



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

September 2010

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IOWA ACT: 2nd in nation

Iowa students continue to earn the second highest average ACT scores in the nation during 2010, according to results released by ACT.

The average ACT composite score for Iowa students this year was 22.2, compared to the national average score of 21.

Iowa's average score is the second highest in the nation among states testing a majority of their graduating seniors.

Minnesota is first in the nation with an average score of 22.9 out of a possible 36.

More information is at
www.iowa.gov/educate.

Meet their expectations from day one

As school started for many Iowa students across the state this month, I had the opportunity to reflect on the journey of my four nephews—all of whom are on the verge of an exciting time in their educational path in Iowa schools.

Two of my nephews are in kindergarten this year. They are full of excitement as they begin this new journey. As with many kindergarteners, they tell stories about classroom learning, making new friends, and learning to navigate their school environment. For them, school is full of opportunity and new discoveries.



*Kevin Fangman,
Acting Director*

Another nephew is a freshman in high school. He is excited about experiencing diverse course offerings, going to a much larger school, and having expanded opportunities in sports and the arts. There is anticipation that these opportunities may lead him down a path to his future endeavors in life.

My oldest nephew in school is a senior in high school and looks to celebrating his last year in school with friends and exploring interests through advanced coursework so he can determine the next steps in his education journey. He has benefited from excellent teachers.

Each one of my nephews has high expectations for the future. Though expressed in different ways, both the kindergartner and the high school freshmen expect to be engaged, challenged, and supported. The senior expects nothing less, and he trusts that the education he is participating in will prepare him for the next phase of life.

The voices of our students must be at the table as we talk about improving and evaluating school performance. Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to listen to former director Judy Jeffrey interact with high school students about the rigor, expectations, and opportunities available to them in their education. On more than one occasion the school administrator present has shared that they wished their staff could hear the feedback.

Do your students feel challenged? Is their learning relevant? Are our expectations high enough?

When we live up to students' high expectations, not only do we succeed, but they do as well.

- Kevin Fangman

STATE REPORT CARD to be released

The Iowa Department of Education will release the State Report Card for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) within the next couple of days.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires each state to provide an annual report card to inform stakeholders about the progress of students and schools on indicators of student achievement and other information that is related to student success.

The report includes information on schools that did not make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years under NCLB and are identified as schools in need of assistance.

The report will be available at www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_docman&task=catview&gid=670&Itemid=1563.

2011 Teacher of the Year named

Governor Chet Culver, joined by state and local education leaders along with hundreds of staff members from the Waukee school district, announced the selection of Molly Boyle as the 2011 Iowa Teacher of the Year.

Boyle is a third grade teacher at Brookview Elementary School in West Des Moines, part of the Waukee Community School District.

"We're extremely proud of Molly's selection as Iowa's Teacher of The Year," said Dr. David Wilkerson, Superintendent of the Waukee Community School District. "She is an excellent educator and will do a great job representing educators around the state. Molly has a passion and enthusiasm for teaching that is contagious for her students and fellow teachers. Most importantly, students always come first with Molly."

In her application, Boyle points to the need for educators to prepare for the future: "The potential to create 21st century classrooms where students are curious, creative, and technologically savvy is available. In order for this to occur, districts will be required to hold teachers accountable for adhering to revised curriculum, while at the same time committing to providing teachers with the training and time they need to transform their teaching and instructional practice."

Boyle has taught in the Waukee Community School District since 2001, teaching at Walnut Hills, Prairieview, and Brookview schools. During that time she has also been an instructional coach and K-8 literacy strategist for the school district. In addition, Boyle has taught in the Des Moines, Hudson, and Osage school districts. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts degree in Reading Education from the University of Northern Iowa. She has done additional post-graduate studies at Viterbo University and Drake University, and has been a member of Choice Literacy and the International Reading Association.

Finalists for the award were:

- Thomas G. Cuvelier, a science teacher at Senior High School in the Dubuque Community School District, Dubuque, Iowa;
- Donna Sue Lawler, an instruction coach at Southeast Elementary School in the Ankeny Community School District, Ankeny, Iowa;
- Deborah Ann Masker, a vocal music teacher at Kirn Middle School in the Council Bluffs Community School District, Council Bluffs, Iowa;
- Laurie K. Powell, a 4th grade teacher at Smith Elementary School in the Sioux City Community School District, Sioux City, Iowa.

Boyle and the finalists will be recognized at a luncheon, sponsored by Qwest Communications, on October 22, 2010.



Information on Ed Jobs fund available

The Iowa Department of Education reminds school leaders to review guidance and information about the Education Jobs fund posted on its [website](#).

Iowa has applied to receive more than \$96 million in federal education funding recently appropriated by Congress under the Education Jobs Act.

If the state's application is approved, each district in Iowa will receive a portion of the funds to save or create education jobs for the 2010-2011 school

year. Jobs that can be funded under this program include teachers, as well as classroom aides, counselors, librarians, school principals, and other employees who provide building-level educational and related services.

The U.S. Department of Education has assured states that a decision on submitted state applications will be made quickly and that funds will be made available for distribution after approval of the application. Iowa intends to use the state aid formula to calculate distributions for each school district. Funds will be distributed during fiscal year 2011 (2010-2011 school year) through the state aid payment schedule, possibly starting as early as September. The state and school districts must maintain records that track and account for Education Jobs funds.

More information on the Education Jobs fund is available at www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/index.html.



Common Core Standards update

The Iowa Department of Education continues to work on reviewing the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and math to identify possible additions.

The State Board of Education voted 6-0 on July 29, 2010 to adopt the Common Core State Standards as part of the Iowa Core. In July, the Iowa Department of Education conducted a formal alignment study—or comparison—of both the Common Core and the Iowa Core. The study results show a high level of correspondence between the Iowa Core and the Common Core.

In adopting the Common Core, states are allowed to include up to 15 percent additional items to the Common Core State Standards. Iowa is looking to make these additions to enhance the already strong alignment with the Iowa Core.

These additions will be identified and brought to the State Board of Education for review and approval in November.

After this point, districts will have one set of expectations they can work from to begin the alignment process to their local curriculum.

The Iowa Department of Education recommends school districts and nonpublic schools wait to begin the alignment process until after the possible additions are made.

For more information, contact Rita Martens at 515-281-3145 or rita.martens@iowa.gov.

CPI INFORMATION available

There are specific notification requirements for competent private instruction (CPI). A school district must provide notification to parents of testing times and sites by October 1, 2010, if the child is between the ages of seven 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.

Also available on the website is a sample letter from districts to families at the start of the new school year, and a recently updated Competent Instruction handbook. Check to make sure you are using the most current copy of the handbook.

For more information contact Elizabeth Calhoun at 515-281-8170 or elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov.



COORDINATED EARLY Intervening Services

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) has released an updated guidance document on Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS), which are supports to struggling general education students, paid for with federal "Part B" special education funds (up to 15 percent of an agency's Part B funds).

This document incorporates recent clarifications the DE has received from the United States Department of Education.

The document is available at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=937&Itemid=1631.

For questions, contact Steve Crew (515-281-6285 or steve.crew@iowa.gov) or Thomas Mayes (515-242-5614 or thomas.mayes@iowa.gov), or Cheryl Merical (515-281-6203 or cheryl.merical@iowa.gov).

New DE Consultants

The Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services welcomes Margaret Jensen Connet (515-281-3769 or margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov) as a new School Improvement Consultant serving the school districts in Iowa as a school improvement/equity consultant, and Kristen Crabtree-Groff as the new Practitioner Preparation Consultant (515-281-3427 or kristen.crabtree-groff@iowa.gov).

Open Enrollment updates

Open enrollment "receiving" districts will bill resident districts at a rate of \$5,768 for the 2010-2011 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.

Partial-year billing: 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 sets 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.

Transportation Assistance: 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. See *Open Enrollment Handbook* on the Iowa Department of Education website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=649&Itemid=636. 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 to. *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 reimbursement stipend.

For additional information contact Wilma Gajdel at 515-281-5332 or wilma.gajdel@iowa.gov.

Training video for the 2010-2011 site visits available soon

A Site Visit training video will be posted on the Iowa Department of Education website by early October for those individuals (district personnel, team members, and AEA personnel) unable to attend the face-to-face trainings listed below. There will also be a training video posted on a combined school improvement/equity visit. The trainings will be posted at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1558&Itemid=2342#SiteVisits.

Districts receiving an equity visit are encouraged to attend a face-to-face training opportunity at the Grimes State Office Building in the State Board room, second floor, on Wednesday, September 22, 2010, from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the auditorium. There is parking available onsite.

School improvement consultants will offer in-person site visit trainings in each AEA early in September and October.

Consultant	Date	Time	Location
Holly Barnes	9/1/10	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Keystone AEA, Elkader
	9/9/10	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Keystone AEA, Elkader (training for nonpublic's)
Barb Byrd	9/8/10	1:00-3:00 p.m.	GPAAEA, Ottumwa
Elizabeth Calhoun	9/2/10	12:30-2:00 p.m.	Northwest AEA-LeMars CSD, Administrative Offices
Tom Cooley	9/2/10	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Mississippi Bend AEA 9, Bettendorf-Yoder Room
Wilma Gajdel	9/1/10	1:00-3:00 p.m.	AEA 267 Cedar Falls office, Room F
	9/2/10	9:30-11:30 a.m.	AEA 267 Clear Lake office, Room 4
Brandie Gean	9/1/10	1:00-3:00 p.m.	GWAEA (Location to be determined)
Elizabeth Calhoun	9/1/10	12:30-2:00 p.m.	Prairie Lakes AEA-Pocahontas
Julie Melcher	9/7/10	1:00-3:30 p.m.	WDM Learning Resource Center
	10/1/10	1:00-3:30 p.m.	Heartland AEA, Johnston Office
Barb Byrd & TBA	9/9/10	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Red Oak Regional AEA office

Energy Summit offers update on energy efficiency issues

The 2010 Iowa Energy Summit will be held on October 12, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Gateway Center in Ames. Please join Iowa's utilities, policymakers, state and local agencies, and energy efficiency professionals for an update on current energy efficiency issues in Iowa. Summit sessions include:

- *The Truth about LEDs*: Actual data from the Iowa Energy Center's demonstration site reveals LEDs as a practical and effective option for exterior walkway and parking lot lighting.
- *Office Building Operations*: The Weidt Group demonstrates how using building occupant controls and real-time energy information can reduce costs in commercial office facilities.
- *Financing Commercial Efficiency*: Alliant Energy and Michaels Engineering use performance contracting and benchmarking to identify and finance your energy efficiency projects.
- *Building Operator Certification summary*: This nationally recognized curriculum trains your facilities department to improve day-to-day operations in order to reduce energy bills and increase comfort in your facility.
- *Energy Star*: The latest on what Energy Star can offer your facility or organization.

For questions, contact Gary Schwartz at the Iowa Department of Education (515-281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov) or Jeff Beneke at the Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency at www.iowaenergy.org.



SMOKE DETECTORS for all school children

The Iowa State Fire Marshal and the Iowa Department of Education are teaming up to provide smoke detectors for all school children. This initiative, titled "100 Years – 100%", celebrates 100 years of service of the State Fire Marshal's office.

The project begins during fall parent-teacher conferences, where parents complete a simple survey.

The survey will help determine both the quantity and the placement location for the smoke detectors.

In partnership with Iowa's fire service organizations, smoke detectors will be installed in homes throughout the fall and winter, and continue into 2011.

The State Fire Marshal's office is looking forward to working with our local school districts.

More information will be available soon. For questions, contact Gary Schwartz at 515-281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.

NAEP Update: MyNAEP soon available

NAEP will be administered in grades 4, 8, and 12 during the six week period starting January 24, 2011. Principals of schools selected for the NAEP assessment were sent the date for administration in their building in June. In mid-September building principals will receive additional details about the assessment including access to the MyNAEP website.

The website, <https://www.mynaep.com/>, is also available for superintendents or district assessment coordinators to track the progress of NAEP in the schools selected in your district. The site is password protected. To access the site, request the MySchool Registration ID for your district from Dianne Chadwick, Iowa NAEP State Coordinator, at dianne.chadwick@iowa.gov.

Engage students in energy challenge

The Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) has introduced the Iowa School Energy Challenge. The program engages secondary students in grades 7-12 in practical hands-on strategies to reduce energy consumption school-wide through energy conservation and efficiency. There is no cost to the first 25 schools that participate.

The Iowa School Energy Challenge project fulfills the Iowa Core goals of problem-based learning in the classroom by using real-world examples of energy use in the student's environment. The project involves forming a student team through a class (Science, Talented & Gifted, or Industrial Technology) or a club gathered specifically for this task. The team will work cooperatively with the school's local utility provider and/or the CEEE staff to conduct energy audits of classrooms to evaluate, measure, and benchmark electricity use. The team will also raise awareness of energy use throughout the school.

"This project will present to secondary students how energy is used at their school, explore where energy use could be reduced and educate other students and teachers where they can reduce energy use," said Jeff Beneke, program manager for the Iowa School Energy Challenge.

Mike Moats, chemistry teacher at Knoxville High, who participated in the Iowa School Energy Challenge last year, believes students get involved for multiple reasons. "When students identify opportunities through a practical means like this, they are more likely to practice the same process with their own energy use. We hope to see reduced energy bills at our high school and to see students taking what they learn home with them to help reduce their families' energy consumption."

Program sponsors include the Center for Energy & Environmental Education at the University of Northern Iowa, Alliant Energy, Interstate Power and Light, and Iowa Office of Energy Independence American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. School officials or teachers interested in participating should contact Jeff Beneke at 319-273-3850 or jeff.beneke@uni.edu. For questions, contact Gary Schwartz at the Iowa Department of Education at 515-281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.

CONSTITUTION DAY on or about Sept. 17

United States Constitution Day is September 17 of each year. Congress enacted legislation requiring all public schools to set aside one day during the week of September 17 (which is a Friday in 2010) to teach all students about the U.S. Constitution and about citizenship.

Iowa districts are already in compliance with the spirit and letter of this law as to secondary students taking U.S. government. [Iowa Code section 256.11(5)(b) requires that the government course cover the federal Constitution.]

The U.S. Department of Education acknowledges that curriculum and course decisions fall outside federal authority. The Iowa Department of Education has no information about whether or how the federal government plans to enforce the law.

There is a web site with more information about this, including material useful in planning Constitution day activities, at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html>.

Green cleaning requirement

House File 823, signed by Governor Culver on April 23, 2010, is an Act requiring public schools, community colleges, institutions under the control of the State Board of Regents, and state agencies to comply with an environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance policy unless specified conditions for noncompliance are satisfied. Green cleaning protects students and staff by reducing exposure to toxic chemicals, protects ground water systems, and reduces indoor air pollution. Green cleaning products can be as effective as traditional cleaning products and can be competitively priced to be essentially cost-neutral when compared to their traditional counterparts.

All school districts, community colleges, Regent institutions, and state agencies utilizing state buildings are encouraged to conform to an environmentally preferable cleaning policy designed to facilitate the purchase and use of environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance products.

Use of disinfectants, disinfecting cleaners, sanitizers, and any other antimicrobial product regulated by the federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act are allowed when necessary to protect public health and provided that the use of these products is in accordance with responsible cleaning procedure requirements.

Each school district, community college, Regent institution, and state agency utilizing a state building shall conduct an evaluation and assessment regarding implementation of an environmentally preferable cleaning policy. Beginning July 1, 2012, only cleaning and maintenance products identified by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) or products that meet nationally recognized standards may be used unless specified conditions for noncompliance are satisfied. Existing cleaning and maintenance supply stocks may be depleted this year so that the new requirements in the procurement cycle may be implemented for the following year.

A school district, community college, or institution under control of the State Board of Regents may opt out of compliance to use green cleaning products based upon the evaluation and assessment. To opt out of compliance requires affirmative vote of the school district's board of directors, or determination by the community college president, or the administrative officer of the Regent institution. School districts and community colleges need to notify the Iowa Department of Education and Regent institutions need to notify the State Board of Regents of decisions to opt out of compliance.

DAS has provided information about environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance products on their internet site: <http://das.iowa.gov/greencleanschools.html>. For questions, contact Gary Schwartz at the Iowa Department of Education at 515-281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.



Data & Reporting

Fall data collections access, schedules

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) will soon begin its fall data collections. To assist with management of the additional surge or spike in the data collection system, the DE has taken several steps:

Processing performance has been enhanced. Programming changes were implemented to the applications themselves to enhance processing performance. In addition, network infrastructure changes were made to optimize application performance.

System availability focused on reports needed during specific time frame. During the fall 2010 reporting period, there will be a window — October 5 through 20 — when only certain applications are available, instead of past practice where all applications are left open all the time. After the reporting window, the other applications will reopen. Following is a list of applications that will be open October 5-20:

- Certified Enrollment/Nonpublic
- Certified Supplementary Weighting
- Commodities
- Direct Free Lunch Certification
- I-STAR
- PEACE (Certified Enrollment)
- Project EASIER Fall 2010
- School Lunch
- Security Application
- State ID

No other reports will be accessible for data entry during this time.

An up-to-date list of what is accessible at any point in time can be accessed from the Edinfo Web page (<https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us>).

DE will also closely monitor usage on the system and, if necessary, implement other access procedures. If the load on the DE system becomes too great or surges beyond hardware capacity, DE may only allow some districts access on certain days, alternating in some fashion. So please, if at all possible, submit early.

The DE has and will continue to seek district input on how to best handle access, if it becomes an issue.

For general questions, please call Kim Wilson at (515) 281-3757 or

kim.wilson@iowa.gov. For questions about a specific application, please call the consultant assigned to it, which may be found on that application's page.

WHEN IS IT DUE?

This is a reminder that the Iowa Department of Education provides an online calendar for deadlines.

- Go to <http://www.iowa.gov/educate>.
- Click on "Deadlines" under "Priority Links" on the right-hand side.

ANNUAL PROGRESS Report

The deadline for submitting the Annual Progress Report (APR) is September 15, 2010.

The secure website is currently available for updating all APR for both public districts and nonpublic schools.

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills/Iowa Test of Educational Development test data for public and nonpublic accredited districts and schools was be prepopulated in August.

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

MEDICAID Presumptive Eligibility

The presumptive eligibility program temporarily approves a child's Medicaid eligibility so the child can access medical care immediately, resulting in a minimal amount of lost time from their academic program.

Starting in the 2010-2011 school year, Iowa school nurses will have the opportunity to complete an online training to become a qualified entity to enroll potentially eligible children in Iowa Medicaid.

"Kids, Cots, and Coverage: Becoming a Qualified Entity to Enroll Eligible Children in Medicaid," presenters Melissa Ellis, Iowa Department of Public Health and Jim Donoghue, Iowa Department of Education, will introduce the program at the University of Iowa, Iowa School Nurse Conference in Iowa City on October 14, 2010 at 2:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Jim Donoghue, Medicaid consultant (515-281-8505 or jim.donoghue@iowa.gov) or Charlotte Burt, school nurse consultant (515-281-5327 or charlotte.burt@iowa.gov).

Data & Reporting

2009-2010 CSIP Plan due Sept. 15

All districts/schools are required to certify their 2009-2010 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) by September 15, 2010, due to changes in assurances on the assurance form. The District Developed Special Education Service Delivery Plan is also due. The CSIP and this plan are not in the same form, but you may toggle between them while working in either form.

This 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.

The 2009-2010 CSIP will not allow you to certify until September 1, 2010 in order to add all of the required assurances. The CSIP must be certified by the district/school by September 15, 2010.

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).

Student Health and Nutrition

Influenza Vaccination for 2010-2011

School districts across Iowa are working together with their community partners (local public health, visiting nurse services, and others) to provide flu and whooping cough immunizations for students, staff, families, and community members to help minimize school illness and absences.

The Iowa Department of Public Health recommends that all people six months of age and older receive the 2010-2011 influenza vaccination. Influenza vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

Sporadic whooping cough (pertussis) cases continue in Iowa. To reduce the risk of disease transmission, a booster for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) is recommended every 10 years for children and for adults aged 19-64. To educate students, parents, teachers, and school staff a kit is available, "Tools for Schools," <http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=258>. Contact your community partners to plan school/community immunization opportunities.

Medicaid reimbursement cost rates

School administrators seeking Medicaid reimbursement for Individual Education Program services should know that the new Medicaid cost rates for the fiscal year 2010-2011 are to be used for Medicaid claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2010. The rates should be available in the near future and will be available online at the Iowa Department of Education website. For more information or if you have questions, contact Jim Donoghue at 515-281-8505 or jim.donoghue@iowa.gov.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

IQPPS verification visits scheduled for 2010-2011

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) verification visits for 2010-2011 have been scheduled with the districts awarded in 2009-2010. Six early childhood consultants from the Iowa Department of Education, together with early childhood specialists from the AEAs, conduct the IQPPS verification visits during the second year of Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) implementation.

Beginning in October and continuing through April 2010, 48 districts and their community partners will receive a Verification Visit to ensure compliance with the requirements of Chapter 16 in providing quality preschool programming.

The IQPPS verification visits include all district and community partner 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 plan (IEP). If the district is scheduled to have a comprehensive school improvement visit during the 2010-2011 school year, the IQPPS verification visit will occur simultaneously.

Newly awarded Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program districts and their community partners are required to fully implement assurances at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year and meet preschool program standards within one year. Districts following the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) should anticipate a Verification Visit during the 2011-2012 school year.

For additional information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program or the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or judy.russell@iowa.gov) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or penny.milburn@iowa.gov).



Preschool data reporting requirements

Per Chapter 16, all Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) districts are required to provide and approve updated preschool information to the Iowa Department of Education (DE). This information is entered into the Early Childhood Application via the DE Secure Reporting Site by September 15th every year.

Districts are required to address the 2010-2011 school year including information about preschool program contact, district assurances (including partner collaboration, preschool integration and professional development), curriculum/assessment, preschool sessions, and session program standards. Additional guidance about reporting can be found on the Data Reporting Requirements webinar and script on the SWVPP website.

Data reporting for the newly awarded preschool programs

Newly awarded districts will report data through an EASIER test application and the Early Childhood Application via the Iowa Department of Education Secure Reporting Site by September 14, 2010. The data provided through these applications generate the Preschool Grant Award funding for 2010-2011. Additional information for reporting requirements can be found on the Data Reporting Requirements webinar and script on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) website.



Legal Lessons

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

Fees, flags and the fine print

Training for Level One Investigators

The annual training for Level One investigators of allegations of abuse against a student by a school employee (Chapter 102 training) will be Monday, October 4, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Note the new start time (it formerly started at 8:00 a.m.). The training will originate at the Grimes Building (ICN Room on the 2nd floor) in Des Moines (E. 14th Street and Grand Avenue); remote ICN sites are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Ames High School	Des Moines Hoover High School
Ankeny AEA	Dubuque AEA
Audubon High School	Elkader AEA
Bettendorf AEA	Marshalltown AEA
Boone High School	Newton High School
Burlington AEA	Ottumwa AEA
Kirkwood CC in Cedar Rapids	Pocahontas AEA
Clear Lake AEA	Sioux Center AEA
Council Bluffs AEA	Sioux City AEA
Creston AEA	Waukee High School
Clear Lake AEA	Sioux Center AEA

Grant Wood AEA schedules the Iowa Communications Network sites, not the Iowa Department of Education. Questions about sites are to go to Tammy Carolan at tcarolan@aea10.k12.ia.us. All other questions about the training go to Sherry Sines at ssines@aea10.k12.ia.us. The Chapter 102 Manual ("Blue Book") and a page of updates may be found at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=860:chapter-102-level-i-investigator-manual&catid=411:legal-lessons&Itemid=2656.

More on Fees

Yes, registration is over, but families keep contacting the Iowa Department of Education (DE) with two persistent fees questions. Here are the questions and the DE's responses:

Q: Who is eligible for the fee waiver?

A: Per rule 281—18.3, a full waiver of all fees shall be granted if the "if the student or the student's family meets the financial eligibility criteria for free meals offered under the Child Nutrition Program, or the Family Investment Program (FIP), or transportation assistance under open enrollment provided under 281—subrule 17.9(3), or if the student is in foster care." A school district shall grant a student either a waiver of all student fees or a partial waiver of student fees if the student or the student's family meets the financial eligibility criteria for reduced price meals offered under the Child Nutrition Program. A partial waiver shall be based on a sliding scale related to an ability to pay. Finally, at the discretion of the school district, a student may be granted a temporary waiver of a fee or fees in the event of a temporary financial difficulty in the student's immediate family. A temporary waiver may be applied for and granted at any time during a school year. The maximum length of a temporary waiver shall be one year.

Link to chapter 18 rules: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/ACODocs/DOCS/8-25-2010.281.18.pdf>.

Q: On the annual list of school supplies that students are asked to bring to school, what can the district insist that a student bring and which items are optional?

A: The legal analysis of the supply list is no different from the fees issue. So, no student may be required to bring an item meant to be used by all (box of Kleenex) or by staff (cleaning products, paper towels, trash bags). These items should be marked "optional." (As a practical matter, a district cannot force a student to bring any supplies. No student should be punished for the decisions of the student's parent.)

Legal Lessons continued

READ THE fine print

From the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) comes this reminder: "IMLA recently learned that at least one bond rating company has slipped into its standard contract a requirement that the issuer indemnify it broadly against loss.

Be sure to alert your finance officers and make sure you read these new agreements closely. Many states, cities, counties, and special districts cannot agree to a blanket indemnification as they are seen as unsupported by an appropriation.

We anticipate a lot of changes in this area following the Dodd/Frank legislation; these include higher costs for ratings, more due diligence by the rating agencies and an effort by the rating agencies to limit their liability."

Background Checks on Teachers

Iowa Code section 279.13 requires a school district, "prior to entering into an initial contract with a teacher who holds a license other than an initial license" issued by the BoEE, to initiate a state criminal history record check through the division of criminal investigation (DCI).

Recently, a teacher asked a district for a copy of the background check. The district learned from the DCI that schools may not distribute background check information to anyone, including the subject of the check. However, a school may allow the teacher to come to the school office to look at the information. If the teacher wants a copy, the teacher must ask the DCI for the copy.

CPI Students and Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics

Students who receive CPI (home school students) may participate in interscholastic sports, but they are subject to the same academic rule ("pass all classes") as any other participant. Documenting compliance presents a unique challenge for schools with CPI students on their teams.

In cooperation with the largest organized group of home schooling families in Iowa, Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) has drafted a form that high schools may send to a parent at the end of each grading period, asking the parent to certify that the student passed all coursework. The form also encourages a parent to call the school's athletic director if the parent cannot truly certify that the student passed all.

Use of the form is not mandatory, but it is a means of impressing upon the families of CPI students that their students are held to the same standard, no more and no less, as regularly enrolled students. The form is on the Iowa High School Athletic Association (http://www.iahsaa.org/resource_center/Eligibility_Forms_Information/CPI_Student_Eligibility_Checklist_081910.pdf) and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (<http://www.ighsau.org/general/CPIstudentseligibilitychecklist.doc>) websites, and is on the DE's website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=301&Itemid=1335.

Flag Status

Just a reminder that the United States and Iowa flags at all public buildings and facilities (this includes public schools) are to be flown half-staff upon the day of interment of any Iowa resident serving in the U.S. Armed Forces who is killed in the line of duty or as otherwise ordered by the Governor. There is a daily "flag status" report on the web at http://www.governor.iowa.gov/index.php/constituent_services/flag_status/.

Other days when both flags are to be flown half-staff include any time per presidential proclamation and on the following days: May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day; September 11, Patriot Day; December 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; Memorial Day (date varies), but only at half-staff until noon. At noon, the flags are to be hoisted to full-staff.

If school is not in session on any day when flags are ordered to be flown half-staff, there is no requirement to have a district employee tend to this duty. That is, if school is not in session, a district does not need to fly the flags at all. For more information about flag etiquette, see <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html>.

STATE BOARD to hold meeting

The State Board of Education will hold its next regular business meeting on September 16.

The meeting agenda will be posted when finalized at

www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1667&Itemid=2474.

Calendar

- September 1 • Open Enrollment: Last day to file timely open enrollment for kindergarten student
- September 13 • School Budget Review Committee Meeting
- September 15 • Date by which student must be school age for Certified Enrollment
 - Certified Annual Report and SES Due
- October 1 • Board Resolution to Study Reorganization Due
 - Whole Grade Sharing Count Date for First Semester Tuition

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

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



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