



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

February 2012

Summer: Season of hunger in Iowa

Though 203,500 Iowa children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, only 7 percent of them participate in the Summer Food Service Program during vacation months. Are there summer feedings sites in your community?

If there are not, explore the possibilities of your district participating in the summer program. If there are sites in your community, promote participation.

An informational webinar on the program will be held on **Tuesday, Feb. 7**, from 2 to 3 p.m.

To register for the webinar, go to the Calendar on the Iowa Department of Education website, <http://bit.ly/xgltmY>. For more information, contact Stephanie Dross at stephanie.dross@iowa.gov or 515-281-4760.



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Reform proposals, waiver go hand in hand

The Governor's education reform package has received a lot of attention at the State Capitol since the first gavel dropped in January. I've talked a lot about why these proposals are so important: They will put us on the path to make Iowa schools among the best in the world.

But let me emphasize another key reason: These proposals are critical to Iowa's effort to request a waiver from the rigid accountability measures of the federal No Child Left Behind law. While No Child Left Behind has advanced important reforms — namely, it correctly shifted attention to our country's neediest students — it's also widely acknowledged that No Child Left Behind holds schools to unrealistic measures and then blames and shames those that fall short. With Congressional reauthorization four years overdue, the U.S. Department of Education last year invited states to request a waiver. In exchange, states must design and submit rigorous and comprehensive plans for school accountability.



Jason Glass, Director

In Iowa, we intend to apply for a waiver by Feb. 21. The Iowa Department of Education has been hard at work on an Iowa-built accountability plan, which will emphasize student growth, as well as proficiency, on student tests. Iowa started down the right path to a successful waiver request when the Common Core standards were adopted as part of the Iowa Core standards in 2010. And now, there are many elements of the education reform package that set us up for a successful waiver. Just to name a few:

- An assessment system redesign is under way to replace the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills with a test that will be developed through a consortium of states, including Iowa. These tests will be tightly aligned with the Iowa Core standards.

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Annual report available for viewing

The Iowa Department of Education is required to issue an annual report on the statewide progress of the following: student achievement scores in mathematics and reading at the fourth- and eighth-grade levels on a district-by-district basis, evaluator training program, and changes and improvements in the evaluation of teachers under the Iowa Teaching Standards. [Click](#) to view the report. For more information, contact Kevin Fangman at kevin.fangman@iowa.gov or 515-281-3333.

More schools flock to PBIS

The number of schools participating in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports skyrocketed by 25 percent since last September, with an additional 77 teams beginning to create universal systems to support all students and staff within their school buildings. That's because more schools are recognizing the importance of this research-based framework that is proven to enhance academic and behavioral success.

The goal for this preparation year is to develop strong Tier 1 systems for actively teaching and recognizing appropriate social skills and behavior, using consistent systems to discourage inappropriate behavior, and educating all staff in how to implement and participate in the process. Training across the continuum of supports is an ongoing effort. [Click here](#) for more information.



Internet safety policies address online behavior



Beginning July 1, school Internet safety policies must provide education for minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

The Federal Trade Commission has a website loaded with online resources on Internet safety for kids. Go to <http://onguardonline.gov/>.

Participate in the first Digital Learning Day

You are invited to join the more than 465,000 students, thousands of educators and 37 states that are participating in the Alliance for Excellent Education's first-ever Digital Learning Day on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

This national awareness campaign is designed to celebrate innovative teachers and highlight instructional practices that strengthen and personalize learning for all students. The Digital Learning Day campaign explores how digital learning can provide teachers and students the opportunities they deserve to succeed in college, a career and in life.

On Digital Learning Day, a virtual national town hall meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., along with a live webcast starting at 8 a.m. Central Time. The Alliance aims to build momentum for a wave of innovation that changes policies, shifts attitudes and supports widespread adoption of promising instructional practices nationwide.

To learn more about how to be a part of this ground-breaking event, sign up at <http://www.digitallearningday.org>.

Seniors sought for national science program



High school seniors are encouraged to apply for the 2012 National Youth Science Camp, an all-expenses-paid program held from June 27 to July 21 in West Virginia.

Students selected for the program will meet with scientists and other professionals from the academic and corporate worlds, as well as participate in hands-on research projects.

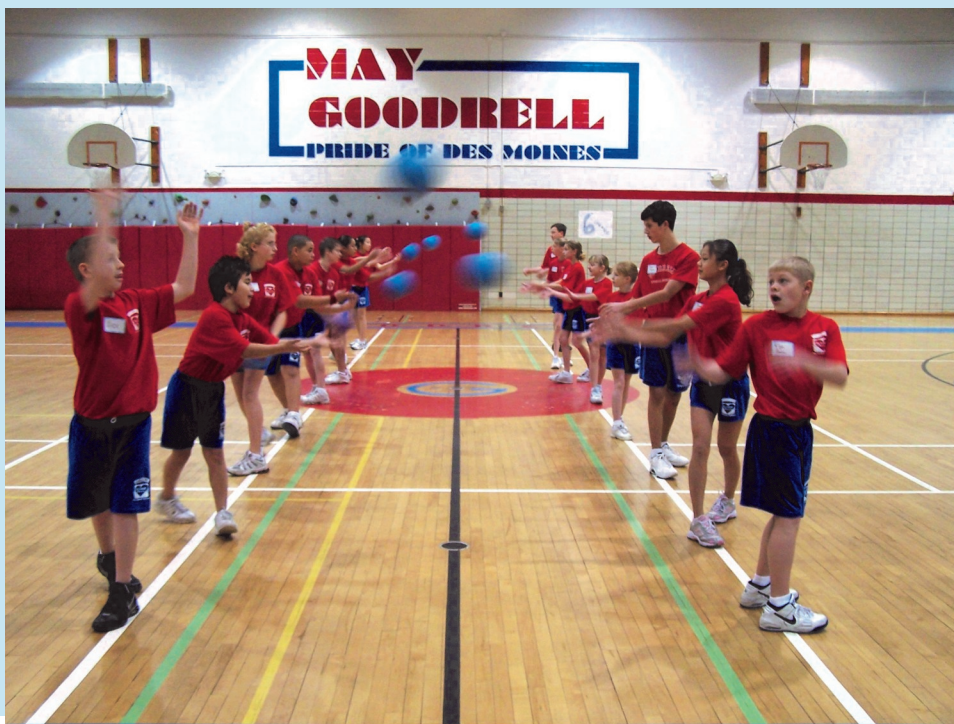
Two Iowa students will be selected to participate by the Iowa Academy of Science and the Iowa Department of Education.

Applications, available at <http://2012.nysc.org/delegates/apply/>, must be postmarked by Feb. 17.

Send applications to: Marcy Seavey, Program Director, Iowa Academy of Science, 175 Baker Hall, University of Northern Iowa, 2607 Campus Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0508

Getting physical — the right way

The Iowa Department of Education Physical Education listserv provides news updates, grant opportunities and other information related to childhood and youth physical and motor fitness. Teachers, administrators and community members interested in school-based physical and motor development of Iowa's children and youth are invited to join. Go to Join-physicaleducation@lists.ed.iowa.gov and send the email, or copy/paste the link into the "TO" line. If you need assistance, contact ed.thomas@iowa.gov or call 515-281-3933.



Data & Reporting

Work progresses on consolidating mandatory reports

The Iowa Department of Education is making headway toward launching the Consolidated Plan (C-Plan), an effort to streamline the collection of mandatory reports and progress for districts and schools. In January, school improvement consultants gave an overview of the C-Plan at Area Education Agency Superintendents meetings; the C-Plan team also has been gathering feedback from stakeholders around the state. The C-Plan team is interested in soliciting additional feedback from any groups that have responsibilities in writing or organizing their district's mandatory plans to learn more about the project. The C-Plan is a living, ongoing planning and reporting document for schools and districts. The five plans identified for inclusion are:

- The Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)
- Annual Progress Report (APR)
- Iowa Core Implementation Plan (to be included December 2012)
- District Developed Service Delivery Plan (DDSDP)
- Schools/Districts In Need of Assistance (SINA/DINA) Plan

Additional plans will be considered for inclusion at a future date. Implementation of C-Plan is scheduled to begin June 1. To arrange an overview, contact Karla Day, Title I consultant, at Karla.Day@iowa.gov or 515-281-7145.

Transfer in Iowa web portal assists transfer students

Iowa's regent universities and community colleges have joined to create a web portal dedicated to assisting students with the transfer process. The site, www.transferiniowa.org, serves as a one-stop resource for students planning their future.

Each year, thousands of students transfer from Iowa community colleges to one of the state's three public universities. Transferring from one college to the next can be a big step, but it need not be complicated. The website contains resources helpful in educational planning as well as information for students to discuss with their counselors or advisors.

The No. 1 question transfer students ask is: How will my credits transfer? Students can learn about how their community college courses transfer to each of the three state public universities by following the links on the website. The website contains resources explaining statewide articulation agreements and individual program-to-program articulation agreements by community college. These resources are useful for students planning to transfer as well as counselors and advisors. In addition to online resources, it's always a good idea for students to discuss their plans with both a community college and university counselor or adviser. Contact information for the office or person responsible for transfer and articulation at each postsecondary institution is available on the site.

School districts should communicate information about the articulation website to all elementary and secondary school students interested in or potentially interested in attending a community college or regent university.



Data & Reporting continued

ESL endorsement deadlines draw near

Important deadlines are looming for English as a second language (ESL) educators.

According to the Iowa Code:

1. All teachers of ESL must have an endorsement or a waiver after July 1.
2. Only an ESL-endorsed or endorsement-waived teacher may instruct English language learners (ELL).
3. All students identified as needing ESL must receive appropriate instruction from a qualified or endorsement-waived teacher.
4. All teachers interested in seeking a waiver from the endorsement must apply to the Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) for a waiver before June 1.



The code says that current teachers of ESL must either have an ESL endorsement of 18 specific courses by July 1 or have been licensed in Iowa prior to Oct. 1, 1988. The latter group may teach ESL only in the grades for which they are licensed.

Non-endorsed teachers who have been successfully teaching ESL may apply for a waiver through the BoEE. The waiver requirements can be found in the BoEE [website](#) under ESL Endorsement Waivers. The BoEE requires that all waivers be submitted to them prior to June 1 in order to be processed by July 1. All teachers who miss the deadline may apply for a two-year conditional license, and they must finish the full 18 requirements for the endorsement within that period.

Although there are no minimal requirements for staffing, the presence of even one student creates the need for an ELL-endorsed teacher. Districts may share teachers, use push-in rather than pull-out models for instruction, and with the help of Area Education Agencies or institutions of higher education, find other creative ways to meet the needs of ELLs. For more information, refer to Iowa Codes 282-13.28(20), 281-12.4(1) and 281-60.

Getting ConnectED

It's not too late to sign up for a Feb. 6 Iowa Department of Education conference that focuses on a project that will give districts new opportunities to streamline reporting and processes, integrate systems, and share data among applications. During the conference, attendees will have a chance to see these tools in action – such as automated student ID generation, new data collection and validation process for BEDS staff and EASIER reporting (Vertical Reporting Framework), and automated uploads to Iowa Transcript Center (ITC).

With a horizontal Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) implementation, districts have the ability to integrate internal data flow to applications such as library, transportation, cafeteria, directory systems and other applications utilizing the state Zone Integration Server (ZIS) and SIF. Learn how other districts have made big improvements by successfully employing SIF within their districts.

JMC, PowerSchool, and Infinite Campus will be present to discuss with their customers the progress and rollout of these tools. Find out when these tools will be available, how to prepare for implementation and what costs are covered by the state. To register for this free event, go to the [ConnectEd in Iowa: SIF Conference](#) website, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the Register(Individual) button.

When: Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Iowa State Center Scheman Building ([directions](#))

Target Audience: Technology directors and district strategic planners/ decision-makers

Transportation

Open Enrollment Transportation Assistance for 2011-12

The transportation reimbursement for the 2011-12 school year for qualifying open-enrolled families is \$454. Transportation assistance is only available to families who 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. If the application for transportation assistance is filed after the beginning of the school year, the cost of providing the transportation should be pro-rated.

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:

1. Provide transportation for the pupil(s) to a stop on the bus line of the receiving district;
2. 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;
3. The resident district may provide a parent/guardian with a cash reimbursement at \$454 per child each year for up to four children in a 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: http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=649&Itemid=1336

For additional information, contact Eric Heitz at 515-281-4726 or eric.heizt@iowa.gov.



Student Health and Nutrition

School health emergencies

As you update your school's health-emergency plans, you may want to consider a broad policy (as opposed to individual policies for each emergency) with general protocols for unanticipated emergencies and specific individual plans for known potential emergencies.

To that end, the National School Boards Association has put out a new online publication, "Safe at School and Ready to Learn: A Comprehensive Policy Guide for Protecting Students with Life-Threatening Food Allergies." Access it at <http://www.nsba.org/foodallergy>. The guideline components include:

- Identification of students with possible health emergencies needing school health services;
- Individual written health plans in partnerships with families and health-care providers;
- Medication protocols (physician order, storage, access and administration);
- Healthy school environments;
- Communication and confidentiality;
- Emergency response;
- Professional development and training for school personnel (PowerPoint available);
- Awareness education and resources for students, parents and caregivers;
- Monitoring, evaluation and checklists.



Please note: Schools cannot have in-stock prescription medicines for the student population as a whole. For more information, contact Charlotte.Burt@iowa.gov.

Let's Move! national campaign launches in Iowa

First Lady Michelle Obama has chosen the Hawkeye State to launch a national tour for her Let's Move! campaign, which aims to raise a healthier generation of children through fitness and nutrition.

More than 10,000 central Iowa students in grades 6 through 9 will pack Wells Fargo Arena in downtown Des Moines on Feb. 9 for a high-energy event featuring the First Lady, Olympic gold medalist Shawn Johnson and other guests.

The event will be hosted by Iowa's Healthiest State Initiative, a privately led public effort to raise the state's standing on a national ranking of overall wellness. Gov. Terry Branstad announced the initiative last August.



Student Health and Nutrition continued

Phenix Elementary named Healthy Iowa K-12 School winner

Phenix Elementary of West Des Moines has been named the Healthy Iowa K-12 School winner for 2011 by the Wellness Council of Iowa. Phenix staffers began their commitment to wellness when they joined a Live Healthy Iowa Team together.

Their excitement about eating right and being active is rubbing off on the students. Each week, students and staff members meet in the gym for a Wellness Wednesday active assembly. They participate in a fun physical activity together and remind each other to focus on mind, body and kindness. Phenix is now in its third year of participating in the BASICS nutrition education program. Phenix teachers lead the nutrition education lessons and incorporate healthy eating and activity messages into their daily lesson plans. Check out the school's fun video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF1EoWF9neo>.

Congratulations, Phenix!



Phenix staffers celebrate health.



One-on-One Technical Assistance — Healthy Kids Act



Does your school need a little extra assistance with Healthy Kids Act compliance? Contact Jodi Bullock, the new Healthy Kids Act Co-Project Director, at Jodi.bullock@iowa.gov or 515-725-2225, to schedule an informal school visit. Jodi is available to review foods and beverages sold to students during the school day in a la carte, vending and regulated fundraising. She will assist schools with alternate healthy food/beverage products that meet the nutrition content standards of the Healthy Kids Act.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Preschool Data Reporting in EASIER

Districts must identify a program standard for every child with a unique student identification number when reporting preschool children in EASIER. This requirement includes children in special education, Shared Visions, Statewide Voluntary Preschool or any other district-operated preschool where children have state identification numbers. Approved program standards include Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Updating GOLD Online

Districts and community partners using the GOLD Online system (under the Iowa license) are reminded the winter checkpoint date is Feb. 1. Districts should ensure that documentation is entered and teachers have finalized checkpoint levels for each child. In addition, the state unique student identification number should be entered for each child in special education, Shared Visions, Statewide Voluntary Preschool or any other district-operated preschool program. This state unique student identification number should be entered in the text box Student ID. All funding sources for children in special education, Shared Visions, Statewide Voluntary Preschool or any other district-operated preschool program should be entered under Funding Sources.

For more information, contact Judy Russell at Judy.Russell@iowa.gov or 515-281-4705 or Penny Milburn at Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844.

Teacher licensing, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program

One of the requirements in IAC 281-16 for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program is an assurance that district and community partner preschool teachers hold a valid practitioner's license issued by the Board of Educational Examiners under Iowa Code chapter 272 and an endorsement that includes prekindergarten.

It is the district's responsibility to ensure that all teachers are appropriately licensed and endorsed. Appropriate teaching endorsements are:

- Teacher Endorsement #100: Prekindergarten through grade three (PK-3), including special education;
- Teacher Endorsement #103 : Prekindergarten through kindergarten (PK-K); and
- Teacher Endorsement #106 : Prekindergarten through grade 3.

A teacher who has an Early Childhood Teacher–Special Education 15.2

(19) endorsement (also known as #223) is not appropriately licensed to teach in the statewide preschool program because the endorsement does not include preschool general education.

A Class B conditional license is also considered to be an appropriate license, if it is specifically for PK-3, including special education or PK-K. Teachers who do not hold one of these endorsements need to apply for a conditional license prior to being hired for the preschool program.

For more information regarding the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, go to <http://bit.ly/wUSqZV> or contact Judy Russell at Judy.Russell@iowa.gov or 515-281-4705 or Penny Milburn at Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844.





Legislative Update

Contact Mike Cormack for all legislative items: mike.cormack@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399.

Cormack at the Capitol

As a teacher and former legislator, one of the easiest ways I used to explain how a bill becomes a law was from “Schoolhouse Rock,” the short, animated musical films they used to show during Saturday morning cartoons. Anyone from any age can watch a few minutes of “I’m Just a Bill,” and have a pretty good idea how a bill can become a law or why most bills do not. If you watched that as a parent or child, I can imagine that song being stuck in your head for the remainder of the day after reading this. For that, I apologize. “I’m just a bill, and I’m only a bill, and I’m sitting here on Capitol Hill....”

Bills and resolutions may be presented in a variety of ways. The Office of the Governor may request to submit bills to the Legislature. In addition, state agencies are allowed to present bills to the Iowa General Assembly. Individual legislators, groups of legislators or even committees also may request that a bill be drafted. The Legislative Services Agency (LSA) is presented with an idea or ideas and then writes them into the formal Iowa Code language format. Some bills may be drafted and not introduced. Most are introduced, and then they are assigned (or not assigned at all) by the majority party leadership to the appropriate committee.

In the case of the educational reform package put forward by Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds, input was given by the Iowa Department of Education with final approval and changes being made by the Governor’s office. It is a Governor’s bill, presented to both legislative chambers for potential action. Those of us who worked on the educational reform proposals are thankful to Kathy Hanlon, Jack Ewing and Rich Johnson of the LSA. They put countless hours into drafting the document, and they will continue to work on the document as changes to the bill take place throughout the legislative process.

In both chambers, the proposal was assigned to the standing education committees that work on policy issues. In the Republican-controlled House, it was assigned as House Study Bill 517 (HSB 517). House Education Chair Greg Forristall assigned the bill to a seven-member subcommittee. In addition to Forristall, members of the subcommittee are Chairman Royd Chambers, and Representatives Cecil Dolecheck, Jeremy Taylor, Sharon Steckman, Nate Willems and Cindy Winckler. They have started to work on the legislation. Forristall has recommended that the subcommittee complete its work by Feb. 7, and that the overall House Education Committee vote on the bill on Feb. 14. It may need to then appear before the House Appropriations Committee and then, at that point, it would be voted on by the entire House of Representatives. In the case of the Iowa Senate, which is controlled by Democrats, a three-member subcommittee has been assigned by Senate Education Chairman Herman Quirmbach. He heads the subcommittee studying Senate Study Bill 3009 (SSB 3009), along with Senate Education Vice Chair Brian Schoenjahn and Ranking Member Shawn Hamerlinck. At this time, they have taken no action on the bill. You can monitor the current status of either bill on the legislative website, and if either passes through committee, the website will reflect the new name, House file or Senate file and number that will replace the current designation of the bills.

The Department’s position is that the education reform package is a step forward on behalf of our children in this state. Parents, teachers, taxpayers, and school districts would benefit if this legislative package passed. Since our state is asking for a waiver from federal No Child Left Behind requirements, we strongly believe these changes would help in that effort.

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Legislative Update continued

CORMACK COLUMN

... Continued from page 10

We urge you to study this 156-page document and form your own thoughts on this proposal. We know there are elements some will like and dislike, depending on their perspective. We hope that you find the overall package is better than the status quo. We also hope that the opportunity to avoid NCLB requirements will be well-received in this state.

The bill in the “Schoolhouse Rocks” episode became law. It is my hope that meaningful legislation that helps Iowa students also becomes law with bipartisan support and a signature from Gov. Branstad. “Oh I hope and pray that I will, but today, I am still just a bill....”

GLASS COLUMN

... Continued from page 1

- Value-added measures are a method of analyzing test data that accounts for student background and demographics in deciding whether students make expected growth from year to year. The method fits with our goal to emphasize and reward student growth.
- A state-paid college entrance exam for all 11th graders, given in place of the current 11th grade assessment, will give students one of the keys they need for college admission and will provide another system check against the nine other states that give the ACT to all students.
- We’re asking for stronger evaluations through annual reviews for all teachers and administrators rather than every three years for non-probationary educators. We’re also working to align educator standards and evaluation from pre-service training through in-service careers.



While the Branstad-Reynolds administration’s education package and the No Child Left Behind waiver are different proposals, Iowa must improve in the areas of assessment, adding growth metrics, and in educator evaluations if we want our waiver proposal to be successful.

Because input is a critical part of this waiver process, Department officials will walk Iowans through the waiver process and components of Iowa’s waiver request during a statewide series of public meetings from Jan. 31 through Feb. 9. A meeting schedule has been posted at the following address: <http://bit.ly/Abeuxm> Also, a video presentation and a short survey have been posted here: <http://bit.ly/x44NLw>

As always, thank you for your courage and commitment to students and to Iowa.



Legal Lessons

Contact Carol Greta for all Legal Lessons items: carol.greta@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661.

A driving issue

Driver Education Classes

As more districts outsource driver education, common questions have emerged. Below are those questions and responses.

Q: Does a district have to offer driver education?

A: Yes. Iowa Code section 321.178 requires “every public school district in Iowa [to] offer or make available to all students residing in the school district or Iowa students attending a nonpublic school in the district an approved course in driver education. The receiving district shall be the school district responsible for making driver education available to a student participating in open enrollment under section 282.18.”

A district may choose to meet this obligation directly (by hiring properly licensed driver education instructors, purchasing the curriculum, scheduling classes) or by outsourcing this to a private provider of driver education.

Q: Which students get to take driver education from a district or the district’s provider?

- A: (1) All students who reside in the district except for students who open enroll out.
(2) Students who are open enrolled into the district.
(3) Students who attend a nonpublic school that exists within the boundaries of the district.
(4) CPI (home-schooled) students who reside in the district.

Q: Do all of the students listed above get the free/reduced-price waiver? Who honors the waiver?

A: All students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch get to take advantage of the waiver. This includes students who receive CPI and students who attend accredited nonpublic schools.

Q: Who honors the waiver when a district outsources driver education?

A: The district must ensure that the waiver is honored for all eligible students. If the district has outsourced driver education, the district may either handle the waiver documentation directly or now (thanks to revised regulations to FERPA) may have the private provider agree to handle the waiver directly. If the district chooses the latter, the agreement between the private provider and district must state clearly to the provider that it is prohibited from using the waiver information for any purpose other than for the driver education fee, and must destroy the waiver information as soon as that information is no longer needed by the provider.

If a student chooses not to take driver education from the district or the district’s private provider, the student is not entitled to have any other provider honor the waiver.

Q: Does the grade from driver education go on a student’s transcript? Is it figured into a student’s GPA?

A: These are locally determined matters.

Legal Lessons continued

Applications for Student Member of State Board of Education

LAST CHANCE for one of your students to apply to be considered for appointment to the State Board of Education! The deadline for submitting an application with all required documents is Feb. 6.

Besides being a full-time, regularly enrolled 10th or 11th grade student in a public high school, the student must meet these requirements:

- Has a GPA of at least 3.0 (4.0 scale) or 3.75 (5.0 scale);
- Has attended his/her present high school at least the past two consecutive semesters (or the equivalent thereof);
- Demonstrates participation in extracurricular and community activities, as well as an interest in serving on the board.

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

FAFSA project can help your district

Iowa districts are invited to participate in a U.S. Department of Education project that aims to help schools pinpoint which of their students have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the upcoming school year. Research shows 90 percent of students who complete a FAFSA will enroll in postsecondary education.

The FAFSA Completion Project can help districts and schools reach out to high school seniors (and their families) who have not yet submitted a FAFSA or have turned in an incomplete application. FAFSA can be a critical component of access to postsecondary education.

The project started in 2010 as a pilot with 20 participants. Interest from school officials across the country prompted the U.S. Department of Education to expand. The expansion will include another 80 districts with more than one high school, as well as 12 districts with one high school.

Districts with two or more high schools are invited to apply no later than March 2. Districts with one high school will soon be invited to take part in the project — stay tuned. All districts will be picked through a standard randomized process.

For more details about the project, district eligibility criteria and directions to apply, go to: www.FSA4counselors.ed.gov and click on the “FAFSA Completion Project” link.



UNI seeks educators for conference

Educators, school administrators and others who are committed to improving the lives of children are invited to the first Conference on African-American Children and Families hosted by the University of Northern Iowa's College of Education on Friday, Feb. 24.

The conference will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Schindler Education Center on the UNI campus in Cedar Falls.

For information about registration, hotel accommodations and more, go to: www.vpaf.uni.edu/aac.

Calendar

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|---------|--|
| Feb. 1 | • Dropout Prevention Program: Last day to resubmit an unapproved application |
| Feb. 1 | • Whole-Grade Sharing Agreement: Last day for board to sign |
| Feb. 10 | • AEA Proposed Budgets due |
| Feb. 17 | • Whole-Grade Sharing count date for second semester tuition |
| | • CTE Courses In A Program opens |

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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