



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

June 2011

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REGISTER FOR THE IOWA EDUCATION SUMMIT

Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds launched a new Iowa Education Summit website that allows interested individuals to register and view a full schedule of events.

The summit is limited to 1,650 spots. Those wishing to attend the summit are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Interested parties may register here: <http://iowaeducation.iowa.gov/education-summit>.

"Lieutenant Governor Reynolds and I are pleased to announce the launch of this site, along with the full calendar of events for the Iowa Education Summit," said Governor Branstad.

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COMING SOON: EDUCATEIOWA.GOV

If a website serves as the virtual front door of an organization, then the Iowa Department of Education is about to roll out a new welcome mat at educateiowa.gov.

Later this month the Department will be launching a new website. Our new site will host the information and data currently available and will be more accessible to our visitors. The site is designed to serve administrators, educators, students and families, and anyone in the community interested in Iowa's schools and colleges.

New design features:

- Audience-focused homepage
- Social media integration including blogs, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, and Twitter
- Improved look and feel consistent with Department's branding

I am excited about how the changes support the Department's creed to lead, serve and innovate.



Jason Glass, Director



Educators Encouraged to Volunteer for Site Visit Teams

Iowa educators are encouraged to volunteer to participate in the Iowa Department of Education (DE) school improvement site visits scheduled for the 2011-2012 school year. The site visit team member invitation is located at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1558&Itemid=2342. For technical assistance, contact Elizabeth Calhoun at elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov or 515-281-8170.

Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentages

The Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) rate has been updated. The state's share to be paid back will be 37.37% for claims paid July, August and September 2011. The state's share to be paid back is 39.29% for claims paid October 2011 through September 2012.

As of March 2011, additional services can be reimbursed. If an evaluation, screening or testing service is performed before an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), but results in that service will be ordered in the next IEP or IFSP, that pre-IEP/pre-IFSP service can be reimbursed.

For more information or if you would like a training or orientation session at your site, contact Jim Donoghue, Medicaid consultant, at jim.donoghue@iowa.gov or 515-281-8505.

Iowa Culture and Language Conference

The 2011 Iowa Culture and Language Conference (ICLC) is scheduled for November 7-9, 2011 at the Coralville Marriott in Coralville, Iowa.

Confirmed presenters for the November 7 preconference sessions include Jane Hill, Anne Lundquist, Betty Smallwood, Margarita Calderon, Janette Klinger and Socorro Herrera. Regular conference sessions begin November 8. Additional speakers and presenters include Sunday Goshit, Margo Gottlieb, Nick Miraflores, Kathy Olson and Mark Grey.

For additional information and registration materials contact iclc@nwaea.org or contact Teresa Angerman, NWAEA Administrative Assistant, at 712-222-6015. The mission of the ICLC is to advocate for culturally and/or linguistically diverse students and their families, educators, and service providers.

Competent Private Instruction (CPI) Handbook, 2011-2012

CPI handbook for the 2011-2012 school year and other supporting documents are now available on the website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=301&Itemid=1335. For additional information contact Elizabeth Calhoun at elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov or 515-281-8170.

Certified Bleacher Examiner NOT Endorsed

It has been brought to the DE's attention that schools have been contacted by an individual or business as a "certified examiner of bleachers." No state agency provides a formal certification for inspectors of bleachers. Neither the Department of Public Safety nor the Department of Education has endorsed any individual or business. Any person or business who has been trained or instructed to inspect the specific type of bleachers, grandstand, or telescopic seating can perform an inspection, which should be done annually. School employees may be qualified and conduct the inspection, or an outside contractor can be employed. Documentation of the inspector's training and the date, time and location of the inspection is recommended.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Legislative 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 at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1529&Itemid=2348. In the meantime, the DE will continue to support implementation of SWVPP and schedule Iowa Quality Preschool Program Verification Visits to assure programs are meeting quality standards.

IQPPS Verification Process

Six early childhood consultants from the Department of Education, together with early childhood specialists from the Area Education Agencies, conduct the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Verification Visits.

Beginning in October of 2011 and continuing through April of 2012, 75 districts and their community partners will receive a Verification Visit to ensure compliance with the requirements of Chapter 16 and the provision of quality preschool programming for children in Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program; and 3, 4 and/or 5-year-old children in Early Childhood Special Education programs with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for instructional services.

The IQPPS Verification Visits include all district and community partner IQPPS classroom sessions serving preschoolers in:

- Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) sessions for children 3, 4, or 5-years-old, and
- Early childhood sessions (such as community-based providers, child care, district tuition programs, etc.) serving children 3, 4, or 5-years-old with an instructional services IEP.

The IQPPS Verification Visit includes a district overview, classroom observations, family interview, review of documents (Classroom Portfolios, the Program Portfolio, staff and child files) and a summary meeting. Districts are encouraged to include community partner administration in the Overview and Summary Meeting.

For more information about the IQPPS process, please refer to the IQPPS Requirements and Verification Webinar on the SWVPP website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279. For more information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, please contact Judy Russell at judy.russell@iowa.gov or 515-281-4705, or Penny Milburn at penny.milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844.

IQPPS Verification Visits 2011-2012

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Verification Visits for 2011-2012 will be scheduled with districts within the next few weeks. Districts receiving an IQPPS Verification Visit next year include:

Districts funded in Year 1 (2007-2008) and participating in a Comprehensive School Improvement Visit in 2011-2012, and half of the districts funded in Year 4 (2010-2011).

If a district funded in Year 1 (2007-2008) or Year 4 (2010-2011) is scheduled to have a *Comprehensive School Improvement Visit* during the 2011-2012 school year, the IQPPS Verification visit will occur at the same time.

Please refer to the website Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279 for a list of districts receiving an IQPPS Verification Visit in 2011-2012.

Data & Reporting

Fall BEDS and EASIER August 8 Data Conference

BEDS and EASIER fall training will be held on Monday, August 8, 2011 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm at FFA Enrichment Center adjoining the DMACC Ankeny Campus, at 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023. To register for this *FREE* event, click [here](#). ([DE Calendar](#), August 8) Topics will include:

- Fall Beds
- Fall EASIER and Certified Enrollment
- Supplementary Weighting (ELL, concurrent enrollment, shared teachers, shared students, etc.)
- Categorical funding
- SBRC application
- SCED course coding (secondary and elementary)
- EdInsight
- SIF—Schools Interoperability Framework
- Iowa Testing Program and the new Form E
- Special Education and Certified Enrollment, Graduates, and Dropouts
- Iowa Transcript Center and electronic Transcripts
- Upcoming changes to FERPA
- AYP recap and Alternate Assessment

Beginner sessions will be offered to help new administrators and staff members survive the fall reporting period. More details will be available soon on the [EASIER website](#).

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Deadline

The preliminary certification deadline for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is June 27, 2011. On June 28, 2011, certification decisions will be cleared and districts will need to re-certify by July 7, 2011.

This year, the Iowa Department of Education is testing the use of EASIER data to calculate student enrollment counts and full academic year (FAY) status. All districts are strongly encouraged to compare participation counts from EASIER to students tested counts and EASIER FAY indicators to FAY indicators on the barcode. These comparisons will enable the clean up of EASIER enrollments. Even though this year is a “testing” year, this year’s Spring EASIER enrollment data will be used for 2011-2012 AYP FAY calculations to determine if the student was enrolled on the testing date of the previous year. Therefore, it is critical to a district’s 2011-2012 FAY determinations that Spring 2011 enrollments are correct.

Preliminary AYP Certification Deadline: June 27 Final AYP Certification Deadline: July 7

For more information or assistance completing AYP, contact Mary Grinstead at mary.grinstead@iowa.gov or 515-725-2107, or Tom Deeter at tom.deeter@iowa.gov or 515-242-5616.

Competent Private Instruction (CPI) Reporting Deadline

The deadline for parents to report the results of standardized tests or portfolio evaluations to the resident district is June 30, 2011. Districts shall submit form C-1 (found on page 22 of the CPI handbook) to the Iowa Department of Education (DE) for each student who has a national percentile rank of 30 or below in any one of the test areas indicated OR who has less than 6 months progress on national grade equivalent from one year to another. (See Iowa Code section 299A.6 for further details)

Districts shall NOT report test scores to the DE for students who are served by licensed teachers or who were younger than age 7 on September 15th or older than age 16 of the current school year. For additional information contact Elizabeth Calhoun at elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov or 515-281-8170.



Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools **Engagement | Safety | Environment**

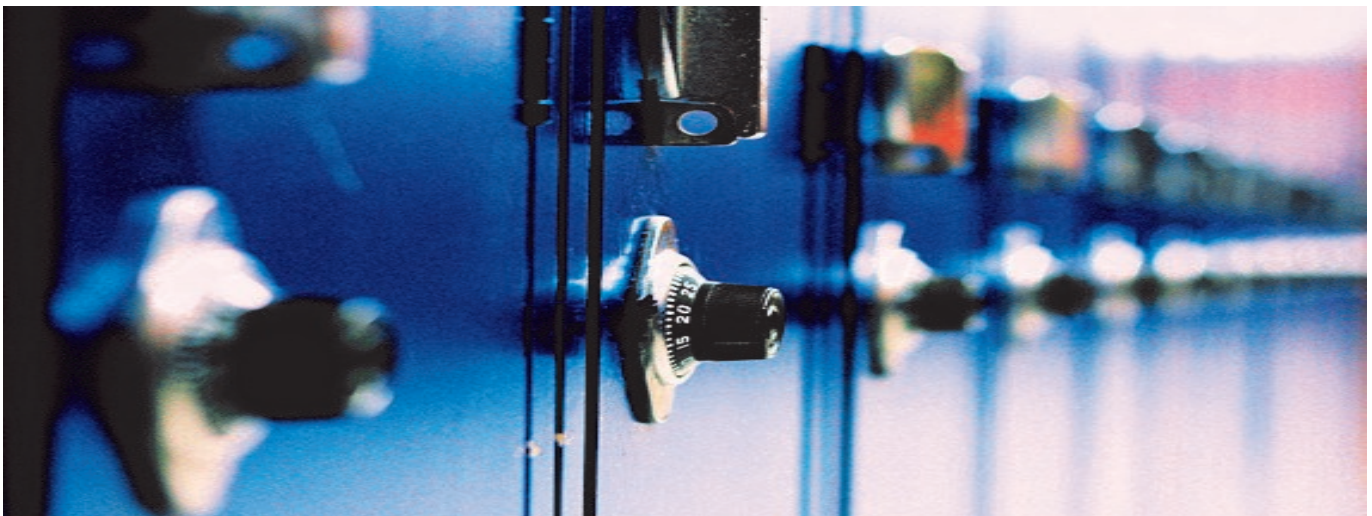
Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Update

Students, staff, and parents in 47 Iowa high schools have just completed a survey that will provide them with valuable information about school safety, student engagement, and the learning environment. The survey is the first phase of the federal Safe and Supportive Schools Grant. Items from the Iowa Youth Survey served as the basis for the survey and during the summer the data will be analyzed to strengthen and enhance the existing Iowa Youth Survey. Schools will receive the results from their surveys sometime in August. The following video featuring Senator Harkin, Governor Branstad and Director Glass provides more information about the survey: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIZYVI0_0iw.

During the summer, representatives from participating schools, Area Education Agency (AEA) staff, and other statewide partners will meet to develop a school climate score. This score will include survey results as well as other indicators of conditions for learning. Each high school that participated in the survey will receive a school climate score. The score will also be used to determine which high schools will receive funding for the second phase of the grant over the next three years. The second phase of the grant involves implementation of a Continuous Improvement Process to improve Conditions for Learning. AEA Learning Supports and Data staff will be part of the statewide system to support schools.

The Iowa Department of Education will monitor progress towards these outcomes as part of the Safe and Supportive Schools Grant:

1. Percentage of students who report current (30-day) alcohol use;
2. Percentage of students who report personal harassment or bullying on school property during the current school year;
3. School safety scores, and
4. Number of suspensions for violent incidents without physical injury.



Iowa Education Summit....continued from page 1

"I have made it a priority of this administration to restore Iowa's schools as world-class learning institutions. It is our hope that this gathering of leaders will provide us the tools to reestablish Iowa's education system as best in the nation."

In March, Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds announced several keynote speakers for the event including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Stanford University professor Dr. Linda Darling Hammond, Chairman of the National Assessment Governing Board Dr. David Driscoll and Senior Advisor for Education at the Asia Society Vivien Stewart.

The Iowa Education Summit will take place Monday, July 25, 2011, through Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at the Iowa Events Center / HyVee Hall in Des Moines.

"By bringing together leaders from both the private and public sector, in addition to world renowned educational leaders, we hope to provide open dialogue to encourage and implement real change in Iowa classrooms," said Lt. Gov. Reynolds. "Our many outstanding principals and teachers give us a solid foundation to build upon. It is time to provide our youth with the world-class education they deserve."



For more information, please visit www.governor.iowa.gov or <http://iowaeducation.iowa.gov/education-summit>.



Local Staff Transitions and Electronic Communication

Much of the communication to superintendents from the Iowa Department of Education (DE) is done via email. This allows the DE to provide timely communication and has been a cost savings to the DE.

Every attempt is made to keep the superintendent and other distribution lists up to date. To assure that all districts continue to receive emails over the summer, please contact Marcia Krieger to inform the DE if you do not plan on being with the district next fall. If you know your successor, please indicate that as well.

This would also apply to any principal or business manager changes. Also, please remember to go into EdInfo to adjust contact information as staff transitions occur.

Please contact Marcia Krieger at marcia.krieger@iowa.gov or 515-281-5293 with questions or updates you have.

Have a
great
summer!

Calendar

- June 16 & 17 • State Board of Education Retreat
- June 27 • Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Certification Due
- June 30 • Competent Private Instruction / Homeschooling deadline to report student progress.



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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