructional support levy to \$13.1 million (down \$1.3 million from last year), but left Phase 1 unfunded — approximately \$13.5 million. In the education budget, Senate File 470, an additional \$11.5 million investment was made into the statewide voluntary preschool program.

All budget bills now go to the Governor for approval and are eligible for a line-item veto. In the upcoming weeks, the Iowa Department of Education will continue to update districts on all final budget numbers and new laws of interest.

LEGAL LESSONS

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

Healthy Kids Act – Administrative Rules

On April 30 the State Board of Education adopted the rules to implement details of the Healthy Kids Act. The three content areas of the rules are CPR, physical activity, and nutrition content. Text of the adopted rules is available on the Iowa Department of Education's Website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=1. Chapter 12 covers CPR and physical activity; chapter 58 covers the nutrition content standards. Frequently asked questions regarding this law will be available soon on the Iowa Department of Education (DE) Website. Please check the DE Website for further information.

Action taken on other Administrative Rules

Also on April 30 the State Board of Education took the following action regarding various administrative rules:

1. Categorical funding (chapter 98). This set of rules provides guidance in a single document for school districts and area education agencies on financial management of funding. The Board voted to give public notice of its intent to adopt this new chapter of rule. There is no new substance here; it is just a marshalling of the information together in one chapter of rules. The proposed new chapter of rules is at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=1.
2. Statewide Voluntary Preschool (chapter 16). The Board adopted rules to condition a school district's continued participation in this program on the district's compliance with accountability provisions in chapter 16. These rules are to fulfill legislation; they impose no new requirement. See http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=1.

Note about Senior Year Plus Rules

Adoption of these rules will be deferred to the State Board's July meeting due to funding changes made by the Legislature. **The law itself is in effect.** See Iowa Code Chapter 261E, available electronically at <http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowaCode&ga=83>. Refer also to the guidance letter about this program that was sent to school administrators on September 25, 2008, and which is available electronically at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1531:guidanceupdatesonlegislati on&catid=818:minutes (second document down).

Bad Weather Building Closures

The recent rains have caused flooding issues in some attendance centers. Rule 12.1(8) states, "If a classroom or attendance center is closed for emergency health or safety reasons but the remainder of the school or school district is in operation, the day may be counted as a day of school."

So if flooding has caused a temporary closure of one building but classes are operational for other buildings, the students in the closed building do not have to make up missed days. Certainly, schools and school districts in this situation MAY require the students to make up the lost day, but rule 12.1(8) allows for days under these circumstances not to have to be made up.

Iowa Youth Leadership International

Iowa youth between the ages of 15 and 22 years old are eligible to apply to attend the Iowa Youth Leadership International (IYLI), to be held August 1–15, 2009, in Des Moines. IYLI was established by Chinese Association of Iowa, the same organization that worked with the DE on an agreement with the People's Republic of China to place one or more teachers from China into Iowa public high schools or middle schools. Interested youth or parents can contact the IYLI Coordinator Swallow Yan at iowachinese@yahoo.com or 515-988-0901 for questions or comments.

School administrators are reminded that at least one teacher from China is available for the 2009-2010 school year, and is willing to commit to a full year of teaching Chinese language and culture to Iowa students. If interested in this opportunity to have a teacher from China on staff or if a district has questions, please contact John Scott at 515-281-3805 or john.scott@iowa.gov.

Miscellaneous End-of-Year Reminders

1. *Graduation prayer.* A school district cannot sponsor prayer at graduation, spoken or sung. Should a student speaker spontaneously pray, without any prior knowledge by school officials, it is not considered school sponsored. However, the district has an affirmative obligation 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. *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.
3. *Senior trip.* If a school district still schedules a senior trip as part of the 175 instructional days, 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) at <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/appeals.asp?book=25&decision=62>.
4. *Diploma.* 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. Do not charge a fee for the diploma.
5. *Breathalyzers at prom, commencement, etc.* 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 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.

Information on Lead Rules vis-à-vis Libraries and Children's Books

Alert librarians were alarmed when a new federal law (the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act) was passed in August of 2008. The law was designed to protect children from dangerous exposure to lead, but initially required libraries — including school libraries — to pull all children's books from the shelves for expensive testing for lead content.

After an initial outcry, the federal government granted a complete exemption for books printed after 1985 (the year in which it became unlawful to use lead pigments in ink and dye when publishing books). The government also granted a one-year delay in enforcement (to February 10, 2010) of the law regarding books printed before 1985. The American Library Association (ALA) is lobbying the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a permanent reprieve for all books from the rules.

If the ALA is not successful, school administrators need to be working on a plan of management of the new law. The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is monitoring this issue and will keep school administrators informed.

Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Revises FAQs on Section 504

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued a revised frequently asked questions (FAQ) document for the purpose of clarifying the requirements of § 504. Below are a few of the new FAQs that school administrators need to know:

May school districts consider "mitigating measures" used by a student in determining whether the student has a disability under Section 504?

No. As of January 1, 2009, school districts, in determining whether a student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits that student in a major life activity, must **not** consider the ameliorating effects of any mitigating measures that student is using. This is a change from prior law. Before January 1, 2009, school districts had to consider a student's use of mitigating measures in determining whether that student had a physical or mental impairment that substantially limited that student in a major life activity. In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), however, Congress specified that the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures must not be considered in determining if a person is an individual with a disability.

Congress did not define the term "mitigating measures" but rather provided a non-exhaustive list of "mitigating measures." The mitigating measures are as follows: medication; medical supplies, equipment or appliances; low-vision devices (which do not include ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses); prosthetics (including limbs and devices); hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices; mobility devices; oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; use of assistive technology; reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services; and learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications.

Congress created one exception to the mitigating measures analysis. The ameliorative effects of the mitigating measures of ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses shall be considered in determining if an impairment substantially limits a major life activity. "Ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses" are lenses that are intended to fully correct visual acuity or eliminate refractive error, whereas "low-vision devices" (listed above) are devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image.

How should a recipient school district view a temporary impairment?

A temporary impairment does not constitute a disability for purposes of Section 504 unless its severity is such that it results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities for an extended period of time. The issue of whether a temporary impairment is substantial enough to be a disability must be resolved on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration both the duration (or expected duration) of the impairment and the extent to which it actually limits a major life activity of the affected individual.

In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), Congress clarified that an individual is not "regarded as" an individual with a disability if the impairment is transitory and minor. A transitory impairment is an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less.

Is an impairment that is episodic or in remission a disability under Section 504?

Yes, under certain circumstances. In the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), Congress clarified that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity

when active. A student with such an impairment is entitled to a free appropriate public education under Section 504.

Must a school district develop a Section 504 plan for a student who either "has a record of disability" or is "regarded as disabled"?

No. In public elementary and secondary schools, unless a student actually has an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, the mere fact that a student has a "record of" or is "regarded as" disabled is insufficient, in itself, to trigger those Section 504 protections that require the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This is consistent with the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), in which Congress clarified that an individual who meets the definition of disability solely by virtue of being "regarded as" disabled is not entitled to reasonable accommodations or the reasonable modification of policies, practices or procedures. The phrases "has a record of disability" and "is regarded as disabled" are meant to reach the situation in which a student either does not currently have or never had a disability, but is treated by others as such.

As noted in FAQ 34, in the Amendments Act (see FAQ 1), Congress clarified that an individual is not "regarded as" an individual with a disability if the impairment is transitory and minor. A transitory impairment is an impairment with an actual or expected duration of 6 months or less.

Here is a link to the full set of FAQs: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html>.

DATA AND REPORTING

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2010

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2010 Assessment will be administered January 25-March 5, 2010 in the areas of U.S. history, civics, and geography. Students in grades four, eight, and 12 will be included in the assessment. The Iowa Department of Education (DE) expects to receive the list of selected schools on May 4, 2009. Superintendents and principals with selected schools in their districts will be notified during the first week of May. Additional information about NAEP can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> or http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=677&Itemid=1312. Questions may be directed to Dianne Chadwick at 515-281-3718 or diane.chadwick@iowa.gov

Revised Financial Report Card Exemplifies Interagency Collaboration

Schools in Iowa are mandated by Iowa Code to have a financial report card available to the public. The site the Iowa Department of Education (DE) maintained to help districts meet this mandate is moving. It will now be hosted by Grant Wood Area Education Agency (AEA 10). Testing is being finalized and an announcement will be sent when the site is open.

The intent of the financial report card is to give transparency to districts' financial operations by providing information on employment, enrollment, taxes, and budget items. Much of the information required is reported to different state agencies, so the DE had facilitated getting the levy information from the Department of Management (DOM), and then posting it on the DE site so districts could link to it and meet their mandate.

On the new AEA 10 site, the old information will be available, plus new data for transparency. First, the financial report card is part of AEA 10's Annual Statistical Report, a software application that allows for comparison of districts on certain select characteristics. Second, detailed health insurance and health benefits for teachers and administrators will be available due to a statewide initiative by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). PERB is building a statewide database and it made sense for the collaboration of DE, DOM, and AEA 10 to link with one more partner. These data will not be in the initial release, but are expected to be linked by the fall of 2009.

Please contact Jim Addy at jim.addy@iowa.gov or 515-281-5293 for more information.

2009 Iowa Professional School Counseling Survey

In 2007, the Iowa Legislature recognized the importance of professional school counselors with the passage of Senate File 272. To address this legislation, school administrative rules were developed based on the Iowa School Counseling Framework and the American School Counseling Association Model.

Beginning May 1, school counselors will be asked to participate in a research project to collect baseline data on their progress toward implementing the new school counseling administrative rules. Data from the survey will be used to document the continued improvement of Iowa's school counseling programs and will also help the

Iowa Department of Education (DE) and State School Counseling Task Force plan professional development for school counselors and administrators.

Administrators are asked to encourage their school counselor to complete this survey. The report is expected to be completed by August 2009. Results will be shared with the Iowa School Counseling Task Force, all area education agencies, and posted to the DE Website. Contact Jan Kuhl at janice.kuhl@iowa.gov or 515-281-3552.

Annual Progress Report Deadline

The deadline for submission of the Annual Progress Report (APR) is September 15, 2009. The secure reporting Website will be available July 2009 for updating. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills/Iowa Tests of Educational Development data will be available in August 2009 for public school districts. Further information for nonpublic schools will be forthcoming. The completed electronic APR will be available to the public on the Iowa Department of Education Website to distribute to stakeholders who may not have internet access. Technical assistance can be accessed at

http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=298&Itemid=368. For additional information, contact Holly Barnes at holly.barnes@iowa.gov.

CSIP Updates for School Districts and Nonpublic Schools

School districts and nonpublic schools that received a school improvement site visit during 2008-2009 are required to revise and recertify their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) by September 15, 2009. CSIP revisions, in accordance with chapter 12, are required for any or all of the following actions:

- Grade-level changes (as in cases of reorganizations but not including dissolution or Phase II)
- Funding stream changes

School districts and schools will be certifying their CSIP each year due to legislative changes that impact the assurances section of the plan each year. Districts will not need to port their information forward this year. This has been done for you. Districts do need to update and certify the 2008-2009 CSIP. The certify button will not be available until September 1st, 2009, although the CSIP is available for you to update at all times. Please certify your 2008-2009 CSIP by September 15, 2009.

If you have questions or need assistance with the CSIP update and certification process please contact your assigned School Improvement Consultant from the Iowa Department of Education first. If you need further assistance contact either Brandie Gean (brandie.gean@iowa.gov or 515-281-4726) or Holly Barnes (holly.barnes@iowa.gov or 515-242-6173).

FUNDING AND GRANTS

ARRA: Iowa Department of Education Release Allocations and Guidance

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) has released the amount of funds each district in the state is estimated to receive under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for special education and Title I. Title I, Part A of the No Child Left Behind Act provides federal dollars for supplemental educational opportunities for disadvantaged children.

Documents are available on the DE Website at www.iowa.gov/educate.

ARRA: Webinars Available Online

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) has conducted Webinars regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. These Webinars have been recorded and will be placed on the DE's Website to allow district and area education agency (AEA) administrators access at any time to the information provided and share it with staff members.

Remaining scheduled Webinar will be held on May 6 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. regarding Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B/C for AEA administrators. Information will be emailed to AEA administrators.

For Webinar questions, please contact Elaine Watkins-Miller at 515-281-5651 or elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old-Children

All applicants for the 2009-2010 District Grantee Awards will be notified via email on May 14, 2009. The complete list of awarded districts will be posted on the Iowa Department of Education (DE) Website.

The DE will be conducting regional orientation meetings for newly awarded districts. *These regional meetings will replace the Preschool Program Orientation Meeting previously scheduled for June 9, 2009.* Attendance at a regional meeting is only for newly awarded districts. It is recommended that each district bring a team of four to six members of those responsible for oversight of the grant implementation, reporting information, providing technical assistance (AEA), and meeting of assurances (administration). The orientation meeting will provide critical information regarding the following:

- Reporting requirements of four-year-old enrollment for year one grant funding;
- Reporting requirements for program implementation and summary for legislators;
- Implementation requirements of preschool program standards and year two verification;
- Meeting of assurances;
- Technical assistance support for meeting of program standards.

Registration and site information will be emailed with the letter of award. All meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The regions and dates for these required meetings include:

Central Iowa — July 16, 2009

Western Iowa — July 30, 2009

Eastern Iowa — August 12, 2009

If a team cannot attend a scheduled meeting site within their region, an alternate meeting site may be attended by the team. For further information, please contact Lorri Cooper at Lorri.Cooper@iowa.gov or 515-281-3033.

NEWS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Protection from Internet Predators

The U.S. Attorney's Office is asking for help to protect Iowa's students from Internet predators. One in seven youths receives an unwanted, online sexual solicitation and one in three is exposed to sexual material online. Only 5 percent of those sexually solicited online and 2 percent of those exposed to unwanted sexual material online report the experience to an adult.

As part of Project Safe Childhood, the U.S. Attorney's Office educated more than 40,000 Iowa middle school students about being safe online. However, children in elementary school are vulnerable also. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 13 percent of elementary aged children received some type of sexual solicitation and approach. In Iowa, that is 32,000 of the 246,000 kids at risk of being exploited by a predator. Since we cannot speak to every child, we are hoping you will help us distribute information to your parents and kids on internet safety. For further information, please call the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cedar Rapids at 319-363-0091.

STUDENT HEALTH AND NUTRITION

School Food Service — Preparing for the 2009-2010 School Year

Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meal Benefits

The 2009-2010 Iowa Eligibility Application, instructions, and more, will be made available to School Food Authorities (SFAs) at the end of May or first part of June in a memo from the Iowa Department of Education. They will also be posted on line and made available in the form download section of Child Nutrition Program (CNP) 2000. As you prepare for next year, remember:

1) Applications and parent letters may not be distributed by SFAs more than four weeks prior to the start of school. The earliest date to accept and process applications is July 1, 2009, for the 2009-2010 school year.

2) SFAs must provide a copy of the application and parent letter to every household. More options are available to SFAs, for email or web-based distribution.

Check the U.S. Department of Agriculture Eligibility Manual at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Guidance/eligibility_guidance.pdf.

hawk-i information

The process for collecting the names of households interested in receiving information about the Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (hawk-i) program will be streamlined for school year 2009-2010. The Website will be open at the beginning of school year and steps are being taken to enable many local education agencies to download the data from their student information systems or school meals point of sale systems. Further information will be included in a memo and will be discussed at training.

Training for Iowa Eligibility Application Processing

Mark your calendars for training for Iowa Eligibility Application processing. The dates are 1:00-4:00 p.m. on July 21, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on July 30, and 9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon on August 4. The locations have not yet been selected but will be posted at

http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=442&Itemid=866.

Contact Nancy Christensen at nancy.christensen@iowa.gov or 515-281-5663 or your area consultant with questions.

TRANSPORTATION

“Best of the Best” in School Transportation

The Iowa Department of Education (DE), in association with the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association, Iowa Association of School Boards, and the school bus dealers in Iowa, sponsored the “Best of the Best” competition on April 18th in Marshalltown. This is a program to help recognize school bus technicians/mechanics for the important role they play in school transportation. The competition included both a written 50-question knowledge exam plus four diagnostic testing stations to determine the “Best of the Best” in Iowa.

Kevin Talley of the SE Polk School District won this first ever competition out of 15 competitors from across the state. Kevin will proceed on to the national competition to be held in Greenville, South Carolina in September. Congratulations to Kevin Talley, and best of luck in September at the national event!

CALENDAR

May 1	Bond resolution filing (if any) with control county auditor
May 1	Copy of voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (VPPEL) Ballot due to the Department of Management
May 1	Special Education Web-based Claims Available
May 1	Competent Private Instruction/Homeschooling: Deadline for conducting annual assessment for homeschooled students 281-IAC 31.7(1)
May 1	Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act: Postsecondary institution sends request for payment and list of students participating in Post-Secondary Education Options (PSEO) to the appropriate local education agency.
May 31	Certified Budget - last day for districts to amend

Click [HERE](#) for a complete
Iowa Department of Education Calendar

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.

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.