



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

January 2010

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STATE BOARD to meet Jan. 14

The State Board of Education will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 14.

The meeting will be held in the State Board Room in the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines.

The tentative agenda includes an update on Iowa's Race to the Top application, practitioner preparation program approvals, and the *Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges Report 2009*.

The final agenda will be posted on the [DE website](#).

Partnerships key to Race to the Top

Iowa is nearing the final stretch to submitting its application for the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant program. This is a busy time and we want to make sure all Iowa school leaders are well aware of the activities occurring and the role we all play in the application process.

There are areas that will require some legislative changes to position Iowa competitively for several different future federal grants—only one of which is the RTTT. Please see the Legislative Update on page nine of this edition of the *School Leader Update* for more information.



Judy Jeffrey, Director

The Iowa Department of Education (DE), along with Iowa's area education agencies, is holding regional meetings to share Iowa's plan to meet the Race to the Top application criteria and more. These meetings constitute the final opportunity to inform local school districts about decisions on RTTT participation and are for superintendents, school board presidents, and teachers' association presidents. Please see page five of this edition of the *School Leader Update* for more information. These meetings are important because Iowa school board presidents must sign a memorandum of understanding in order for school districts to receive RTTT funds. Supporting signatures from superintendents and teachers' association presidents strengthen Iowa's chances of receiving the grant.

Therefore, partnership is important to Iowa's Race to the Top application. This is not new to Iowa, because we often work together in partnership to deliver a high quality education for our students.

I also want to let you know that recent budget cuts have affected the DE. We have recently reduced our staff and have not filled vacant positions. Even with these reductions, we continue to work to meet all our continuing responsibilities and to provide services to Iowa school districts. Our mission is unchanged: to champion excellence in education through superior leadership and service.

- Judy Jeffrey

IOWA MEDICAID to propose change

Iowa Medicaid plans to propose to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a change that would impact area education agency (AEA) and local education agency (LEA) Medicaid programs for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B and Part C services.

This change would allow AEAs to retain the full federal share of their Medicaid payments and move AEA and LEA programs to procedures many states follow, whereby AEAs and LEAs transfer to Department of Human Services the state share of the payment to be received, prior to claims payment. It also resolves a difference of opinion between Iowa Medicaid and CMS regarding the current AEA process, and allows CMS to drop a demand for repayment of \$2,008,558 from SFY06 and repayment of the federal amount of overpayment for subsequent quarters after FFY 2006.

These topics will be discussed at upcoming meetings with AEA chiefs, AEA special education directors, AEA business managers, and finance roundtable members. For more information or if you have questions, contact Jim Donoghue at 515-281-8505 or jim.donoghue@iowa.gov.

H1N1 expected in January, February

Public health officials predict another wave of influenza-like illness to occur in late January and February, during the usual time that Iowa has the highest rates of influenza activity. Vaccination, as soon as possible, will give protection against this next wave of illness.

All Iowans may now receive the H1N1 flu vaccination. Please encourage all employees, students, family members, community members, and individuals at highest risk of complications to receive the vaccination to reduce getting or spreading the virus. Local public health agencies offer vaccination sites and clinics. More information can be found at the Iowa Department of Public Health, Flu Vaccination Site Locator at www.idph.state.ia.us/webmap/default.asp?map=h1n1_vaccine_sites or your local public health website.

Children under age 10 need a second dose of H1N1 vaccine to be fully protected. The second dose can be administered at least 28 days after receiving the first dose. The recall of some pediatric H1N1 vaccine doses (due to loss of potency – not safety issues) only impacts children under age three and there is no need to re-vaccinate those who have received the vaccine.

Please continue your excellent work with prevention activities including frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when ill, and wiping hard surfaces with soap and water to help stop the spread of influenza.

For the latest updates, visit the websites of the Iowa Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.idph.state.ia.us and www.cdc.gov.

Please direct any questions or comments to Charlotte Burt at 515-281-5327 or charlotte.burt@iowa.gov.

Building Energy Smart – be the BEST

The Office of Energy Independence is re-launching the Iowa Energy Bank as the BEST program for Iowa's buildings.

The BEST program provides financing, technical assistance, and program management to install energy efficient and renewable energy projects. Since 1988, the BEST program, formally the Iowa Energy Bank program, helped Iowans save over \$200 million in energy costs.

Through the BEST program, the Office of Energy Independence offers a package of financing, consulting, and tracking for building improvements to make Iowa buildings the BEST they can be. The success of the BEST program is simple. The energy saved by implementing energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy options pay for improvements. Money and energy saved is an investment in Iowa's buildings.

Call 1-877-571-6625 or visit www.energy.iowa.gov to learn more about opportunities with the BEST program.



AIW application now available

School leaders may now apply for the Iowa Department of Education's Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW) professional development initiative.

AIW works to increase student learning by engaging students in authentic intellectual work. AIW is defined by three criteria: *construction of knowledge*, through *disciplined inquiry*, to produce discourse, products, and performance that have *value beyond school*. The AIW framework establishes criteria for teaching that:

- maximize expectations of intellectual challenge for all students,
- increase student interest in academic work,
- supports teachers' taking time to teach for in-depth understanding, rather than superficial coverage of materials,
- provide a common conception of student intellectual work that promotes professional community among teachers of different grade levels and subjects, and
- equip students to address the complex intellectual challenges of work, civic participation, and managing personal affairs in the contemporary world.

The 2010-2011 AIW application is now available online at www.iowa.gov/educate. Interested districts/schools must submit their application and external letter of support by 4:30 p.m. on March 15, 2010. For additional information, contact Deborah Humpal at Deborah.humpal@iowa.gov or 515-822-3472.

Microsoft settlement program update

The Iowa School Microsoft Settlement program recently announced that approximately 70 percent of Iowa schools are eligible for more than \$60 million for the purchase of new technology. Eligible districts that have questions about the eligibility of products or services under the settlement may submit an email inquiry to Claim-Admin@IowaSchoolMicrosoftSettlement.com.

The email should include the following information:

- Your name, title, and telephone number.
- Area Education Agency number and district number (e.g., 22-9201).
- The specific name of the product or service.
- For hardware products, identify the manufacturer.
- For software products, identify the publisher and state whether it is for use on a laptop, desktop, or server.
- For IT support services, include the name of the provider and the name of the products procured through this settlement that will be installed or maintained.
- For professional development (PD) services: include the name of the provider; name of the PD event; summary of the content; name of the products procured through this settlement that are the focus of the PD (if applicable); and, if products will be provided to participants as part of the PD, include the product name and manufacturer.

An email response, including a confirmation number, will be sent to you in seven to 10 business days. Please visit: www.iowaschoolmicrosoftsettlement.com.



NATIONAL GREEN Week 2010 in Iowa

Iowa Governor Chet Culver has proclaimed February 1-5 National Green Week 2010 in Iowa.

The goal of National Green Week is to encourage Iowans to participate in helping sustain our state's valuable national resources.

In addition, the annual event helps educate children about the importance of sustainability and making eco-friendly choices to help the environment.

The goal of National Green Week 2010 is to encourage schools and students to reduce tons of waste by selecting waste-free snacks and drinks for the week.

Visit

www.GreenEducationFoundation.org to learn more and become an official GEF National Green Week participant.

Iowa Rapidly Improving Schools participants announced

A review committee from the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Student and Family Support Services selected the following Iowa high schools to participate in the Iowa Rapidly Improving Schools (IRIS) project.

Each school met or exceeded the selection criteria for voluntary participation.

- West Delaware High School, Manchester (Keystone AEA 1)
- Sumner-Fredericksburg High School, Sumner (AEA 267)
- Union High School, La Porte City (AEA 267)
- Manson NW Webster High School, Manson (Prairie Lakes AEA 8)
- Central High School, De Witt (Mississippi Bend AEA 9)
- Davenport North High School, Davenport (Mississippi Bend AEA 9)
- Bellevue High School, Bellevue (Mississippi Bend AEA 9)
- Muscatine High School, Muscatine (Mississippi Bend AEA 9)
- AHST High School, Avoca (Loess Hills AEA 13)
- West Sioux High School, Hawarden (Northwest AEA)



This multi-year effort will focus on continuing high school reform and reinvention work in these sites. The six project targets (Learning Criteria, Professional Development, Struggling Learners, Iowa Core, Characteristics of Effective Instruction, and Systems Approaches) will serve as the beacon for on-going work.

The 10 selected high schools each have demonstrated successes in more than one of the target areas.

Leadership teams will work collaboratively with project consultants, and other participant schools, to continue their commitment to improving the achievement of all struggling learners.

Questions pertaining to the IRIS initiative may be directed to Mark Draper, Loess Hills AEA 13, at mdraper@aea13.org.

Open enrollment and transportation assistance

The transportation reimbursement amount, for open enrolled families that qualify according to income guidelines, is \$400.00. Transportation assistance is only available to families that open enroll between contiguous districts.

The cost of transportation reimbursement incurred by the resident district should be deducted from the tuition sent to the receiving district for a student that is open enrolled. If the application for transportation assistance is filed after the beginning of the school year, the cost of providing the transportation should be prorated.

If a parent/guardian qualifies for school transportation assistance, the resident district has the authority to determine how the transportation assistance will be provided. The type of transportation assistance is not a parent/guardian choice. The resident district may meet its statutory obligation in one of three ways:

- The resident district may provide transportation for the pupil(s) to a stop on the bus line of the receiving district.
- The resident district may allow the receiving district to enter the resident district to pick up the pupil(s) if the receiving district requests this arrangement. If either the sending or receiving district does not approve the arrangement, the resident district is still obligated to provide transportation assistance.
- The resident district may provide a parent/guardian with a cash reimbursement at \$400.00 per child, per year for up to four children per family. The maximum number of children can include only one secondary child and up to three elementary children.

For additional information and income guidelines contact Lois Irwin, 515-281-8582 or lois.irwin@iowa.gov or visit the website at www.iowa.gov/educate.



Nine regional informational events will be held the week of January 4 to share Iowa's plan to meet the Race to the Top (RTTT) application criteria and more. The Race to the Top State Plan Highlights document is available at www.iowa.gov/educate.

These meetings constitute the final opportunity to inform local school district decisions on RTTT participation.

Each event will consist of two meetings: a technical assistance meeting for superintendents from 4:30-5:45 p.m., and a joint meeting for superintendents, school board presidents, and teachers' association presidents from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

District teams (superintendents, school board presidents, and teachers' association presidents) who cannot travel to the sites may take part over the ICN.

Each event will include an origination site and two or three satellite ICN rooms in each region. Materials for the meetings are available at www.iowa.gov/educate. Participants will need to bring their own handouts.

Superintendents, school board presidents, and teachers' association presidents may attend at any location that is convenient. The Iowa Department of Education suggests that you coordinate within your district to attend at the same site, as there will be time during the 6:00-8:00 p.m. meeting to have discussions among your local representatives.

The events are scheduled to be completed before the deadline for submitting memorandums of understanding (MOU), which is 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2010. A copy of the MOU is now available at www.iowa.gov/educate. Given the rapid timeline, school boards and teacher associations may need to schedule special meetings after the regional events to determine whether or not to participate in this grant opportunity.

Each regional informational event includes technical assistance sessions for superintendents and joint meetings for superintendents, school board presidents, and teachers' association presidents.

You may attend at the origination site or a satellite site, whichever is most convenient for your district team. Check back on the Iowa Department of Education website (www.iowa.gov/educate) for more details.

Race to the Top Update

Iowa holds regional meetings to provide information to school leaders.

REMINDER: Race to the Top Regional Meetings

Host: Great Prairie Area Education Agency (AEA) 15/16
Monday, January 4, 2010

Host: Keystone Area Education Agency (AEA) 1
Monday, January 4, 2010

Host: Grant Wood Area Education Agency (AEA) 10
Monday, January 4, 2010

Host: Heartland Area Education Agency (AEA) 11
Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Host: Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (AEA) 9
Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Host: Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency (AEA)
Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Host: Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA)
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Host: Area Education Agency (AEA) 13/14
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Host: Area Education Agency (AEA) 267
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Visit www.iowa.gov/educate/ for the full schedule.

Student Health and Nutrition



SCHOOL NUTRITION facts from 2009

Breakfasts served: **13,497,482**

Lunches served: **61,082,423**

Snacks served: **797,274**

Free, reduced breakfasts: **9,246,741**

Free, reduced lunches: **24,577,207**

Total federal reimbursement:
\$85,732,827.73

Total state funds: **\$2,184,207.04**

hawk-i Reporting Deadline

The deadline for submitting *hawk-i* reports was November 30, 2009, *but the web-site will remain open until January 15, 2010*. Public school districts are required by Iowa law to make these reports. Over 120 public school districts had *not* filed a report, as of November 30, 2009. To access the template and file a report, go to <https://www.hawki.reducedmeal.maximus.com/ReducedMealProgram/Login.aspx>.

The account number for public schools is your 4-digit district number plus four zeros. The default password is bluebird\$, which must be changed on first login. Instructions are on the form download section of Child Nutrition Program 2000 ("*hawk-i* Contract and Directions"). Districts will receive follow up to ensure that this requirement is met. Contact Nancy Christensen at 515-281-5663 or nancy.christensen@iowa.gov for assistance.

Verification summary reports deadline

Verification summary reports are due no later than Friday, January 15, 2010, on the web-based Child Nutrition Program (CNP) 2000 system.

Public and non-public schools, as well as Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) with day students, must complete verification and file the report. RCCIs without day students and that are NOT required to report, may confirm their status by logging onto the system and clicking on the verification tab.

A message will appear stating that verification is not required. Late submission of reports may result in withholding claims payments until correct reports are filed.

If you are experiencing problems with the system or have questions, please contact Nancy Christensen at nancy.christensen@iowa.gov or 515-281-5663.

Healthy Kids Act ICN to be replayed

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) held an ICN, "Understanding the Healthy Kids Act," on December 3, 2009.

The ICN provided an overview of the Healthy Kids Act and described ways that school staff, students, and parents can work together to implement the nutritional content standards. Information on upcoming Healthy Kids Act and school wellness training opportunities and tools, and a "To-Do" list for schools was shared.

The session included testimonials from two food service directors and a superintendent who are already preparing to implement the Healthy Kids Act nutritional content standards.

The ICN will be replayed on Thursday, January 21, 2010 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Friday, January 22, 2010 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The deadline to register to participate is Tuesday, January 19, 2010. To register, please use the following web address: http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=10229. For questions, please contact Jennifer Neal at 515-281-6192 or jenny.neal@iowa.gov.

Student Health and Nutrition

Iowa School Health Profiles

The Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds cooperative agreements with state, territorial, and local education agencies and tribal governments. The primary purposes of these cooperative agreements are: 1) to build state education and health agency partnerships and capacity to implement and coordinate school health programs across agencies, and within school; and 2) to strengthen policies, programs, and support to help our school prevent sexual risk behaviors that result in HIV infection, especially among youth who are at highest risk.

The School Health Profiles (Profiles) helps education and health agencies monitor the current status of school health education; physical education; school health policies related to HIV infection/AIDS, tobacco use prevention, and nutrition; asthma management activities; and family and community involvement in school health programs. Education and/or health agencies conduct the survey biennially (even years) at the middle school and high school levels.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE), HIV/AIDS Prevention Program is getting ready to send letters to the 347 randomly selected Iowa schools principals and lead health teachers. It is hoped if your school has been selected to participate you will do so.

The 2006 and 2008 Profiles results are available on the DE website, http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1640&Itemid=2451#HIV/AIDS.

Please contact Sara Peterson, RN, MA, HIV/AIDS Project Director, at (515) 281-4804 or sara.peterson@iowa.gov for further information or questions concerning the 2010 Iowa School Health Profiles.

Transportation

“Best of the Best” competition

The “Best of the Best” competition will be held on April 17, 2010, and is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education (DE), the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association, and the school bus dealers in Iowa. The event helps recognize school bus technicians/mechanics for the important role they play in school transportation.

The competition will include both a written knowledge exam plus a “hands-on” competition to determine the “Best of the Best” in Iowa. The winner of this competition will then proceed on to the national competition to be held later in the year. The national winner will receive an award at the national transportation conference next fall.

For information on how to get your school bus technicians/mechanics entered in this event, contact Max Christensen at max.christensen@iowa.gov.

THE FIRST LINE of defense

It is time to revisit the food safety and sanitation checklist and conduct a systemic and thorough review of your food service operation. The goal is to serve safe and healthy food to the school community.

The district’s food safety plan should start before the food reaches the district.

- Start by visiting the warehouse facilities of the distributor and evaluating their operating procedures.
- A school district’s food safety plan is an evolving process. The plan should be assessed, implemented, and evaluated annually.
- Use the New Employee Orientation Standard Operating Procedure and the New Food Service Employee Orientation Food Safety checklist at the Iowa State University Extension website.

Establish the following steps:

1. Develop standard operating procedures.
2. Use the process approach to HACCP for all foods served in school.
3. Monitor the process. Use the food safety checklist developed by the National Food Safety Management Institute.
4. Develop corrective action plans.
5. Keep records.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

IQPPS overview for preschool programs

The Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) are comprised of all 10 NAEYC standards and approximately 45 percent of the criteria. It is designed to be a continuous improvement process to potentially culminate with accreditation from National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Standards include: Relationships, Curriculum, Teaching, Assessment of Child Progress, Health, Teachers, Families, Community Relationships, Physical Environment and Teaching and Management. Districts should consult with their regional Area Education Agency for assistance in implementing the standards, developing portfolios, and preparing for a verification visit.

The IQPPS Verification Visit is conducted between October and May of the second year of implementation of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children. If the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) visit is scheduled for the same year, the CSIP and IQPPS Verification visit occur simultaneously. Verification visits are scheduled by an Iowa Department of Education early child consultant during the summer prior to the visit. Components of the IQPPS Verification Visits mirror CSIP visits including the district overview, family and teacher interviews, document review, summary meeting, and report. Compliance for the district is documented for both the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program assurances and 23 required criteria and 85 percent of the other IQPPS criteria. If noncompliance is documented, districts must provide evidence of compliance within 45 days of the visit. Within one year of the visit, districts must meet 85 percent of the other remaining criteria in each standard.

For more information go to http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content20&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279 or contact Judy (Knox) Russell at 515-281-4705 or judy.russell@iowa.gov.

Application Timeline

Check the Iowa Department of Education website for soon-to-be released district grant application timeline for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children.

Partnering with Faith-based Preschools

The following guidance is being repeated from the November *School Leader Update* since questions continue to be asked regarding the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program districts partnering with faith-based preschools.

Pursuant to Article I, Section 3 of the Iowa Constitution, religious instruction is restricted during the time that is funded through state dollars: "The general assembly shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; nor shall any person be compelled to attend any place of worship, pay tithes, taxes, or other rates for building or repairing places of worship, or the maintenance of any minister, or ministry."

Q: *What instructions should be given in order to ensure that religious instruction does not occur within the 10 consecutive hours of instruction?*

A: All faith-based partners must ensure that, from the time instruction starts, supported by Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds, until the time such instruction ends, no religious instruction takes place. There is to be no interruption (no "sprinkling") of such instructional time for any faith-based purpose.

Q: *If the faith-based program adds religious instruction to the beginning or end of the day, can the district provide transportation to allow for this additional time?*

A: No. Transportation may be provided by the district solely to get the students to the site for the start of the instructional time paid for with the public Statewide Voluntary Preschool funds and to pick up the students when that instructional time is ended.

Q: *Can the private faith-based preschool require uniforms for children funded through the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds?*

A: No. Private faith-based preschools may not require uniforms for children funded through Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds.



Legislative Update

The contact for all legislative items is Konni Cawiezell (konni.cawiezell@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399).

Looking to the 2010 legislative session

The 2010 Legislative Session will begin with education issues being center stage in the first week. As the Iowa Department of Education (DE) prepares its application for Race to the Top, there are three key areas that the legislature will debate to assist Iowa's preparation for a strong application. As districts are considering their own participation in Race to the Top, we ask that you encourage your legislators to support Iowa's efforts to improve education.

The first legislative change is to the current charter school law, Iowa Code chapter 256F. The legislation includes removing the current cap of twenty charters the state board can approve, removing the limitation that a district can only have one charter school, and removing the current 2011 repeal date in Code. Finally, the department is strengthening charters by having the district show improvement in student learning for renewal of charter status.

The second area of change is the creation of innovation zones. This legislation allows multiple districts to partner together with a local area education agency (AEA) to create innovation zones to try new and innovative ways to increase student learning opportunities through, but not limited to, curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Iowa would be one of the first few states in the nation to have innovation zones in their public education policy.

Finally, the third area is a narrow focus on intervening with school buildings identified as persistently lowest achieving. A new federal requirement is for a state to identify the persistently lowest performing schools and for the districts with these schools to implement an intervention model. Several of the intervention models can only be implemented if Iowa law provides an option for administration and teacher associations to find agreement for the required strategies. This change allows for significant financial infusion of federal dollars from both Race to the Top and School Improvement Grants to assist these schools with improving student achievement.

The DE looks forward to partnering with school districts and Area Education Agencies this legislative session. We encourage you to keep in touch with us on what you are hearing in your local district so that we can help represent you at the Capitol.

Legislative update available online

For the most up-to-date information on legislation related to Iowa education, please visit the Iowa Department of Education website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1529&Itemid=2348.

This page provides regular updates during the Iowa legislative session on bills related to education in Iowa. Information about new bills, including names, numbers, content,



sponsors, and status in the legislative process are provided.

Users may sort bills by these categories by simply going to the "Sort by" box and choosing a category.

Bills are also color coded to indicate its status.

For more information, please contact Konni Cawiezell at konni.cawiezell@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399.



Legal Lessons

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

Students on Sex Offender Registry

The joint guidance from Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), School Administrators of Iowa (SAI), and the Iowa Department of Education (DE) regarding changes to the law regarding sex offenders has been updated with respect to a student who is required to register.

Local boards of education are required to determine the educational placement of a resident student who is required to be on the Sex Offender Registry (SOR). That student needs no permission to be at the student's school of enrollment.

Questions have arisen regarding whether a student registrant whose conviction involved a sex offense against a minor must have permission to be on the property of another school?

While the law is not clear about this, IASB, SAI, and the DE agree that student members of a school team (or choir, band, speech ensemble, etc.) do not need permission when participating with their team at another school as the student is representing his/her school while on the trip and is under the supervision of staff during the trip.

In such instances, school officials should consider contacting administrators of the visited school prior to the trip, to notify them of the student registrant's participation on the school team.

However, a student registrant who desires to attend another school as a spectator or to attend any function at which the student is not part of the student's school's team (choir, band, ensemble, etc.) must have permission from the other school's principal.

The full guidance document is available at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1816%3Anew-sex-offender-law-summary-for-schools&catid=666%3Ahighlights&Itemid=1.

Foreign Students and Senior Year Plus Programs

First disclaimer: there is no "one size fits all" guidance for this area of law. Take the following guidance as it is intended to be – very general statements.

Resident students who may be undocumented. These are students who reside in Iowa; whether they have proper documentation to be here "legally" is irrelevant to school districts. K-12 school officials do not make inquiry into the citizenship status of students who clearly reside in their district. The district of residence provides all educational benefits, including Senior Year Plus (SYP) programs and extracurricular programs, to such students.

Two cautionary notes: (a) If a resident student who may be in the U.S. "undocumented" desires to partake of an SYP course for both secondary and postsecondary credit, the student should be counseled that the postsecondary institution *could* deny the student access to the course. Also, while district officials may and should truthfully reassure the student that no one from the district will report any suspicions about the student's status to federal authorities, the district cannot guarantee the same about officials at the postsecondary institution.

(b) Same as above, but the course is one that requires a background check (such as a course in a healthcare field), the student should be counseled that the background check cannot be done if the student does not have a Social Security Number. District officials are not to ask the student whether s/he has an SSN; just provide the information and let the student make an informed decision about whether to proceed with signing up for the course.

Foreign exchange students (J-1 visa holders). These are students who are sponsored by an organization such as Ro-



STUDENT MEMBER application due

Each year the Governor appoints a student to serve as a non-voting member of the State Board of Education.

Deadline for filing applications for Student Member to State Board of Education is February 5, 2010.

For the full explanation of the application process and of the position itself, see the December 2009 *School Leaders Update*.

Application and all required supporting documents are available online at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1667&Itemid=2474#StudentApp

Questions may be directed to Carol Greta 515-281-8661 or carol.greta@iowa.gov.

tary, Youth for Understanding, etc., and who reside with a host family. These students are not residents of the district, and a district cannot include them on certified enrollment. The district is neither required to nor prohibited from allowing J-1 students to access SYP programming.

Foreign students, non-exchange (F-1 visa holders). District officials will recall that they are required to collect full tuition for F-1 students. Therefore, there is no financial disincentive for allowing these students to access SYP courses.

Finally, when in doubt always give the benefit of any doubt to the student and allow them access to SYP programming.

Tips for the New Year

Keep up the good work out there, and thank you all in advance for your efforts yet to come.

Take your job seriously, but not yourself. Bring your common sense and sense of humor into every situation you encounter.

Have a support group - either the area education agency meetings or some job-alike group where you can safely kick back and gripe about life's vicissitudes.

Always be the grownup in the room.

Never fail to make sure that the school contacts a parent when something (good, bad, even seemingly insignificant) happens regarding the parent's child. (And if the parent hears from you first, all the better!)

Know that you and your staff may be the only reasonable influences in some children's lives.

Search the Web (Google or any search engine) when staff, student, or parent wants to discuss an issue to find out what "information" they have read. (It may be nonsense, but you need to be armed with the same nonsense!)

Calendar

- January 1 • Juvenile Home Educational Program Budget
- January 1 • Reorganization or dissolution effective on next July 1 — last day to notify Iowa Department of Education
- January 29 • EASIER winter collection closes
- January 31 • Nonpublic School Transportation Reimbursement Claim—1st semester
- February 1 • Dropout Prevention Program— last day to resubmit an unapproved application
- February 1 • Whole Grade Sharing Agreement—last day for board to sign
- March 25-26 • Eleventh Iowa Special Education Law Conference

IOWA Teacher of the Year

Nominate an Iowa teacher today for the state's highest honor for educators.

Contact the Iowa Department of Education at (515) 281-3980 for more information.



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

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