



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

January 2011

In This Issue

- Two Honors to Recognize Teachers ... 2
- Senior Year Plus Update ... 5
- Child Nutrition Procurement ... 8
- Iowa Quality Preschool Standards ... 10



GLASS NAMED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov.-elect Kim Reynolds have named Jason E. Glass (pictured below) as the new director



of the Iowa Department of Education. Glass,

39, is currently the senior director for human capital strategy at Battelle for Kids, where he provides policy leadership and technical consulting to state departments of education and school districts in implementing comprehensive human capital strategies, including strategic compensation systems, evaluation systems and the use of multiple measures to improve teaching effectiveness and student learning.

Continued on next page

2011: A New Chapter in Iowa Education

I have been cleaning out files the past day and reflecting over the work in 2010 and I've come to the conclusion a lot has happened. Only a year ago Judy and I were traveling across the state delivering Iowa's Race to the Top proposal to superintendents and school boards. The weather wreaked havoc and I spent more than one overnight in the agency taking catnaps and working with the team on writing Iowa's proposal. The process was grueling at times, but a lot of good came out of it. District and state leaders engaged in crucial conversations around reform efforts that will continue to be key conversations at both the state and national level in the upcoming year.



*Kevin Fangman,
Acting Director*

This past year also has given me the once in a lifetime opportunity to serve as the acting director of education for our great state. The experience was nothing that I could have ever imagined and has been the most challenging and most rewarding experience of my life. I could not have done it without the support, encouragement and feedback that I received from so many of you.

On January 14, I will return to my position as the administrator for the division of PK-12 education. I am excited to start working with Jason Glass as he begins his tenure as director. I know you will all welcome and support him as he leads us in this crucial time. I have had the opportunity to speak with him several times and it is evident that he listens, collaborates, has a strong vision, and is focused on students.

I wish you the best in 2011 and I look forward to embarking on the next chapter in Iowa education with all of you.

- Kevin Fangman

Teaching Ambassador Fellowship

The Iowa Department of Education is asking principals and superintendents to encourage application of teachers for the US Department of Education (USDE) Teaching Ambassador Fellowship program, particularly teachers who are National Board Certified, have advanced degrees, have demonstrated leadership, or have made a major impact on the school. Region VII was represented by a Teaching Ambassador from the Independence School District, Independence, Missouri, for the 2010-11 school year.

Teaching Ambassadors are outstanding teachers who have a record of leadership, strong communication skills, and policy insight who work for one year for the USDE, either full-time in Washington, DC, or part-time in their home states. The Teaching Ambassador Fellowship supports the mission of the Iowa Department of Education by enabling a cadre of teachers from across the country to contribute their classroom expertise to the national dialogue and in turn, facilitate discussions with educators across the country.

For more information go to www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship. The application deadline is January 17, 2011.

Elementary History Teacher of the Year Award

Do you know an outstanding K-6 teacher passionate about American history? All elementary educators who teach American history are welcome to apply for the Gilder Lehrman Institute Preserve America History Teacher of the Year award.

The National History Teacher of the Year Award gives \$10,000 to the best American history teacher. The national winner is chosen from outstanding teachers in each state, district, and U.S. territory. State winners receive \$1,000 and an archive of books and other resources for their school.

The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Preserve America, and HISTORY (The History Channel). Nominations for the National History Teacher of the Year can be made by a student, parent, colleague, supervisor, or other education professional familiar with the teacher's work.

Candidates must have at least three years' experience teaching American history and plan to teach for at least one year following the award year. In 2011, the Gilder Lehrman Institute will honor a teacher of grades K-6. Nominations are due by February 1, 2011. Middle and high school teachers are honored every other year.

For more information and for qualifying criteria, go to http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/htoy_overview.php or contact cheryl.mullenbach@iowa.gov



A history teacher being honored at the Teachers of the Year event in October.

Glass Named Department of Education Director Continued from page 1

Glass's previous experience includes the director of human resources for Eagle County Schools, where he was director of all human resource functions for the more than 900 district employees. He also spent a number of years working within the Colorado Department of Education, and is a former high school social studies teacher.

He holds a B.A. in Political Science, and a Master's in both Education and Political Science, all from the University of Kentucky. He is scheduled to receive his doctorate in education from Seton Hall University in March of next year.

"I feel very fortunate to accept this position in a state where education has been, and continues to be, a priority," said Glass. "To all the educators in Iowa, you have my admiration and I honor your noble service in this sacred and important work. Our efforts to meet the challenge of this global economy and post-industrial era must come on two fronts, innovation and improvement. I pledge to work closely with Iowa's policy makers, community leaders, and most importantly its talented and dedicated educators in meeting the challenges before us."

Iowa Communication Networks for Homeless Liaisons

ICNs for Iowa Homeless Education Program Liaisons have been scheduled for January 12, 2011 and January 19, 2011. The content will be the same on both dates, the times are different in order to accommodate staff schedules. Both sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend either session. Additional ICN sites will not be added.

Please notify Donna Eggleston at donna.eggleston@iowa.gov regarding the time and site that you will attend.

January 12, 2011 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Site	Site Name	AEA
2	Elkader – AEA	1
311	Dubuque – AEA	1
176	Clear Lake – AEA	2
17	Estherville – AEA	3
19	Spencer – AEA	3
24	Sioux Center – AEA	4
34	Iowa Falls – Comm. College	6
203	Marshalltown – AEA	6
481	Cedar Falls – AEA	7
453	Bettendorf – AEA	9
60	Cedar Rapids – Comm. College 1	9
197	Sioux City – AEA	12
205	Council Bluffs – AEA	13
173	Creston - AEA	14
237	Ottumwa – AEA 1	15
266	Burlington—AEA	16

January 19, 2011 2:00 PM — 4:00 PM

Site ID	Site Name	AEA Region
2	Elkader – AEA	1
311	Dubuque – AEA	1
176	Clear Lake – AEA	2
17	Estherville – AEA	3
19	Spencer – AEA	3
24	Sioux Center – AEA	4
34	Iowa Falls – Comm. College	6
203	Marshalltown – AEA	6
481	Cedar Falls – AEA	7
453	Bettendorf – AEA	9
60	Cedar Rapids – Comm. College 1	9
197	Sioux City – AEA	12
205	Council Bluffs – AEA	13
173	Creston - AEA	14
237	Ottumwa – AEA 1	15
266	Burlington—AEA	16

Iowa Teachers Earn National Board Certification

Nineteen Iowa teachers joined the ranks of educators throughout the nation who earned National Board Certification in 2010, according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

“Each of these teachers is to be commended for the many hours of dedicated work they did to succeed in this demanding process on top of their hard work in our classrooms,” said Kevin Fangman, acting director of the Iowa Department of Education Director. “This is one more step in providing great teachers to more and more schools throughout Iowa.”

National Board Certification is a voluntary process established by the NBPTS and is achieved through an assessment that takes nearly a year to complete. Through the assessment process, teachers document their subject matter knowledge, provide evidence that they know how to teach their subjects to students most effectively, and demonstrate their ability to manage and measure student learning. The assessments are based on standards developed by the NBPTS.

Continued on next page

Iowa Teachers Earn National Board Certification *continued from page 3*

Congratulations to the Iowa teachers who earned National Board Certification in 2010: Cynthia Borske of Nashua-Plainfield; Kari Brown of Osage; Sharon Burch of Centerville; Heather Cousins of Davenport; Cassie Dunlavy of Center Clinton; Deborah Fritcher of Ames; Mary Holubar of College Community; Susan Jones-Miller of Bettendorf; Traci Maxted of Cedar Rapids; Jennifer Miller of Allison-Bristow; John Pauly of Cedar Rapids; Robyn Ponder of Monticello; Amelia Reno of Davenport; Richard Searce of Mount Vernon; Meg Schutjer of Osage; Jeffrey Teske of GMG; Ann Timm of Cedar Rapids; Lynn Trompeter of Estherville Lincoln Central; and Sharle Wrage of Vinton-Shellburg.

Some facts about Iowa and National Teacher Certification:

- Iowa ranks 22nd in the nation for the number of teachers who have achieved certification, with a total of 664 teachers;
- Three school districts had more than one teacher earn certification: Cedar Rapids (3), Davenport (2), and Osage (2);
- Iowa school districts with the most national certified teachers are Cedar Rapids (55), Sioux City (16), Des Moines (13), Dubuque (12), and Davenport (11).

Nationally certified teachers in Iowa who have received state or national recognition for their work in recent years include: Sarah Brown Wessling of Johnston, 2010 National Teacher of the Year; Jessica Gogerty of Des Moines, 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; Matthew Miller of Cedar Rapids, 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; Lynne Campbell of Woodward, 2007-2008 Albert Einstein Fellowship; Danielle Spaete of Pleasant Valley, 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; Linda Seeger of Milford, 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; and Ernest Lee Schiller, 2004 Iowa State Teacher of the Year.

Iowa School Energy Challenge

The Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) introduces 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 14 schools that wish to participate starting in January 2011. The Iowa School Energy Challenge project fulfills the core curriculum 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 electrical energy is used at their school, explore where electricity use could be reduced and educate other students and teachers where they can reduce electrical use in the building," 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 CEEE at UNI, Alliant Energy, and the 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.

Data & Reporting

Alternative Measures of Proficiency for Senior Year Plus

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) recently issued new guidance on alternative measures of proficiency intended to clarify expectations and the options available to school districts adopting them.

For students to be eligible to enroll in college credit courses through Senior Year Plus programs including PSEO and concurrent enrollment courses, they must be proficient in reading, math, and science, in addition to meeting any academic requirements set by the postsecondary institution.

Proficiency is primarily determined using a student's most recent scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) or Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED). Students are determined to be proficient if they score at or above the 41st percentile (national norms) in the subject area. For students who have not scored high enough in one or more areas, or who otherwise have not taken the assessment, a school board may adopt an alternative but equivalent measure of proficiency.

In the spring of 2010, educators and administrators requested greater clarity in how to implement alternative measures of proficiency. Additionally, until guidance could be issued, concerns were raised about student access to community college career and technical education (CTE) offerings. In response, the DE had districts work with community colleges to admit students into CTE concurrent enrollment courses based on their probability of success for the *2010-2011 academic year only*.

The DE issued guidance in December 2010 which clarifies expectations for alternative measures of student proficiency, shows the breadth of options available to districts, and provides a sample approach which may be adapted. Districts may continue to use their own local board-approved alternative measure if they have adopted one, along with ITED or ITBS scores.

The guidance document and other recently released Senior Year Plus program information including new responses to frequently asked questions are available [here](#).



Upgrades to Electronic Payment Detail Notification System

We now have the ability to include more than two people per district on payment notices. To add recipients, simply email Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@iowa.gov, providing the names, titles, and emails for those you want to add. Once added, these individuals will receive all notices of payment to the district.

We also recently expanded the system to include contract, grant, and meeting reimbursement payments. At this point, virtually all payments to a school district will appear on this system. The only exception could be payments that have to navigate the state appeal board process due to the lateness of the claim.

Please also be reminded that if you receive a payment that isn't on this site, it was not a disbursement from the Department of Education. Last month, we posted a web site for the Department of Revenue (DOR) that includes all disbursements on SAVE/LOST/SILO and income surtax. You can access DOR payment information as needed using the following link: <http://www.iowa.gov/tax/locgov/locgovLOST.html>.

For questions about LOST/SAVE/SILO disbursements, please contact Joel Gabrielson at the DOR at 515-281-6106 or joel.gabrielson@iowa.gov. For other questions on this topic, contact Jeff Berger at 515-281-3968 or jeff.berger@iowa.gov.

Data & Reporting continued

Time Requirements for ITBS and ITED

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) *requires* that all tests adhere to the test lengths and times as identified in the *Directions for Administration*. This is particularly critical for the assessments that are a part of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reporting (math concepts and estimation, math problem solving and data interpretation, reading comprehension and science).

However, when accommodations are allowed for an individual student (as determined by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan) that include extended time, the IEP language should determine the testing time. For questions, contact Catherine Welch at 319-335-6274 or catherine-welch@uiowa.edu.

Slight Drop in School Enrollment for 2010-11

The number of students in Iowa's public schools for the 2010-11 school year is little changed from last year, according to the official certified enrollment report released today by the Iowa Department of Education. A total of 473,493 K-12 students attend public schools across the state this school year. That represents a decrease of just 0.15 percent, or 734 students, from the 2009-10 school year.

Enrollment in Iowa's public schools peaked in 1972-73 with 645,000 students. This year marks the fourteenth consecutive year that saw some degree of enrollment decline, although this is the second smallest decline during that period of time. However, based upon current trends in the early grade levels, public school enrollment over the next five years is expected to increase by 2.2 percent.

Of Iowa's 359 school districts, 225 – or sixty three percent – reported a decrease in enrollment while 133 – or thirty-seven percent – reported an increase. One district in Iowa reported no change in enrollment from the 2009-10 school year. Several districts in the Greater Des Moines area and the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City corridor have continued to see enrollment growth in recent years. In addition, three of the state's five largest school districts – Des Moines, Davenport, and Iowa City – reported an increase in enrollment since last year.

Under Iowa law, certified enrollment is used in the formula that determines state funding for public school districts. It is based on the number of students that reside in each school district. It also includes the "weighting" or the additional funding for each student in specific programs, such as students attending post-secondary options while still in high school or students needing assistance in learning the English language. Certified enrollment count is taken on the first day of October every year and official numbers are confirmed by the Iowa Department of Education.

School districts with the largest percentage increase in enrollment over the past five years were Waukee (32%), Bondurant-Farrar (20%), Sioux Central, Dallas Center Grimes and Ankeny (all at 18%). School districts with the largest increase in the number of students over the past five years were Waukee (1,605), Ankeny (1,297), Iowa City (743), Johnston (699) and College (560). More information on this year's enrollment is available [here](#).

Iowa Seniors Top National Average on NAEP Scores

High school seniors in Iowa outperformed their peers in reading and mathematics on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests, according to a new report released this morning by the U.S. Department of Education. Iowa was one of eleven states that volunteered to participate in the first 12th grade pilot program to generate state-level NAEP test results on high school seniors. Iowa students in the Class of 2009 scored 291 in reading; the average national was 287. Iowa students scored 156 in mathematics; the average national score was 152.

For more information on Iowa's NAEP results, click [here](#).

Transportation

Stop Arm Violation Survey

The Iowa Department of Education, in conjunction with the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) will be conducting a nationwide “stop arm violation survey” on Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

Information, a template, and format for recording violations will be provided at a later date. This survey is brought to your attention now so that district and transportation directors can begin to plan for the nationwide survey, and also alert school bus drivers to the role they will play in helping the survey be fact-based and successful. Drivers will be on the “front line” and will actually be recording the violations. For questions, contact Max Christensen at 515-2814749 or max.christensen@iowa.gov.

Open Enrollment Transportation Assistance for 2010-2011

The transportation reimbursement for the 2010-2011 school year for open enrolled families that qualify according to income guidelines is \$405.00. 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 @ \$405.00 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*.

Income guidelines can be found in the Open Enrollment Handbook on the Iowa Department of Education website [here](#). For additional information contact Wilma Gajdel at 515-281-5332 or wilma.gajdel@iowa.gov.

Student Health and Nutrition

Child Nutrition (CN) Procurement: Test Your Knowledge

Test your knowledge of child nutrition procurement by answering the following true or false statements:

- If my district is a member of a group organized for buying; I do not need to know what is in the vendor contract, how a price is developed by the vendor or how the group is paid for service. *True or false?*
- Incorrectly purchasing products or services for child nutrition programs puts general funds at risk. *True or False?*
- All purchases or expenditures using CN federal funds such as foods, supplies, garbage service, kitchen equipment, office supplies, and consulting services must be competed using formal or informal methods. *True or False?*
- The sales representative that takes my order knows all about CN procurement. *True or False?*
- Once I have selected a vendor via the bid process for a list of specified items, I can purchase anything in the vendor's warehouse. *True or False?*
- IEC members need to get formal or informal bids for the 2010-2011 school years for items that are not part of the IEC 2007 market basket. *True or False?*



The answers may surprise you! Go to the Department of Education - Nutrition programs website [here](#) to check your answers and find other procurement resources including a Procurement Checklist to review your CN procurement process or documents. Questions can be addressed to Ann Feilmann, Bureau of Nutrition, Health, and Transportation at ann.feilmann@iowa.gov or 515-281-4757.

Taking School Wellness to the Next Level

The wellness of students and staff is a priority for schools.

“Students who get the nutrition they need perform better in the classroom and miss fewer days of school”, says First Lady Michelle Obama. Parents and school staff are the best role models to teach healthy habits to children.

An interactive webinar, “Taking School Wellness to the Next Level” was presented on December 9, 2010, to over 100 Iowa school staff. Polling results from the webinar indicated: 54% of schools have an employee wellness program; 52% have health screenings available to employees; better food choices in the staff lounge, access to the gym after school hours and short wellness presentations at staff meetings are needed; and 97% are interested in participating in a quarterly employee wellness forum. The webinar recording can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



Healthy Kids Act became effective this fall for schools selling food and beverages to students during the school day in a la carte, vending, and regulated fundraising. Jennifer Neal, Healthy Kids Act Co-Project Director, is available for informal school visits during the next few months. Please contact her directly at jenny.neal@iowa.gov. Visit [here](#) for Healthy Kids Act information and resources.

Bed Bug Information for Schools and Communities

Bed bugs, while an annoyance, have not been found to carry disease. However, they have been found to cause panic. With the increased number of reported cases of bed bugs in our communities, it is recommended schools make available to the community information on bed bugs and the school plan. It is critical to remain calm and not panic. General guidelines for schools follow:

Provide bed bug information/education for all staff, students, families, and the community. Examples: Bed bug biology and living preference within 10 feet of a sleeping human.

Identify community resources for future use. Examples: Local Public Health, pest control managers, community regulations on the responsibility of landlords.

Develop a regular inspection schedule. Examples: Every month check the structure (home/business) for insects and remove clutter to minimize hiding places.

If an insect sighting is reported, inspect the area.

If an insect is found, capture the insect intact and seek insect identification by a professional expert. Examples include local pest managers or Iowa State University's pest identification.

If the insect is identified as a bed bug by a professional expert, consider management options and remain calm.

Assess the individual situation on a case by case basis, refer to resources, and develop a plan to assist the student, family, and school.

RESOURCES

Iowa Department of Public Health Iowa Healthy Homes Initiative

Web site: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/healthy_homes.asp

Fact sheet: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/board_of_health_assistance/factsheet_bed_bugs.pdf

Michigan Department of Community Health

Bed Bugs: What Schools Need to Know (click [here](#))

Iowa State University

Household Pest Identification Form: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/IC449.pdf>

Bed bugs in Iowa are more plentiful, but can be avoided with care: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/taylor/news/bed+bugs.htm>

IdentifyUS, Identification products & services.

Bed Bugs-School recommendations: <http://identify.us.com/bed-bugs/BedBug-FAQS/what-should-schools-do.html>

Identification of suspected Bed Bug infestations: <http://identify.us.com/bed-bugs/bed-bug-document-downloads/bed-bug-mgmt-chart.pdf>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Joint Statement on Bed Bug Control in the United States: http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Bed_Bugs_CDC-EPA_Statement.htm

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Top Ten Bed Bug Tips: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/bed-bugs-faq-fs.html>

All resources accessed online December 2010. Contact: Charlotte Burt, charlotte.burt@iowa.gov.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Partnering with Faith-Based Preschools

Many districts are partnering with faith-based preschools to provide the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. The following guidance is provided to answer questions from the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP) 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.”

The district and faith-based partners must ensure that, from the time instruction supported by SVPP funds starts until the time such instruction ends, no religious instruction takes place.

IQPPS Verification Visits

The Iowa Department of Education is responsible for monitoring districts to ensure compliance with the requirements of IAC 256C. Beginning in 2011-2012, Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Verification Visits will coincide with district School Improvement Visits. Districts awarded grants in 2007-2008 (funding Year 1), 2008-2009 (funding Year 2) and 2009-2010 (funding Year 3) implementing IQPPS should anticipate their next IQPPS Verification Visit to coincide with their School Improvement Visits as follows:

- Funding Year 1 — School Improvement Visits scheduled in 2011-2012
- Funding Year 2 — School Improvement Visits scheduled in 2012-2013
- Funding Year 3 — School Improvement Visits scheduled in 2013-2014

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards Verification

The Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) are comprised of all 10 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards and approximately 45% of the criteria. The program standards are designed to be a continuous improvement process to potentially culminate with accreditation from the 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 the Area Education Agency (AEA) for assistance in implementing the standards (including curriculum, instruction and assessment), developing portfolios and preparing for a verification visit. Components of the IQPPS Verification Visits that mirror Comprehensive School Improvement Plan visits include the district overview, family and teacher interviews, document reviews, and summary meeting.

If noncompliance is determined at the time of the IQPPS Verification Visit, districts must provide evidence of compliance with Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Assurances and the 23 IQPPS Required Criteria within 45 days of the visit. In addition to the Assurances and Required Criteria, districts need to meet Other Criteria in each Standard to reach the 85% level. For those Standards met at less than 85%, the district must develop a corrective action plan within 45 days of the last day of the verification visit. The district may choose which criteria will be addressed in the plan.

For more information on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children click [here](#) or contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or judy.russell@iowa.gov) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or penny.milburn@iowa.gov).



Legal Lessons

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

Religious Objection to Sports Physical to be Stricken

Based on feedback from other states and specific religious groups in Iowa, the Iowa Department of Education is recommending that the religious objection language be stricken from the rule that requires students to have a pre-participation physical examination before playing sports for a school. There appears to be no legitimate basis for the language; as a matter of safety, all students who participate in interscholastic athletics must be declared fit to safely engage in athletic competition. The language to be stricken is as follows: "A student shall not be required to submit to a physical examination if the student's parent or 18-year-old student submits to a school administrator an affidavit that the physical examination requirement conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member."

Rules to State Board of Education regarding Approval of School Business Official Preparation Programs

In 2010 the Legislature passed a law requiring any new school business official (SBO) hired on or after July 1, 2012 to obtain an authorization from the Board of Educational Examiners, and requiring the State Board of Education to enact rules for approving SBO preparation programs, much like the process the Iowa Department of Education (DE) uses now to approve teacher prep and administrator prep programs. Draft rules will be presented to the State Board at its January 27, 2011 meeting. Once approved for public notice by the State Board, the rules will be posted on the DE's Web site, and a link to that posting will appear in the February School Leader Update.

As a reminder, current SBOs are grandfathered in and shall receive the authorization from the BoEE upon payment of the fee for a criminal background check. Current SBOs must also meet renewal requirements to be set by the Board of Educational Examiners.

Applications for Student Member of State Board of Education

Applications for the nonvoting student member to the State Board of Education are due February 4, 2011. The application and all required supporting documents can be found at:

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



CONDITION OF EDUCATION REPORT

If you have not yet downloaded your copy of the 2010 Iowa Condition of Education report, it is available as a PDF document. Simply click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Iowa Core Update

Iowa's State Board of Education adopted the Common Core Standards (7/29/2010) and additions (11/17/2010) as a part of the Iowa Core in the content areas of literacy and mathematics.

This information can be viewed at www.corecurriculum.iowa.gov.

Podcasts on the newly adopted content will be available beginning in late January 2011.

Calendar

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Juvenile Home Educational Program Budget• Reorganization or Dissolution effective on next July 1 — last day to notify Department of Education |
| January 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Board of Education meeting |
| January 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nonpublic School Transportation Reimbursement Claim — 1st semester |
| February 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dropout Prevention Program—last day to resubmit an unapproved application• Whole Grade Sharing Agreement—last day for board to sign |

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

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