



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

September 2009

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IOWA's ACT scores near top

Iowa students earned the second highest average ACT score in the nation in 2009, according to results recently released by ACT.

The average ACT composite score for Iowa students this year was 22.4, which is the same as last year. Iowa has the second highest average composite score for states testing the majority of their graduating seniors. Minnesota is again first with 22.7 out of a possible 36.

The total number of students that took the test this year was 22,377, which is 59 percent of the 2009 graduating class.



School year brings opportunity, challenges

The new school year always brings with it new opportunities and challenges.

This year brings the opportunity to implement innovative plans using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. ARRA is providing much-needed resources as we attempt to weather the current economic downturn and continue to look for ways to improve student achievement. In this issue of the *School Leader Update* you will find a summary of ARRA information, including payment schedules and guidance. In addition, there is information on reporting requirements. Please take time to review this information to make sure required assurances are met.

A challenge this year is one of student health. The fall influenza season is anticipated to be at least similar in severity as in spring 2009. In order to properly prepare schools for the flu season, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) and the Iowa Department of Public Health are working together to provide Iowa-specific guidance. More information is on page 10. This challenge also provides the opportunity to prepare our schools, connect with parents about planning, and bolster partnerships with our local departments of public health.

The new school year also brings with it the opportunity to impact student learning. While we at the DE are still finalizing data, we anticipate that more of our schools will be identified as schools in need of assistance under No Child Left Behind. This is a continued result of increased achievement targets, which occurred last year.

With the new year, we can now take the next step to make school improvements that will affect all students. We also have the chance to connect with that individual student who needs help staying on the right path. Seize the opportunities both large and small that come with the beginning of a new year.



Judy Jeffrey, Director

—Judy Jeffrey, Director

IOWA SAT SCORES top in the nation

Iowa students continue to perform well on the SAT, the college entrance exam administered by the College Board.

With 3 percent of 2009 graduating seniors taking the exam, the SAT is less predominant in Iowa than the ACT test. Iowa students who take the SAT perform well, however, with the highest composite scores in the nation for reading, math, and writing.

Iowa students posted SAT mean scores of:

- 610 in critical reading, compared to a national mean score of 501;
- 615 in math, compared to a national mean score of 515;
- 588 in writing, compared to a national mean score of 493.

The 10-year change shows a 16-point increase in reading and 17-point increase in math. Decade information is not available for the writing test.

Of the 2009 graduating class in Iowa, 1,105 students took the SAT.



Iowa names Teacher of the Year 2010

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) has announced Sarah Brown Wessling as the 2010 Iowa Teacher of the Year. Wessling is a high school language arts teacher at Johnston High School in Johnston, Iowa.

Wessling has taught at Johnston High School for 10 years, where she is chairperson of the English Department. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education and a Master of Arts degree in English from Iowa State University. She was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi International Honor Society and the Phi Beta Kappa Liberal Arts and Sciences Honor Society. Wessling is a National Board Certified Teacher.



Sarah Brown Wessling

Finalists for the award are:

- Janet Coon, a middle school life science teacher at East Middle School in the Sioux City Community School District, Sioux City, Iowa;
- Steven Lucke, a 6th-12th grade art teacher in the Bellevue Community School District, Bellevue, Iowa;
- Randolph Lyon, a 5th grade teacher at Hoover Elementary School in the Dubuque Community School District, Dubuque, Iowa; and
- Andrea Stewart, a high school language arts teacher at Muscatine High School in the Muscatine Community School District, Muscatine, Iowa.

Wessling and the finalists will be recognized at a luncheon, sponsored by Qwest Communications and the University of Northern Iowa, on October 9, 2009 at the University of Northern Iowa. Wessling's tenure as Iowa Teacher of the Year will run from January to December of 2010.

CPI test information, handbook available

School districts must provide notification to parents of testing times and sites by October 1st if the child is home schooled and between the ages of 7 and 15, inclusive, of the current school year and is not working with an Iowa licensed teacher. A sample form is available in the handbook located at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=301&Itemid=1335.

A sample letter that may be used as a guide for districts communicating with families that home school is located at the above Website, compliments of Kathleen Stine, Home School Coordinator, for the Winterset Community School District. Be sure to use current dates with the sample letter.

The Competent Private Instruction Handbook has been updated to reflect the recent changes in legislation. Please refer to the most current copy listed on the above Website. For more information, contact Elizabeth Calhoun at 515-281-8170 or elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov.

Iowa High School Summit put on hold

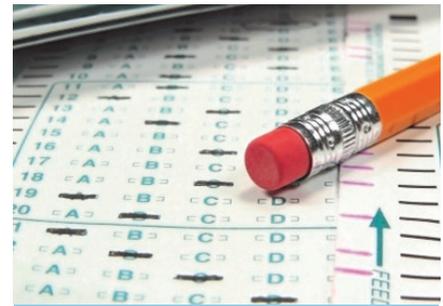
After five years of successful Iowa High School Summits, the activity has been put on hold for the 2009-2010 academic year.

According to Mark Draper, chairperson of the summit planning committee, "The cost of the Summit has become prohibitive and, of course, the weather in December has also been challenging."

The Iowa High School Project will be partnering with the Iowa Learning Supports initiative to host regional activities across the state in the coming year. Following the Iowa Learning Supports Kick-Off on September 9, 2009, in Ames, Iowa, the two initiatives will be releasing expanded information pertaining to the regional offerings for interested local education agencies and area education agencies personnel.

The Iowa's Rapidly Improving Schools (IRIS) initiative will be unveiled at the Learning Supports Kick-Off. According to Draper, IRIS will support and highlight 10 to 12 Iowa high schools that have actively implemented best practices as part of their reform efforts and have positive data to support the effectiveness of the implemented interventions. "High school reform efforts will continue throughout the state in a way that will be viewed by many as less awareness driven and more implementation focused," said Draper.

For more information on the Iowa High School Project or IRS contact Mark Draper at Loess Hills AEA 13 at 800-645-2985 or mdraper@aea13.org.



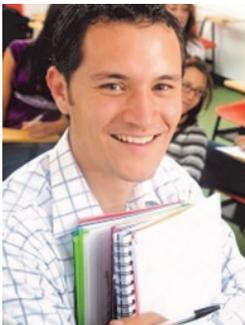
NCLB, Title III, & AP updates

On August 29, 2009, the Annual No Child Left Behind update, a Title III update, and Advanced Placement exam reimbursement information were emailed out to superintendents and Iowa area education agency administrators.

The information can be accessed at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=654&Itemid=1316.

Emphasis on highly qualified special education teachers

During the 2009-2010 school year, a new emphasis will be placed on the implementation of highly qualified special education teacher requirements under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



School improvement visits will incorporate targeted questions regarding teacher assignment reports submitted by districts to the Iowa Department of Education (DE) Basic Educational Data Survey (BEDS).

The DE anticipates that the increased emphasis will result in some districts receiving commendations and others being referred to their area education agency (AEA) for targeted technical assistance.

For more information, contact Norma Lynch at norma.lynch@iowa.gov or at 515-281-6038.

District Annual Progress Reports due September 15

The deadline for certifying the Annual Progress Report (APR) is September 15, 2009. The secure Website is currently available for updating all APRs for both public districts and nonpublic schools.

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills/Iowa Tests of Educational Development test data for public and nonpublic accredited districts/schools were pre-populated on or about August 29, 2009.

If you have any questions regarding APR, please contact Holly Barnes at 515-242-6173 or holly.barnes@iowa.gov.

Changes made to teacher compensation in 2009 legislation

During the 2009 legislative session, several changes were made to teacher compensation.

Senate File 445 requires that regular wages and teacher salary supplement (Ed Excellence Phase 2 and teacher quality compensation) be combined into one single salary system starting July 1, 2010 (FY11).

All payments under the teacher salary supplement are subject to collective bargaining once minimum salary requirements have been met. Districts that have not continued their salary distribution agreements from previous years for the 2009-2010 school year would need to bargain the distribution if no agreement is reached by September 15, 2009.

The Iowa Department of Education does not provide guidance on collective bargaining and recommends districts contact their professional organizations for guidance on bargaining the single salary schedule for the 2010-2011 school year. More information is available at [SF 445 http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=billbook&menu=false&ga=83&hbill=SF445](http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=billbook&menu=false&ga=83&hbill=SF445).

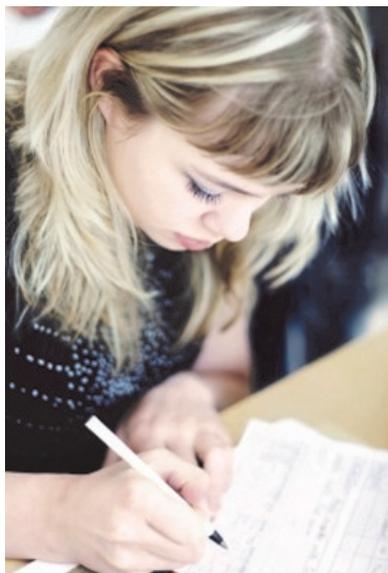


DE begins project to deliver electronic transcripts statewide

Iowa Transcript Center

The key goals of the project include:

- Facilitating the ability to analyze and examine longitudinal data at the local, postsecondary, and state level for relationships and patterns that affect student progress and improvement.
- Ensuring portability of student school records by standardizing the data and automating the electronic transfer of student records when they move between Iowa districts.
- Reducing the administrative burden for school districts by automating the secure delivery of an estimated 200,000 student transcripts to postsecondary institutions annually.
- Providing a secure, user-friendly, web-based portal that will serve the data accessibility needs of the citizens of Iowa.



The Iowa Department of Education (DE) has started the development of its Iowa Student Record and Transcript Exchange System project, called the Iowa Transcript Center (ITC). The project will provide the ability to deliver a statewide, electronic PK-12 student record and transcript exchange system.

The Iowa Student Record and Transcript Exchange System project is a collaborative effort among four components of the Iowa education community, including the DE, Regent institutions, community colleges, and local school districts. The Student Record and Transcript Exchange System is an expansion of the state's Project EASIER

(Electronic Access System for Iowa Education Records).

The ITC will facilitate the flow of student transcripts between Iowa high schools and postsecondary institutions as well as the flow of student records between Iowa school districts, thereby significantly reducing the workload of district administrators.

This implementation also includes a permanent electronic transcript repository designed to provide a central location for all final high school transcripts. In addition, the project includes a secure, single sign-on, enterprise-grade web-based portal – called the Iowa EdFusion Portal – that can be used by school district personnel, postsecondary institutions, and the DE to easily and quickly access transcripts. The DE anticipates beginning to transmit electronic transcripts within the school year. Training session schedules will be determined at a later date.

ARRA Update: Funding and reporting overview



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 is providing much-needed resources to all states as they attempt to weather the current economic downturn.

Iowa and specifically the Iowa education system has benefitted greatly from the resources provided by ARRA.

The following provides an overview of ARRA funding for education in Iowa in fiscal years 2009 and 2010:

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) – Education	
Guidance:	http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552#how
By-district payments:	http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552#funding
State Aid	FY09 - \$40,000,000; FY10 - \$202,546,705
Purpose:	Dollar for dollar replacement of state funds for school district state aid. Priorities for uses include 1) create or maintain jobs, 2) efforts that support the four assurances all education entities signed, and 3) other general fund purposes.
Payment schedule:	One FY09 payment was made in June. FY10 funds will be evenly distributed and disbursed monthly concurrent to state aid payments.
Instructional Support Levy – State Portion	FY10 - \$13,103,950
Purpose:	This ARRA funding replaces the bulk of the prior year’s state appropriation to the instructional support levy. The state appropriation for this purpose was eliminated during the 2009 legislative session and the plan for FY11 is not clear at this point.
Payment schedule:	FY10 funds will be evenly distributed and disbursed monthly concurrent to state aid payments.
Professional Development	FY10 - \$2,000,000
Purpose:	Must be used for support of implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum (in the same way as the state’s \$8.5 million for professional development under Teacher Quality funding is used).
Payment schedule:	FY10 funds will be entirely disbursed in one payment concurrent to the state aid payment in September.
Title 1, Part A	
Guidance:	http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552#how
By-district payments:	http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552#funding
School Districts	FY09 - \$7,960,749; FY10 - \$31,842,996; FY11 - \$7,091,419
Purpose:	To enhance and expand programming for students qualifying for federal Title I, Part A programming. See guidance for additional details.
Payment schedule:	One payment made in May of 2009; Four payments in FY10 (August, October 1, January 1, April 1), and one payment in FY11 (July 1).

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Update *continued*

IDEA Part B

Guidance:	http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552#how
By-district pay-ments:	http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552#funding
School Districts	FY09 - \$14,467,348; FY10 - \$28,934,696; FY11 - \$28,934,669
Area Education Agencies (AEAs)	FY09 - \$9,912,065; FY10 - \$19,824,130; FY11 - \$19,824,110
Purpose:	To enhance and expand programming for students with disabilities. See guidance for additional details, including explanations of eligible district use of local funding related to IDEA maintenance of effort.
Payment schedule:	One payment made in May of 2009; Two payments in FY10 (October 1 and April 1); Two payments in FY11 (October 1 and April 1).

Update on other ARRA education funds

The following is an update on other American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds:

- Title I: School Improvement – Funding available in fall of 2009 for qualifying districts/buildings; no additional detail yet available *ARRA assistance is available by contacting the Iowa Department of Education.*
- School Lunch Equipment Grants – Selected schools already notified of awards, have until September 30, 2009 to spend funds for upgrades and enhancements of school hot lunch program equipment.
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Youth Grants – Additional funding available to school districts for support of homeless and disadvantaged youth. Selected schools already notified of additional awards.
- Education Technology Grants – Additional details forthcoming; guidance to states not yet complete. Unclear at this point whether the funding will be part competitive grant and part formula funding or totally competitive grants to school districts. Funds used in a similar way to prior Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) funding.

For additional questions, please access the guidance on the Iowa Department of Education Website and contact the designated person for the given fund.

ARRA Reporting Requirements

All American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) subrecipients will be required to report quarterly on use of funds, jobs created or maintained, and amount received and obligated, among other data elements.

The Iowa Department of Education is working with the Iowa Department of Management and other state agencies to create one state-wide reporting system that will meet the requirements of ARRA Section 1512 for all subrecipients and will feed any information into the federal recovery database.

The first quarterly report will be completed near the end of September. The state of Iowa must submit all data to the federal system by the end of the 10th day after the end of the quarter (October 10 for the first report). Subrecipients will complete reporting requirements for each ARRA funding stream separately.

Training on how to use the Iowa reporting system will begin September 10 and continue through September 18 at regional locations. More information on training will be made available at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552.

It is imperative that all subrecipients of funds clearly understand their obligation to account for and report on uses of funds under ARRA. The level of transparency, monitoring, and accountability attached to ARRA funding is unprecedented. Continued access to these funds depends on timely and accurate response from any recipient of ARRA funding.

IDEA PART B basic funding

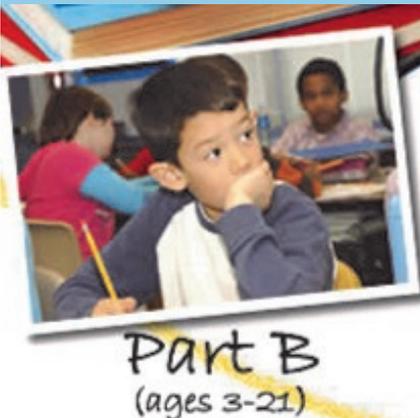
The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is currently issuing the local education agency (LEA) application for 2009-2010 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Basic funding.

The application packet is on the DE Website. These applications are due at your area education agency (AEA) by September 18, 2009.

Application forms for 2009-2010 IDEA Part B American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding are expected to be issued in early September 2009.

These application packets will also be on the DE Website. Please plan to return the ARRA funding application to your AEA by October 2, 2009.

For more information, contact John Lee at 515-281-5733 or john.lee@iowa.gov.



Construction program through ARRA

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) approved \$64,252,000 Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) allocations to 12 school districts through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.



Twenty-four school districts have applied for (QSCB) allocations. Applications that were not approved for 2009 allocations will remain open to receive future allocations from 2010 QSCB program. A list of districts with project descriptions and approved allocations is located at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1787&catid=66&Itemid=2561.

The ARRA created this new tax credit program to provide no interest financing for the renovation, repair, and construction of school buildings, the purchase of land on which school buildings will be built and the purchase of equipment to be used in the portion or portions of the public school facility that is being constructed, rehabilitated, or repaired. For a QSCB that is issued by a state or local government where a public school is located, 100 percent of available project proceeds must be used for the construction, rehabilitation, or repair of the public school facility.

For questions about QSCB, please contact Gary Schwartz at 515-281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.

Title II, Part A allocation table available

The Title II, Part A, local education agency (LEA) allocation table is now posted on the Iowa Department of Education (DE) Title II, Part A Webpage. The budget application for the 2009-2010 school year will be available on the DE EdInfo secure site sometime during the first week of September. The online application for the program *must be completed by October 23, 2009*.

Again this year, LEAs must submit a claim for reimbursement of Title II, Part A expenditures. If you have not submitted a claim for reimbursement of 2008-2009 Title II, Part A expenditures or if you are interested in submitting a claim for expenditures for 2009-2010, please do the following.

Send a billing/invoice statement along with a computer run of expenditures related to the Title II, Part A program to Marietta Rives at the Iowa Department of Education, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146.

Mail materials to Marietta for reimbursement. Payments are made from original documents, not faxed copies. You have until December 31, 2009, to claim reimbursement for the expenditures incurred during the 2008-2009 school year.

Claims for reimbursement of 2009-2010 funds may be made at any time after the funds have been expended. Claims for 2009-2010 may be submitted through December 2010. For more information, contact Marietta Rives at 515-281-8278 or marietta.rives@iowa.gov.

Safe and Drug Free Schools, Title IV funding information

Safe and Drug Free Schools budget forms for 2009-2010 are now open on EdInfo. Information about allocations for 2009-2010 can be found at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=680&Itemid=1663. All budgets must be completed and certified by October 15, 2009.

All four quarterly claims for 2008-2009 must be submitted before the 2009-2010 budget will be available. Quarterly claims for 2009-2010 must be submitted as follows:

<u>Date Range in Which Money is Spent</u>	<u>Quarter in Which to Report</u>	<u>Date Report is Due</u>
July 1 - September 30	Quarter 1	November 15
October 1 - December 31	Quarter 2	February 15
January 1 - March 31	Quarter 3	May 15
April 1 - June 30	Quarter 4	August 15

Under Transferability and Rural Education Assistance Program (REAP) Options, it is no longer possible to transfer Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools funds into Title V. Districts that qualify under Small Rural School Achievement Program (SRSAP) may REAP money into Title V and use the funds for the same purposes they would have under Title V. Districts must spend any carry over Title V funds by September 30, 2009, and may not transfer or REAP any Title V money out to Title IV (or other title programs). If the REAP-Flex option is used for 2009-2010, only one Title program can be designated for funds.

It is very likely that 2009-2010 will be the last time that formula funds are available to districts for Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities. The President's budget for FY10 recommends the elimination of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities and the budget has passed the House Appropriations Subcommittee. The current proposal calls for competitive grants to districts to replace formula funding for drug and violence prevention activities. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

Comments on impact of loss of funding or questions about Safe and Drug Free Schools programming can also be directed to Cyndy Erickson at 515-281-8514 or cyndy.erickson@iowa.gov. For fiscal questions, please contact Tana Mullen at 515-281-3333 or tana.mullen@iowa.gov.

Site visit training for the 2009-2010 school year available

Training sessions will be held in September and October for districts and schools having site visits during the 2009-2010 school year. Sessions will provide pertinent information and help guide preparation for the visits. Two sessions will be offered via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) on September 10, 2009, and September 29, 2009. The training on September 29, 2009, will focus on combined school improvement/equity visits.

Districts receiving an equity visit may also attend a training opportunity at the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines in the State Board Room on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. Questions regarding focused equity visits and training may be sent to Tom Andersen at 515-281-3769 or tom.andersen@iowa.gov.

School improvement consultants will offer site visit trainings in person in each area education agency in early September and October. For the complete training listing, check the chart at the end of the *School Leader Update*, check with your school improvement consultant, or Barb Byrd at 515-281-5001 or barb.byrd@iowa.gov.

For the complete chart of training opportunities, please see the "Site Visit Training for 2009-2010 CHART" document at the end of this newsletter

Open enrollment payment, transportation

Open enrollment “receiving” districts will bill resident districts at a rate of \$5,546 for the 2009-2010 school year. The tuition payments shall be paid to the receiving district on a quarterly basis. Billing for special education students is actual cost



calculated at a per diem rate.

In the event that the pupil who is under open enrollment withdraws from school, moves into the district of attendance, moves out of state, moves to another district in the state of Iowa and elects to attend that district, graduates at midyear, is allowed to return to the district of residence during the school year, or other similar set of circumstances that result in the pupil no longer attending in the receiving district, payment of cost per pupil will be prorated based on the number of quarters of school enrollment.

Resident districts cannot be billed for tuition, special education, or transportation assistance for students that open enroll after count date.

The rate for transportation assistance will be available in December. Students that open enroll from one district to another may be eligible for transportation assistance if they qualify under the federal income guidelines.

These guidelines are NOT the same as the guidelines for Free and Reduced Fees.

If a student qualifies, the resident district may discharge this obligation in one of three ways:

1. The resident district may actually provide transportation for the pupil(s) to a stop on the bus line of the receiving district.
2. The resident district may allow the receiving district to enter the resident district to pick up the pupil(s) if the receiving district wishes. (Failure of the receiving district to decide to do this will not discharge the resident district's obligation for transportation assistance.)
3. The resident district may provide a parent/guardian a stipend. The amount for 2008-2009 was \$397.

The tuition rates for 2009-2010 are:

Regular Education Student = \$5,546

Special Education Student = Actual cost per quarter

For questions, please contact Lois Irwin at 515-281-8582 or lois.irwin@iowa.gov.

The Open Enrollment Handbook is available on the Iowa Department of Education website at

http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=649&Itemid=636



CSIP DEADLINE is September 15

All districts/schools are required to certify their 2008-2009 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan by September 15, 2009 due to additional assurances added to the assurance form. The District Developed Special Education Service Delivery Plan is also due. The two plans are not in the same form, but you may toggle between them while working on either form.

The CSIP is moved forward from year to year or “ported” for you. You no longer need to do this step. If you wish to “start from scratch”, please contact the consultants listed below. You are free to make any adjustments you wish to the CSIP throughout the year.

If you need assistance with your CSIP, please contact the school improvement consultant assigned to your area education agency first.

If you need further assistance, contact Brandie Gean (515-281-4726 or brandie.gean@iowa.gov) or Holly Barnes (515-242-6173 or holly.barnes@iowa.gov).



Flu Season

DE and IDPH work to provide planning resources to Iowa schools

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) are working together to prepare for the 2009-2010 influenza season and are providing materials to assist Iowa's K-12 school officials in their 2009-2010 influenza season planning.

The Technical Report for State and Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators on CDC Guidance for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza During the 2009-2010 School Year is available at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/technical-report.htm. There are recommendations for conditions of "similar severity as in spring 2009" and recommendations for conditions of "increased severity." Currently, the severity of illness associated with the circulating strains of influenza is similar to spring 2009. Should the severity increase, the DE and IDPH will issue additional communications to schools recommending a shift to the "increased severity" recommendations.

In addition, the CDC has a communications toolkit to help districts prepare for the flu for schools with grades K-12 is available at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf. The toolkit contains fact sheets for parents, staff, and students, signs for posting in schools, and template information letters that schools can distribute.

In addition, the DE and IDPH are working on materials to assist Iowa schools. This information can be found at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp>. The materials include a letter template for schools to distribute to parents/guardians. The template provides tips for keeping students healthy and discusses the importance of excluding ill children until 24 hours after fever resolves absent the use of fever-reducing drugs. Advice and a fact sheet with tips for discussing influenza with children in order to minimize stress and confusion is also provided.

Environmental cleaning and disinfection resources including a general use fact sheet and quick guide for schools are also available. The information provides recommendations for prioritizing cleaning efforts and clarification about the types of cleaning products appropriate for influenza.

Descriptions of school reporting and surveillance systems are also available. Schools are asked to report absenteeism when 10 percent or more of the total enrollment is absent on any given day. Reports can be made by calling the IDPH Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 800-362-2735 or by faxing the form available at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/iowa_school_absenteeism.pdf to 515-281-5698. The Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network (IISN) is recruiting schools to participate in the surveillance program. Additional information is available at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/flu_brochure.pdf. The CDC has developed an online novel influenza A (H1N1)-related school dismissal reporting system. Visit <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp> for a description.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced circumstances in which schools and community organizations may continue to provide reimbursable meals to low-income children during school closures related to novel influenza A (H1N1). The DE will contact district school food authorities with this information.

The DE strongly encourages school districts to collaborate with their local public health department on influenza planning activities. For questions about novel influenza A (H1N1) vaccine distribution in the local community, please contact your local public health departments. Access the IDPH Website frequently for Iowa-specific updates.

For more information, contact the Centers for Acute Disease Epidemiology at the Iowa Department of Public Health (800-362-2736) or Charlotte Burt at the Iowa Department of Education at 515-281-5327 or charlotte.burt@iowa.gov.

Student Health & Nutrition

Healthy Iowa award application available

Iowa has some of the best schools and some of the most academically-accomplished students. The evidence is clear that adequate levels of physical activity and proper nutrition play a key role in a student's success. The staff and faculty in Iowa's schools have great potential to serve as wellness ambassadors and role models for the students. A Healthy Iowa School is one in which healthy lifestyles are modeled, not just taught. A leader in health and wellness is an innovator, motivator, and a change agent. These individuals are the best of the best in promoting and practicing healthy lifestyle behaviors. They strive to be a role model and advocate and to bring out the best in others. The Healthy Iowa Individual Visionary Award will be awarded to a wellness champion who has cultivated change in themselves or others. Send in an application today to award an outstanding wellness champion. Mail applications to

Wellness Council of Iowa, 3200 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

Applications for the 2009 Healthy Iowa/Iowa Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition awards are now available. Awards will be given in four categories:

- Communities,
- Schools,
- Individual Visionaries, and
- College/University.

For more information, visit [Wellness Council of Iowa](#). **The applications are due September 11, 2009.** For more information, please contact Patti Delger at 515-2815676 or patti.delger@iowa.gov.



THE LOGIC OF BREAKFAST

When students need to take achievement tests, schools encourage them to eat breakfast.

Why? Because we know that when students eat breakfast, they are better able to concentrate.

Help students to perform better every day by making sure they eat a healthy breakfast.

[Click here](#) for more information on the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Transportation

Iowa superintendents to be sent bus inspection notification



Notification of school bus inspection dates are currently being sent to district superintendents via email by the Iowa Department of Education School Transportation Office. Previously, notification had been sent by fax.

Email notifications are now sent to the superintendent's office and must be forwarded to the district transportation director or supervisor in order to prepare for their school bus inspection.

Notifications will continue to be sent approximately ten days prior

to your inspection date.

School bus inspection schedules can be accessed anytime at: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1256&Itemid=2143.

Please contact Max Christensen with questions or for more information at 515-281-4749 or max.christensen@iowa.gov.

Board of Educational Examiners

Licensure reports available for districts

A few years back, each district received a report on the date each teacher's license would expire. Now that all licenses can be viewed on the Board of Educational Examiner's homepage, this report hasn't been sent out for a few years. Each administrator now has the ability to generate their own expired license report by building or district wide.

If interested in generating an expired license report, choose the "Tools for School Administrators-Search for Staff with Expiring Licenses" button on the Board of Educational Examiner's website at www.boee.iowa.gov.

You will need to use the same login information you use for other Iowa Department of Education (DE) applications (such as BEDS or Project EASIER).

Upon successful login to that system, choose the "Staff License Expiration" button and follow the onscreen instructions.

There are other search options available at this site, however, they are not fully functional at this time.



ESL WAIVERS available

The Board of Educational Examiners has developed a waiver for individuals who were licensed in Iowa prior to October 1, 1988, and were allowed to teach English as a Second Language without completing the endorsement requirements.

By July 1, 2012, in order to teach or continue to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, individuals must complete the endorsement requirements or must successfully complete the waiver.

The waiver application requires verification of experience, college course work, and staff development course work in ESL.

The waiver is available on the Board of Educational Examiner's website at www.boee.iowa.gov. Click on the heading "Endorsement Information." The waiver and the frequently asked questions are included.

For further questions, please contact Susan Fischer (515-281-3605 or susan.fischer@iowa.gov) or Fred Kinne (515-281-3587 or fred.kinne@iowa.gov).

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

IQPPS site visits scheduled for the year

Districts implementing the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program are required to fully implement assurances at the beginning of the school year and meet preschool program standards within one year.



During year two of implementation, districts following the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) receive a verification visit. Districts awarded in 2008-2009 will receive the IQPPS verification visit in 2009-2010.

Beginning with 2009-2010, IQPPS verification visits will include all IQPPS statewide voluntary classroom sessions, early childhood special education (ECSE) sessions, and early childhood sessions (such as community-based providers, child care, district tuition programs, etc.) serving a preschool child on an Individualized Education Program. If the district is scheduled to have a Comprehensive School Improvement Visit during 2009-2010, the IQPPS verification visit will occur simultaneously. IQPPS visits have been scheduled for 2009-2010.

Newly awarded districts will prepare for the IQPPS verification visit to occur during the 2010-2011 school year.

Timeline has been extended to September 8th for new districts awarded Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program grants for 2009-2010 to report child enrollment (certified enrollment date follows same as school-age reporting).

For questions, contact Judy Knox at 515-281-4705 or judy.knox@iowa.gov.



Legal Lessons

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

Expulsion vs. suspension

What's the difference and why does it matter?

Words matter. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., noted, "A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged; it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in color and content according to the circumstances and the time in which it is used."

So it is with student discipline. When a local school board removes a student from classes for more than 10 school days, it is important that the board know whether it intends to impose a long-term suspension or an expulsion, and then deliberately use the correct term. So what is the difference?

When a student is suspended, the student remains on the rolls of the district and at the end of the time of suspension, automatically gains re-entry to classes rather than having to ask to be taken in.

On the other hand, an expelled student is no longer on the district's rolls, and must ask to be re-enrolled.

When to utilize which? No two situations are alike, but one major factor to consider is that an expelled student has no incentive to keep up with his/her schoolwork during the period of expulsion. But when it is made clear to a suspended student that the school fully expects the presence of the student in school the day following the expiration of the suspension period, the school is putting the student on notice that the student would be well served to keep up with his/her studies. Of course, for the

school's part, there needs to be cooperation by the student's teachers to provide assignments during the suspension.

Finally, there is no such (lawful) creature as an "indefinite" suspension or expulsion. Regardless of whether a student is suspended or expelled, the school board must put an ending time on the period of time that the student is banished from classes. This may not be true in other states, but Iowa Code section 282.4, below, implies that the "conditions" of expulsion or suspension must include the time period.

282.4(3): "[I]f a student has been expelled or suspended from school and has not met the conditions of the expulsion or suspension, the student shall not be permitted to enroll in a school district until the board of directors of the school district approves, by a majority vote, the enrollment of the student."

Election-time reminders

With school board elections just around the corner, here is a summary of issues that may arise:

Public resources. Public moneys cannot be expended for political purposes (Iowa Code section 56.12A) and public resources may not be used for political purposes. This means public email addresses may not be used to endorse a candidate or issue. Whether a district employee may use their public email to remind colleagues of election day or just to get the vote out (without advocating) is up to local district rules.

Candidate forum held in public school building. This is fine IF all candidates have been invited, at least two participate, and the forum is not set up to benefit one candidate over the others. If the forum complies with these conditions, campaign materials may even be distributed at the forum.

Candidates speaking just to students in classrooms. Candidates may "come in and speak about their campaigns, their positions and other issues so long as the candidates do not use words of 'express advocacy'... such as 'vote for,' 'elect,' 'defeat,'" etc.

Posting campaign literature in classrooms. When such materials are posted as part of the curriculum on government, elections and campaigning, this is allowable IF literature from all major candidates in the election is posted upon request.

When in doubt, questions should be referred to the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board (<http://www.iowa.gov/ethics/>), which is the state entity that regulates election laws and public officer ethics in Iowa.

Calendar

STATE TRAINING for Level I Investigators

Annual statewide training for Chapter 102 Level I investigators will take place Monday, October 5, from 8:00 – noon.

As in the past, the training will originate at Heartland Area Education Agency's main office in Johnston, and will be narrowcast live over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

A Level I investigator should contact his/her AEA for the closest ICN site.

- September 1** • Open Enrollment—Last day to file timely open enrollment for kindergarten students
- September 15** • Date by which student must be school age for Certified Enrollment
 - Certified Annual Report due
 - District Developed Service Delivery Plans due
- October 1** • Board resolutions to study reorganization due
 - Web special education supplement due
 - Certified enrollment count date
 - Whole grade sharing count date

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



www.iowa.gov/educate

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