



A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

# School Leader Update

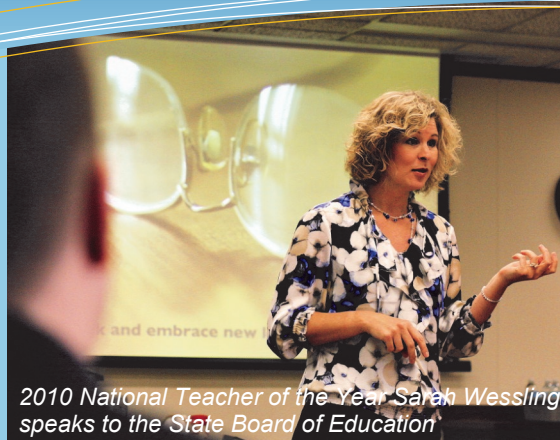
April 2011

## ENROLLMENT PROJECTED TO SEE GAINS

After thirteen years of declining enrollment, the number of students attending public schools in Iowa is expected to see some modest gains over the next five years, according to projections released by the Iowa Department of Education. The projections are used to forecast district changes in enrollment as well as funding for public schools.

"As Iowa's population goes, so goes our school enrollment, which is reflected in the projected size and location of the increased number of students we predict seeing in our public schools over the next several years," said Jason Glass, director of the Iowa Department of Education.

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2010 National Teacher of the Year Sarah Wessling speaks to the State Board of Education

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## COMING SOON: #IAEDsummit

This summer, we have an important and exciting opportunity to focus the eyes of Iowa – and the nation – on education: the Iowa Education Summit. Or as we say on Twitter, #IAEDsummit.

One of the top priorities of Governor Branstad is to restore Iowa's schools to their best in the nation status, and this event which he is hosting will mark a milestone in that effort.

The Iowa Education Summit will be held on July 25-26 at the Iowa Event Center in Des Moines. United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will deliver the keynote speech on Monday morning, July 25<sup>th</sup>.



Jason Glass, Director

In addition to Secretary Duncan, three other nationally-recognized education leaders are confirmed to take part in the event: Linda Darling-Hammond, Dr. David Driscoll and Vivien Stewart.

Linda Darling-Hammond is one of the nation's top experts on teacher effectiveness. A Stanford University education professor, Darling-Hammond will be the keynote the afternoon of Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. She started the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education and the School Redesign Network. Her many publications include a 2010 book, "The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine Our Future."

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# Foreign Language Waivers and Concurrent Enrollment

All Iowa school districts are required to offer-and-teach a four-unit sequence of uninterrupted study in at least one language per 281—IAC 12.5(5)(h). A waiver provision is provided for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> units if all of the following occur:

- The class is properly scheduled, and students are aware of the course offerings;
- The district can document the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> units of the foreign language sequence is assigned a schedule that allows students to enroll;
- The district can document it employs a teacher with the corresponding licensure /endorsements to teach the four-unit sequence of foreign language;
- The district can document the local school board has approved the request to be waived from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sequential units of the foreign language.

Concurrent enrollment, part of the Senior Year Plus Program, is designed to supplement the basic high school program (offer-and-teach) by providing college level courses to students who have exhausted all local opportunities and are who are prepared for college level coursework. It is not intended to supplant the basic high school program and provide weighted dollars to the district at the same time. Districts may not allow students to complete the first two units of foreign language, bypass the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> units, concurrently enroll in college level foreign language, file a waiver with the Department assuring that no students enrolled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> units, and apply for supplemental weighting. The waiver provision only applies in situations where no students enrolled in the class. Concurrent enrollment is an option for only those students who are ready for the challenges of college level work.

For questions, contact Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator, at 515/281-8402 or at [del.hoover@iowa.gov](mailto:del.hoover@iowa.gov)

## Newsletter fosters communication

The Bureau of Student and Family Support is now producing *Each and Every Child*, a monthly e-newsletter designed to bring together special education teachers and the parents they collaborate with.

The e-newsletter also can be printed out by teachers for distribution.

Teachers currently in the field resoundingly agree that fostering better communications with the parents would be their No. 1 goal.

Better communication begets more parent involvement which, in turn, begets better results on IEPs.

## 2011 Governor's Volunteer Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Awards program provides a non-competitive, easy and low-cost way to honor local volunteers with a prestigious state-level recognition award. Volunteers may be selected for an award in one of several categories: Individual; Group; Disaster Volunteer; or length of Service. Each summer, regional award presentation ceremonies are held across the state to recognize hundreds of volunteers for their commitment, service, and time. Details about which ceremony volunteers are invited to attend will be posted at [www.volunteeriowa.org/awards](http://www.volunteeriowa.org/awards).

For information how you can nominate an individual or groups go to [www.iowa.gov/educate](http://www.iowa.gov/educate) and look up Service Learning. Questions? Please contact Chris Fenster at 515 326-5350 or [chris.fenster@iowa.gov](mailto:chris.fenster@iowa.gov)

# Safe and Supportive Schools Begins Iowa Initiative

Thirty-five Iowa high schools are partnering with the Department of Education in a ground-breaking program that will have lasting impact on future generations in the state and nation. The program, Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools, is a nearly \$14 million federally funded grant designed to enhance conditions for learning, which include school safety, student engagement in school, and school environment. A recent study has demonstrated that double digit gains in standardized tests can be achieved when schools combine good teaching with safe and supportive school environments. Iowa will reinforce those findings through the activities that will be part of this grant.

The nation's eyes will watch and learn what we do here in Iowa. For the first time, we will measure conditions for learning by surveying high school students, staff and parents and use results to seek innovative, creative solutions with partnering high schools. The survey will ask questions ranging from student safety to supportive student relationships. From there, the surveys will be reviewed and schools will share the results online so they are easily accessible to parents and communities.



Congratulations to the following high school partners for their leadership and commitment to this program with nationwide ramifications:

Armstrong-Ringsted  
Bettendorf  
Bondurant-Farrar  
Burlington Community  
Cardinal  
Clear Creek/Amara  
Columbus Community  
Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson  
Davenport Central  
Des Moines East  
Dike-New Hartford  
Dubuque Senior  
East Greene  
Edgewood-Colesburg  
Farragut  
Forest City  
Glenwood  
GMG

Harris-Lake Park  
Iowa Valley  
Keokuk  
Manson Northwest Webster  
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn  
MFL MarMac  
Northeast Hamilton  
Oelwein  
Olin  
Ottumwa  
Perry  
Sioux City North  
Solon  
Waterloo East  
West Delaware  
West Sioux  
Winfield-Mount Union

## Data & Reporting

### Spring BEDS: A New Season and a New Look

As spring brings a new look and change to our physical environment, a new look and change will be evident in the Spring BEDS 2011 collection. The new look will be in the portion of the Spring BEDS application where districts will now report aggregate data related to teacher and principal evaluations and annual school time minutes. Changes can be found in the portion of the current application with the elimination of the PK section from the Early Childhood collection.

Teacher and principal evaluation data are now being collected as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). Iowa, along with all other states, must collect and report aggregate data related to the evaluation of teachers and principals.

In an effort to promote reporting efficiency and to comply with the requirements of the state's School Improvement Grant, school minutes will now be calculated locally, reported in Spring BEDS and used by multiple departments within the Department of Education. The decision to eliminate the PK section from the Early Childhood collection was made after it was determined the data are being collected through EASIER and that reporting through Spring BEDS was redundant.

Change can be challenging. It can also be invigorating and enlightening. With the help of your Spring BEDs consultants, it will be the latter. Take advantage of the training sessions planned for this spring. Information regarding training dates, times and locations will be sent directly to superintendents and district contacts for Spring BEDS, and will also be located on the Department's calendar where districts are encouraged to sign up at one of the various locations around the state.

### Enrollment Projection ... *continued from page one*

The projected increase in public school enrollment mirrors the 2010 Census data, which shows a slight increase in Iowa's population. The Department of Education is projecting a similar increase in the number of students attending the state's public schools over the next five years:

- 2010-11 Enrollment: 473,493
- 2011-12 Projection: 474,520
- 2015-16 Projection: 484,904

Projections for the 2011-12 school year show a 0.2 percent increase in the number of students in Iowa public schools. By the 2015-16 school year, the projection is for a 2.4 percent increase, or approximately 11,400 students, above the current school year.

At the same time, the one year projections show that a majority of Iowa school districts – 62% - still have declining enrollment and in five years 58% of school districts will continue to have declining enrollment. There are currently 359 districts in Iowa.



*More lockers will be filling up again as Iowa's 13 year decline in public school enrollment is projected to turn around over the next several years.*



# Student and Family Support Services Updates

**STATE SHARE INVOICES:** Invoices for the State Share of January and February claims payments will be available soon. ARRA enhanced FMAP rates based on a state's unemployment rate are now set. State share to be paid back is 30.32% for claims paid in January, February and March 2011. State share to be paid back is 32.24% for claims paid in April, May and June 2011.

Invoices of the State Share Amounts, Information Letters, and Remittance Advice Statements are only available at the Iowa Medicaid Portal Access (IMPA). You can register for IMPA by clicking [here](#).

The goal of the DE Bureau of Student and Family Support Services to eliminate achievement gaps for students with disabilities by 2020 is assisted by Medicaid reimbursement for IEP services. For more information, contact Jim Donoghue, Medicaid consultant at 515-281-8505 or [jim.donoghue@iowa.gov](mailto:jim.donoghue@iowa.gov).

**SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW CONFERENCE:** The Iowa Department of Education will be sponsoring a special education law conference on May 19-20 in Iowa City. The conference will focus on improving achievement for children with disabilities. Nationally known speakers will present on discipline, supporting access to the general curriculum, grading practices for students with disabilities, and other important topics for school leaders. Registration information will be available shortly. Special fee arrangements may be available for districts and AEAs that bring work teams. For more information, please contact Michelle Ray at 515-281-5494 or [Michelle.Ray@iowa.gov](mailto:Michelle.Ray@iowa.gov).

**SPECIAL EDUCATION RULES:** The State Board made technical, non-substantive changes to Iowa's administrative rules of special education. Those changes transform the term "mental disability" to "intellectual disability," change the term "preappeal conference" to "mediation," and clarify the Department's requirements to take actions against districts and AEAs that do not meet the requirements of the IDEA. A document summarizing those changes is available by clicking [here](#). For more information, contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or [Thomas.Mayes@iowa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Mayes@iowa.gov).

## Early Childhood Preschool Programs

### Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Update

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) understands that in the current legislative session, districts are uncertain of the future of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP). Districts are encouraged to monitor the legislative process by linking to the Iowa Legislature website at <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/> or the DE Legislative Information [page](#). In the mean-time, the DE will continue to support implementation of SWVPP and complete scheduled verification visits to assure programs are meeting quality standards.

For more information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, please contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or [Judy.Russell@iowa.gov](mailto:Judy.Russell@iowa.gov)) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or [Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov](mailto:Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov)).



## Coming Soon: #IAEDsummit ... *continued from page one*

Dr. David Driscoll will be the keynote speaker for the morning of Tuesday, July 26. Dr. Driscoll is chair of the National Assessment Governing Board, the panel that sets policies for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, the only test taken by K-12 students in every state. He was the 22nd commissioner of education in Massachusetts from 1998 to 2007. He will speak about what reforms worked in Massachusetts, which is the top-performing state on NAEP, and what reforms he think schools around the nation need to consider now.

Vivien Stewart, senior advisor for education at the Asia Society, will talk about why the world's high-performing school systems are successful. Her expertise includes what those systems do to recruit, prepare, support, compensate and evaluate top-quality teachers. For much of the past decade, Ms. Stewart was in charge of development of the Asia Society's programs to promote the study of Asia in U.S. schools, and initiatives to connect U.S. and Asian education leaders. While at the Carnegie Corporation, she helped create the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.



In addition, Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds have announced that a series of public town hall meetings as well as three small roundtable discussions prior to the summit will be held in order to help better understand the challenges in today's education environment. The town hall meetings will be held across the state in education settings, and will be open to the public.

*Governor Terry Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds meet with the State Board of Education last week to discussion education priorities for Iowa.*

The three roundtable discussions will include business executives talking about the qualities they look for in a globally competitive work force; teachers talking about what is needed to be more effective in the classroom; and higher education and K-12 leaders discussing ways to better prepare students for college or post-secondary training.

This is providing a unique chance for people across Iowa to have input, share ideas, learn and listen, as together we work to improve education to help every child prepare for their future.

And leading up to this event, you can take part online. On Twitter, simply use the hashtag #IAEDsummit to take part in the conversation. And the Governor's Special Assistant for Education, Linda Fandel, has a blog with regular updates on the education summit, developments shaping education reform across the state, the nation and the world, and other issues at <http://iowaeducation.iowa.gov/>.

Stay tuned for more information in the future on the Iowa Education Summit. Working together, we can focus our efforts and make a positive difference for our students, teachers, parents, and everyone who wants to see education succeed in this great state.

# AP, IB Test Fee Grant Helps Low-Income Students

Low-income students will have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams, thanks to a grant awarded to the Iowa Department of Education. The Advanced Placement Test Fee Reimbursement grant is in the amount of \$60,102. This funding is made available from a grant awarded by the United States Department of Education.

Last year the Test Fee Reimbursement Program provided financial reimbursement for 841 exams for public and non-public students in Iowa.

## Who is eligible?

Students eligible for free and reduced price lunches, according to the Title I formula, are eligible to receive this reimbursement for exams. This eligibility applies regardless of whether or not the student is currently receiving such as long as there is evidence they qualify.

## How will this be verified?

The local school district has free and reduced price lunch information on file. The Iowa Department of Education does not collect the names of those students. However, we can ask the district to show evidence that these students are eligible.



*Central Academy in Des Moines teaches both Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.*

## How much cost will the reimbursement cover?

The intent is to remove the cost barrier for low-income students to participate in the AP exam opportunity. The \$60,102 will be divided among those schools requesting reimbursement as of June 3, 2011. The reimbursement will total \$57 per exam. This is determined by:

- \$ 87.00 - total fee per AP exam
- 22.00 (fee reduction provided by The College Board - *school's responsibility to indicate on order form when ordering tests*)
- 8.00 - administration fee waived by school district
- 57.00 - Federal grant fee reimbursement
- \$ 00.00 - fee for eligible student

Each exam counts separately, so if an eligible student takes three exams, you may request reimbursement for all three exams.

## When and how do I submit the request?

After the qualifying students take the AP or IB exams, please use one of the following options to request the reimbursement:

1. The College Board provides an electronic invoice that can be printed and mailed to Rosanne Malek, Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146;
2. If you have difficulty printing the invoice, or have questions contact Rosanne Malek, 515-281-3199 or [rosanne.malek@iowa.gov](mailto:rosanne.malek@iowa.gov);
3. Send all invoices to: Rosanne Malek, 400 E 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA, 50316.
4. The Iowa Department of Education will send the reimbursement to the school district.
5. **The deadline to submit invoiced for reimbursement is June 3, 2011.**

# Iowa Energy Benchmarking Pilot Project Invitation

The Iowa Energy Center at Iowa State University is conducting a year-long building energy benchmarking pilot project to connect selected public facility owners with a web-based benchmarking application to identify buildings that are the best candidates for energy audit investigations and cost-effective improvements.

The Iowa B3 Energy Benchmarking system provides the ability to manage an existing buildings energy consumption with simple reports using monthly utility billing information and some basic facility data about the building so building owners can easily identify which of the building sites are:

- Consuming more or less energy than expected – the Benchmark view, or
- Consuming more or less energy than in a previous year – the Baseline views

Knowing which building sites use more energy than expected identifies which buildings are cost-effective candidates for energy audits, retro-commissioning or retrofit projects. Knowing which buildings are consuming more or less energy than in previous years allows building owners to know which buildings to focus attention on right away so they can determine what is required to maintain or improve its energy consumption.



It is estimated there are approximately 6,000 public buildings over 5,000 square feet in Iowa. This pilot project will attempt to gather data and benchmark 1,000 buildings in the following public sectors: Cities (1000+ population), Counties, K-12 School Districts, Community Colleges, and State Agencies.

Individual organization representatives for the above public sectors have been identified and will be receiving emails inviting participation. The email will provide instructions for indicating interest in the benchmarking project with a **response deadline of Friday, April 8, 2011.**

Since this is a pilot project, not all interested organizations may be able to be included within the 1,000 building sampling. Once confirmation of interest and basic organizational data is received by the deadline indicated, organizations will be included with all other interested organizations in a computer-generated random selection process. Organizations will be notified if they have been selected to participate in the pilot. It is the goal of the project to obtain a sampling of organizations and buildings from each public sector (city, county, K-12, community colleges, state agencies).

## New 1% revolving loan fund for energy efficiency improvements

The State of Iowa's Building Energy Management program has a new one-percent revolving loan fund available to assist facilities including K-12 schools, area education agencies and colleges with energy efficiency improvements. With qualified energy efficiency improvements, facilities need no upfront capital or additional appropriations. Loans are arranged to be repaid using energy cost savings. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and must be spent by March 30, 2012. Federal reporting requirements apply. For more details, please see <http://www.energy.iowa.gov/> and/or contact Julie Weisshaar at [julie.weisshaar@iowa.gov](mailto:julie.weisshaar@iowa.gov) or 515-725-0082.





## Legal Lessons

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

### Lunch, Cell Phones, Athletic Eligibility

#### Gift Law Opinion

A superintendent recently asked the attorney and executive director of the Ethics Board to address this situation:

A window vendor was offering a field trip to northern Minnesota for the district's building trades class (to the vendor's factory). The vendor offered to foot the bill for the students' costs (airfare, hotel stay for one night, meals), but also offered to foot the bill for the teacher's flight, overnight stay, and four meals if the teacher came along as a chaperone for the class.

Students are not subject to the gift law, so the students in the class could attend the field trip. The superintendent was uneasy – and rightfully so – about the vendor's offer as it related to his teacher.

Here is the reply on behalf of the Ethics Board:

Because the vendor is a "restricted donor" and because your instructor is a "public employee" for purposes of our gift statute, **your instructor may not accept the proposed trip from the company.** Certainly the school district can pay for his trip. The instructor's role in the trip (i.e., chaperone) is irrelevant.

The DE thanks Brian Ney at Anamosa for raising this issue with the Ethics Board and for his permission to share his experience with others.

#### Action on Administrative Rules

At its March 31 meeting, the State Board of Education *adopted* amendments to the following chapters of administrative rules, all of which are effective May 25, 2011:

##### 36. Interscholastic Athletics

Rescinds the religious exemption to the requirement that a student have a physical examination as a prerequisite to participation in interscholastic sports. The DE has found no basis for the exemption. None of the leaders of various religious groups in Iowa object to the removal of the exemption. See next item for more on this and other changes to rules governing interscholastic athletics.

##### 43. Pupil Transportation

The rule removes the requirement that new school bus drivers take the annual training in the year in which they must receive the training that is specific to new drivers, unless the employing district requires both trainings.

##### 81. School Business Officer Preparation Program Approval

This new chapter of rules provides guidelines by which school business official preparation programs are to be evaluated for approval by the State Board of Education.

##### 96. Sales Tax for School Infrastructure

The proposed rule conforms to comply with GASB 54 of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

Full information may be found on the DE's Website by clicking [here](#).

## Legal Lessons *continued*

### Interscholastic Athletics, Administrative Rules

On May 25, all of the following changes to rules governing interscholastic athletics become effective:

- Awards rule. The value of an award given to a high school student to recognize the student's achievement in interscholastic athletics jumps from \$25 to \$50 per award per student.
- "Open gym" rule. The prohibition against out-of-season contact is still in the rule, and is unchanged. It will now be left to local control who is allowed to use a school's athletic facilities and at what hours.
- "All-star" rule. Seniors in a sport whose season is over may compete in an all-star competition, and now, the high school coach of that senior may coach him/her in the all-star competition.
- Appeals from failing grades. Appeals from students who do not pass all coursework are not to be pursued with either the IHSA or IGHSU, but with the student's local administration and/or local school board. (Whether a failing grade is appropriate is solely within the jurisdiction of the school to determine.)
- Cooperative sharing agreements. Removes the requirement that cooperative sharing program teams compete only under the name of the host school.

### **The Four "Ds" of Prom Protocol: Dates, Dress, Decorum, Drug (Testing)**

*It's prom season.* A full guidance piece on prom (and all school dances) is online [here](#). The guidance covers lawful regulation of the Four "Ds" - dates, dress, decorum, and drug testing.

*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](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)*



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