



A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

# School Leader Update

June 2014

## Districts dive into competency-based education

Some say they learn best by reading. Others say they learn best by doing.

For students who prefer the latter, the Cedar Rapids and College Community districts have joined forces to offer a non-traditional setting where the classroom has no walls, the coursework has no textbooks, and the grade level is not a consideration. Be assured this is no cakewalk: The students master skills and content consistent with their classroom counterparts. But they do so through projects that go beyond the school yard and solidly into the community.

The districts call the school Iowa BIG – big for its concepts, even bigger for its impact.

Read more on this [competency-based education](#) program.



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## A good legislative year for education

The final gavel of 2014 has dropped at the State Capitol, marking another pivotal session for education in Iowa.

Education may not have made as many headlines during the 2014 session as it did in 2012, when legislators took action to improve literacy – or in 2013, when they created the most comprehensive teacher leadership and compensation system in the nation.

While those earlier years were about committing to plans to improve our education system, 2014 is a critical year to build on those plans. And thanks to our legislators, we're able to do that.

Many bills still await the Governor's signature. Once that process is complete, the Iowa Department of Education will provide a summary of statute changes that impact education policy in Iowa. In the meantime, here's a brief recap of some legislative action that our Department watched closely this year.

First, I'm very excited that legislators agreed to invest in support for teachers and school administrators who are working hard to put their Teacher Leadership and Compensation plans into practice in the upcoming school year.

The area education agencies are on track to receive \$1 million to provide support and training for teachers. Another \$1 million has been set aside for coaching and support of school principals, because we know that school administrators are instrumental to the success of the teacher leadership system as well.



**Director Brad Buck**

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## New laws focus on inappropriate relationships

Two bills were passed by the Iowa Legislature regarding licensure and criminal penalties for individuals licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) who engage in inappropriate romantic or sexual relationships with students. The first directed the BoEE to amend the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics to state that it is an ethical violation for any licensee to engage in a romantic or sexual relationship with any person who was a student within 90 days prior to any conduct alleged in the complaint if the licensee previously taught or supervised the student in an activity. The full text is available [here](#).

The second addresses a recent Iowa Supreme Court decision that found that individuals who hold a coaching authorization from the BoEE were not subject to prosecution under the criminal statute regarding sexual exploitation by a school employee. This bill adds individuals with a coaching authorization to the ranks of those who may be prosecuted for this crime, and can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

## Industrial technology: Staying safe

The Iowa Department of Education is supporting a safety initiative for secondary and post-secondary industrial technology program teachers to provide them with skills and strategies to support better comprehensive training and management of program/student safety.

A safety committee of industry experts is recommending this professional development in response to the volume of documented evidence of serious safety violations from visits to a number of Iowa's secondary schools, and existing youth worker industry injury statistics.

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration states: "Young workers, ages 14-24, are at risk of workplace injury because of their inexperience at work and their physical, cognitive, and emotional developmental characteristics." The frequency of injuries for this age group is almost twice that of other workers in industry. Courses are online, and must be completed by Aug. 30. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/l5dkbdf>.



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In the first year, the administrator development efforts will be focused on the 39 school districts that were approved to participate in year one of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system. Our hope is that this funding will follow the same timeline as the phase-in of the teacher leadership system.

Second, I'm thrilled that legislators carved out \$2 million to support an early warning system that helps schools identify and intervene with struggling readers, as well as those students who are on track to reach proficiency in reading. This funding will help us make the early warning assessments and data system available to all public and accredited nonpublic schools that request it. Legislators also set aside another \$8 million for school districts to improve their early literacy programs as required under a 2012 law.

The most important thing we can do for students is to help them read, but we have work to do in Iowa. Nearly one in four of our third-graders is not proficient in reading. The early warning system is important because early intervention is key to ensuring every child can read.

A third development out of the 2014 session aims to help our English Language Learners, or ELL, in Iowa. Legislators created a program that provides grants for school districts to work with the Department of Education in identifying best practices in ELL literacy.

There's a lot more to say about this year's legislative session, so watch for our annual legislative letter to the field, which is coming soon. I'm grateful for the time and attention that legislators and educators have devoted to improving our education system in Iowa. Have a great summer, and thanks for all you do for Iowa's students and schools.

## Data and Reporting

### EdInfo, the Iowa Education Portal, A&A Accounts, and you

The EdInfo application will no longer be used beginning June 2. All applications formerly located on EdInfo are now available in the Iowa Education Portal. In order to access secure applications through the Iowa Department of Education, you will need to go to the Iowa education [portal homepage](#). Unlike the EdInfo site where someone else created an account, you must create your own account called an A&A Account. No one can or should start this process for you. Not only are you creating an account ID, but you are also creating the password and establishing security questions during the account creation process. Failure to finish the entire process within 48 hours renders the newly created account ID unusable. To create an account, go to [portal homepage](#), hover over A&A Account, and select Create Account. Online training is available to assist you with the account creation process on the [portal homepage](#). Once your A&A account has been established, make sure you complete the following tasks:

- Select one of these web browsers for use in the portal: Internet Explorer, FireFox, or Chrome.
- Request applications that exist on your EdInfo account. You can view online training #3 for directions to request applications: <https://www.softchalkcloud.com/lesson/serve/f0m5xd82CyQUKt/html>
- Applications will no longer be added to newly created accounts without a request being submitted. You may have thought an automated process exists that loads applications to new accounts, but this is not the case. You must request applications.
- Delete your old EdInfo and EdInsight bookmarks from your browser. The portal is now the one-stop shop for access to all secure applications through the Iowa Department of Education.
- Do not give your A&A account ID and password to anyone. Each person must have his or her own account to access EdInfo applications, EdInsight, Iowa Transcript Center, or TIER. Accounts that are accessed by more than one person will be suspended.
- You need only one account ID. One A&A account can be used for many other purposes, such as I Have a Plan IOWA, Iowa School Alerts, and hunting and fishing licenses. You can change an email on your account when logging into A&A. Enter your account ID and password, then click Account Details. Update your email address (preference is to use your school email address), and save.

#### End-of-year reporting deadlines

June 13	Spring BEDS	
June 18	Spring Student Reporting in Iowa	SRI must be certified before AYP can be certified
June	AYP	Decisions will be available on
June 30	Iowa Transcript Center	Public school students in grades 9 - 12
August 1	Foster Care Claim	School Business Managers and Superintendents will be notified when the application is available for certification
Early August	Non-fall Supplementary Weighting	School Business Managers, Superintendents, and SRI contacts will be notified when the application is available for certification

If you will be employed by a different district or nonpublic school next year, do not create a new account. Go under My Profile in the portal and edit your administrative organization. For assistance in creating an account, email [ITE.Servicedesk@iowa.gov](mailto:ITE.Servicedesk@iowa.gov) or call 515-281-5703 or 1-800-532-1174. For questions or assistance once in the portal, contact [ed.portal@iowa.gov](mailto:ed.portal@iowa.gov). Watch for more information on portal security rollout to districts and nonpublic schools in August.



# Early Childhood Preschool Programs

## Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards desk audits

A complete list of districts receiving an Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) desk audit in 2014-2015 is now posted. Districts receiving a desk audit will also find the desk audit form posted at this [site](#). Additional instructions regarding the desk audit are located on the Desk Audit Checklist. Districts are encouraged to submit information electronically. All desk audit documentation must be received by the Iowa Department of Education by Dec. 19.

In order to assist districts in preparing for the visit, the Department has posted the IQPPS Verification Visit Checklists on the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program](#) page. Districts will find the materials under the section titled [IQPPS Verification](#), [Desk Audits](#).



For more information, go to [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program](#), or contact Penny Milburn at [penny.milburn@iowa.gov](mailto:penny.milburn@iowa.gov) or 515-281-7844, Jennifer Adkins at [jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2219 or Amy Stegeman at [amy.stegeman@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.stegeman@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2273.

## Mark your calendar for early care and education fall institute

The Iowa Department of Education will be co-sponsoring the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children Early Care and Education Fall Institute: *Reflect, Refine, Renew*. It will be held Sept. 19-20 at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona.

The institute is open to all professionals who work with infants and children, from birth to 8 years old, including staff and consultants from Early ACCESS, Area Education Agencies, Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs, Early Childhood Special Education programs, and Shared Visions programs. School administrators, elementary teachers, and other early care educators and providers should also consider attending.

The institute offers an opportunity for professionals from across the state to become familiar with new early childhood research and initiatives, take advantage of the resources of supporting agencies, and learn from national experts and each other. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.iowaaeec.org/> or contact the Department's Betsy Lin at [betsy.lin@iowa.gov](mailto:betsy.lin@iowa.gov).



# Early Childhood Preschool Programs continued

## GOLD Assessment checkpoint deadlines

Due dates for completion of checkpoints in GOLD Online for programs and preschools in Iowa have been established for the 2014-15 school year.

The three required checkpoints are: Nov. 13; Feb. 25 and May 29, 2015. An optional summer checkpoint due date of Aug. 8, 2015, has also been established. Programs enter child data for each of the objectives in each of the developmental areas.

For more information, go to [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program](#), or contact Penny Milburn at [penny.milburn@iowa.gov](mailto:penny.milburn@iowa.gov) or 515-281-7844, Jennifer Adkins at [jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2219, or Amy Stegeman at [amy.stegeman@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.stegeman@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2273.



## 2014-15 Verification Visits for IQPPS

The Iowa Department of Education is scheduling the 2014-15 Verification Visits for the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS). A Department staff member will contact each district scheduled to receive a visit in order to collect necessary information and finalize the visit dates. In order to assist districts in preparing for the visit, the Department has posted the IQPPS Verification Visit Checklists on the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program](#) page. Districts will find the materials under the section titled [IQPPS Verification](#).

In addition, an IQPPS Verification Visit will occur in school districts that selected IQPPS as the preschool program standard being implemented in sessions providing early childhood special education instructional services for preschool children on an Individualized Education Program (IEP). These data are reported in the Early Childhood Services Data Report and/or [District Developed Service Delivery Plan for Special Education](#). The IQPPS Verification Visit will be a part of the Department of Education on-site School Improvement Visit beginning with the school districts that are on the cycle in 2014-15. These visits will take place for any school district not currently participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. However, those districts with an approved application for beginning participation in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program in 2014-15 will not receive an IQPPS Verification Visit until 2015-16.



The IQPPS Verification Team will conduct a family interview, classroom observations, facility tour of preschool environments and a review of documentation about the program, classrooms, staff and children.

For more information, go to the [preschool webpage](#), or contact Penny Milburn at [penny.milburn@iowa.gov](mailto:penny.milburn@iowa.gov) or 515-281-7844, Jennifer Adkins at [jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2219 or Amy Stegeman at [amy.stegeman@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.stegeman@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2273.

## Nutrition and Health Services

### Smart Snacks in School webinar

A Smart Snacks in School webinar was held for school staff and wellness committees in May to learn more about the competi-



tive foods – foods and beverages sold outside of a reimbursable meal – through "Smart Snacks" USDA regulations that go into effect July 1. The webinar addressed the changes from Healthy Kids Act to Smart Snacks and provided an overview of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation calculator. A link to the recording can be found at:

<https://educateiowa.eduvision.tv/Default.aspx?q=trkxL8LvXklmYzmEayBQ1g%253d%253d>.

For more information, contact the Department's Patti Delger at [patti.delger@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.delger@iowa.gov)

### Getting high school students to try school breakfast

Iowa ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation for school breakfast participation as compared to school lunch. To get an understanding of this, the Iowa Department of Education's Team Nutrition Program, the University of Iowa, and three high schools (Waukee, Jefferson in Cedar Rapids, and Pleasant Valley) worked to identify barriers to teens participating in school breakfast, to explore the benefits of school breakfast, and to determine what changes need to be made to increase participation.

A total of 48 barriers were identified, such as time and issues related to the food served. The most common barrier was that students were not aware that breakfast was served at school. Students brainstormed changes that could be made, including rewards programs, making the cafeteria more fun and changing how and when breakfast was served.

A Twitter handbook will be developed to assist food-service directors in increasing school breakfast participation that will include student-developed tweets. The handbook will be available this summer to all schools through Iowa Team Nutrition. For more information, contact the Department's Patti Delger at [patti.delger@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.delger@iowa.gov).





## Nutrition and Health Services continued

### Training for food-service managers/business managers

The Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services and Iowa State University Extension partner each year to provide continuing education to those involved in child nutrition programs in Iowa school districts. There is still time to register for the financial workshop on July 8-9 and the new managers' orientation on July 29-31.

The Financial Management Seminar will again be available for food-service managers/directors, school business officials, and others involved in financial decisions pertaining to the federal child nutrition program. Participants will determine how to manage costs of operating a food-service program and receive materials developed by the National Food Service Management Institute including a manual with case studies and step-by-step helpful formulas. The Healthy School Meals Workshop, scheduled for July 29 and 30, has been combined with the New Manager's Orientation on July 31. New managers should plan to attend all three days.

This workshop is interactive, with participants engaging in planning, serving, and documentation of healthy school meals following guidance materials developed by USDA and other approved resources available to schools. New meal regulations will be incorporated into participant activities in all three days. The Healthy Meals Workshop Option for July 29-30 is available to those who have previously attended new managers training in the past. The courses will be held in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center in Ames. Contact Sandra Fiegen at [sandra.fegen@iowa.gov](mailto:sandra.fegen@iowa.gov) or 319-377-1898 or 515-681-5750. More information and registration can be found [here](#).



## Nutrition and Health Services continued

### Community Eligibility Provision: Are you ready?

Has your district decided to implement a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in one or more of your buildings for 2014-15? If yes, you will need to log into the IowaCNP by June 30, and complete the CEP section of the application. The IowaCNP web-based system replaces the CNP2000 web-based system and it will be available the first week in June.

CEP allows schools that predominantly serve low-income children to offer free, nutritious school meals to all students through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. If your district is still deciding on CEP, there are additional guidance documents on how to handle the data gaps created without the Meal Eligibility applications and tools, including a Decision Tree and a calculator to determine potential reimbursement that will assist the district in determining if CEP is a good fit.

The resources are available at [here](#). For food service-related questions, contact Patti Harding at [patti.harding@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.harding@iowa.gov). For other program questions, contact Jeff Berger at [jeff.berger@iowa.gov](mailto:jeff.berger@iowa.gov).



### Time to complete FY15 Paid Lunch Equity Tool

Now is the time to complete the FY15 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool if your district or school hasn't already completed it. School Program regulations require school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food-service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The FY15 Paid Lunch Equity Tool and USDA guidance are posted on the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services' [web page](#).



As a reminder, public SFAs are not allowed to transfer funds from the general fund to the School Nutrition Fund to support maintaining a lower paid student meal cost nor is it allowable to use state reimbursement received for meals served as a non-federal source of funds. Save the completed PLE Tool and attach it to the FY15 application on the new IowaCNP later in June/July. Questions may be directed to your area consultant or the Department's Patti Harding at [patti.harding@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.harding@iowa.gov).





## Legal Lessons

Contact Nicole Proesch for all Legal Lessons items: [nicole.proesch@iowa.gov](mailto:nicole.proesch@iowa.gov) or 515-281-8661

### Visas, violence and ... strawberries

Finally, after a long, long winter and a cold spring, summer has arrived. We will not be taking any long vacations this year in my house but we hope to make good use of the weekends together as a family. I hope Mother Nature cooperates and we have perfect weather for some of our favorite outings. Last year we went to the strawberry patch and I tried my hand at making homemade strawberry jam. During our little outing, Sophia had a blast picking fresh strawberries with her two friends while my son, Liam, was hiding in a strawberry box eating all of the strawberries as I was picking them. Somehow I managed to save enough to make jam. It actually turned out pretty good and it lasted us through the entire year. It was worth the effort of picking and (of course) eating strawberries. We will definitely be strawberry picking again this year.

I will make this month's Legal Lessons a little shorter and sweeter so that you can relax for June before we have to start gearing up for a new year. In this edition, I bring you information on student visas, an amendment to Iowa's sexual exploitation statute in response to the Iowa Supreme Court's Nicolletto Decision, and U.S. Department of Education guidance on responsibilities of schools to address sexual violence and other forms of sex discrimination.

#### Student visas

The most important thing to know about students with visas is that the governing law is not education law. This area is regulated by the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS). If there is an issue, you are strongly encouraged to contact DHS. That being said, here is a short explanation of the different visa categories and what that means for enrollment of the student.

**Students with J-1 Visas.** These are foreign exchange students who are sponsored by an organization such as the Rotary Club. Since foreign exchange students are not residents of the district, they can attend school in any district without regard to where the host family lives and they do not fill out open enrollment papers. Districts do not receive any state funding for enrolling these students and districts do not charge tuition to these students. Under state law, these students are immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics. Although districts are not required to enroll a student with a J-1 visa, the Department strongly encourages that districts consider doing so.

**Students with F-1 Visas.** Students with F1 visas are not considered foreign "exchange" students. For F1 students, the school becomes the sponsor. This means that the school must be registered with the federal SEVIS, which stands for Student Exchange Visitor Information System. There is a cost to register. Federal law also requires that the school fill out a new I20 form so that DHS will know that a new school is willing to take on the student and be his or her sponsor. Federal law requires the school to charge tuition to F1 students. One little state law quirk is that while J1 students are immediately eligible for sports, F1 students are considered transfer students, so if the student plays athletics the student must sit out 90 days.

**Students with B-2 or Similar Dependent Visas (those that end in the number 2).** These students live with a parent; therefore, the Department allows districts to consider them as residents of the district, enrolling them tuition free. Note: This only applies if the student has not already graduated from high school.

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## Legal Lessons continued

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**Immigrant Students (non-visa holders).** The first three categories deal with non-immigrant students, or students who do not intend to make the United States their permanent home. It is perfectly legal to ask for the visa status of a non-immigrant student. On the other hand, immigrant students are those who reside in the United States with the intention that the residency be permanent. Districts are to consider only whether such students and their families reside in the district. If yes, districts are absolutely forbidden to ask about whether the student and family are in the country legally. Pursuant to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Plyler v. Doe*, districts provide a tuition-free education and all educational programming and services that are provided to other resident students. For more information on the Student Exchange and Visitor Program, click here: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/>.

### **Iowa Legislature passes an amendment to Iowa Code § 709.15 – Sexual Exploitation**

The Iowa Legislature unanimously passed House File 2474 in April. This is an act that expands the definition of who is a "school employee" under the state's sexual exploitation statute to include "a person issued a coaching authorization under section 272.21, subsection 1." This bill, which was signed by the governor, was presented in the wake of the Iowa Supreme Court's Decision in *State of Iowa v. Patrick Ryan Nicoletto*. The Court in Nicoletto held that a 30-year-old assistant high school girls' basketball coach who had a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old player could not be convicted of sexual exploitation because he did not fit the statutory definition of "school employee." HF2474 is meant to fill the hole that was created by the Iowa Supreme Court's ruling. Now, anyone with a coaching authorization would fit the definition of "school employee" under the statute. The full text of House File 2474 may be found [here](#). The Nicoletto decision may be found [here](#).

### **USDE Office of Civil Rights releases guidance on responsibilities of schools to address violence, discrimination**

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in April issued further guidance describing the responsibilities of colleges, universities, and schools to address sexual violence and other forms of sex discrimination. The guidance provides clarification for schools and students regarding Title IX requirements in these cases. Schools are encouraged to be proactive in their efforts to prevent sexual violence, remedy prohibited conduct, prevent reoccurrence, and to address the impact of sexual violence. Officials for OCR were clear in their statements that they are ready to enforce this guidance and to ensure the safety of all students in schools.

The press release is [here](#).

The Question-and-Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence is [here](#).

The 2011 guidance from OCR on sexual violence and Title IX is [here](#).

A student "Know Your Rights" document is [here](#).

Districts should take the time to review the guidance to make sure they are in compliance with federal civil rights laws when dealing with issues of sexual violence and other forms of sex discrimination. For questions, regarding equity issues, contact the Department's Margaret Jensen Connet at 515-281-3769 or [margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov](mailto:margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov).

### **Students with disabilities**

For questions regarding students with disabilities, contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or [thomas.mayes@iowa.gov](mailto:thomas.mayes@iowa.gov).

## Radon symposium for schools June 27

The symposium, which is free to participants, will have a host of experts in:

- Recent legislation;
- Risk of radon;
- Best practices: the Illinois School Radon Project;
- Testing, mitigation and other considerations; and
- Availability of statewide resources.

The training will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 6075 Mills Civic Parkway. To register, contact the Iowa Department of Education's Gary Schwartz at [gary.schwartz@iowa.gov](mailto:gary.schwartz@iowa.gov).

## Calendar

June 16 • Nonpublic transportation reimbursement claim due

June 30 • Last day to pay PSEO tuition due to eligible postsecondary institutions

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