



A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

# School Leader Update

March 2012

## Iowa applies for NCLB waiver

The Iowa Department of Education officially applied for a waiver from the rigid accountability measures of the No Child Left Behind law on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

This enables the state to set its own rigorous standards that make sense for Iowa and emphasize student growth and progress in addition to proficiency on tests.

"Today marks an opportunity for Iowa's schools – an opportunity for this era of blame and shame to come to an end," Director Jason Glass told reporters Feb. 28. "This new accountability system will be central to our work to transform Iowa's good schools into world-class schools."

The state expects to receive feedback from the U.S. Department of Education and to make any necessary revisions in the spring. More information on Iowa's waiver is available [here](#).



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## March: A pivotal month

We roll into March at an exciting turning point in our efforts to move education forward in Iowa.

First, education leaders in both the Iowa House and Senate have moved ahead some education reform legislation. I'm deeply grateful for the time and attention that legislators have devoted to the issue of dramatically improving Iowa schools, which is one of the Governor's top priorities and the reason I came to Iowa more than a year ago. I look forward to working with our legislators in the remaining weeks of the 2012 session around the areas of educator quality, aligning and improving our state standards and assessments, putting in place a high-quality early reading program, and innovation.



Jason Glass, Director

It's also important to understand that just getting something passed in the Legislature isn't enough. One reason, among many, is that the Iowa Department of Education has just requested a waiver from the No Child Left Behind law. This waiver, offered to states by President Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, is an opportunity to design a bold, Iowa-built accountability system that recognizes students come to school with different starting points and emphasizes progress. It's a much better alternative to the current system, which blames and shames schools that fall short of student proficiency targets. But we must bring state education policies in line with the waiver proposal.

In this effort, I commend the School Administrators of Iowa, the Iowa Association of School Boards, and the Urban Education Network of Iowa for their leadership and commitment.

We have worked together to find significant areas of common ground and now stand united

*(continued on page 2....)*

## Young leaders wanted for state advisory council

Young Iowans who are interested in policy issues can make a difference through the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC), which is taking membership applications. SIYAC is a non-partisan policy advising organization made up of 24 Iowa youths between ages 14 and 20. Members have demonstrated leadership qualities and are interested in the legislative process. In 2009, SIYAC became a statutory network within the Iowa Department of Human Rights section of the Iowa Code under the umbrella of the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development. The council meets quarterly and holds monthly conference calls. Applications submitted by May 1 will receive priority consideration, and new council members will be selected in June. Council members serve two-year terms. Participation is free for members. Application forms and details can be found at [www.icyd.iowa.gov/SIYAC/](http://www.icyd.iowa.gov/SIYAC/). For more information, contact Renée Mallo at [SIYAC@iowa.gov](mailto:SIYAC@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2836.

## Applying accountability strategies to counseling

Save the date for Making DATA Work: Applying Accountability Strategies to your K-12 School Counseling Program.

The workshop is open to school counselors, administrators, and curriculum directors.

The intended outcomes include the following:

- 1) Connect the Making Data Work (MDW) model to the accountability component of the Iowa School counseling framework.
- 2) Apply MDW process to increase college, career and citizenship readiness for all students.
- 3) Develop an action plan using MDW to use immediately in your school.
- 4) Learn the power of using data-driven decision making in addressing issues of equity and access to opportunities in your district.

**Date:** March 30

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

**Place:** Ramada Tropics resort  
and Conference Center,  
Urbandale

Presenters for this workshop are Drs. Anita Young and Carol Kaffenberger, co-authors of *Making Data Work*.

To register for this free workshop, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XCV6FZ8>.

**Glass continued from page 1.....**

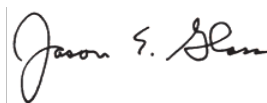
on the vision for this waiver. Together, we are challenging the Legislature to deliver on the statutory changes needed for a successful waiver request. We will need to redesign our assessment systems, to bring a sophisticated growth model to Iowa, and to improve our systems for educator evaluation.

Neither the status-quo policy framework, nor an overly watered-down version of education reform, will meet what has been written into Iowa's NCLB waiver. Little or no movement at the Legislature this session will result in withdrawal of this waiver application.

I'm very optimistic about Iowa's waiver prospects and look forward to building an accountability system that works for Iowa. We expect to receive feedback from the U.S. Department of Education and to turn in revisions later in the spring.

You will find the Department's waiver application on our website at [www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov).

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



# Bullying, harassment investigation workshops planned

The Iowa Department of Education is sponsoring four workshops across the state aimed at teaching how to properly investigate bullying and harassment within the school. The workshops are a part of the Department's Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools initiative. The training is about how to effectively receive and investigate reports



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

and complaints of behaviors that may constitute bullying and harassment. It is an essential part of a school-wide comprehensive effort to address bullying and harassment and complements bullying prevention programs. This training is not a stand-alone prevention program. You will need to register at the AEA of your convenience. The dates and locations are:

## **Johnston: March 15**

[https://prodev.aeapdonline.org/4DCGI/CN006092111201INV&\\*](https://prodev.aeapdonline.org/4DCGI/CN006092111201INV&*)

If you have trouble registering, please contact Brandie Gean at [bgean@aea11.k12.ia.us](mailto:bgean@aea11.k12.ia.us) or 515-270-0405 x14459.

## **Storm Lake: March 16**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG8wN3M1TTZmTFB5RWgyVmotTINKc0E6MQ>

If you have trouble registering, please call Tonia Hoch at 866-540-3858, x2002, or [thoch@aea8.k12.ia.us](mailto:thoch@aea8.k12.ia.us).

## **Cedar Falls: March 19**

[www.aea267.k12.ia.us](http://www.aea267.k12.ia.us)

If you have trouble registering, please call 800-542-8375, ext. 7662.

## **Iowa City: March 20**

<https://www.gwaea.org/apps/ProfDev/user/signon.cfm>

If you have trouble registering, please call 319-399-6767.

# Educators named to leadership, compensation taskforce

Twenty Iowans have been named to the Taskforce on Teacher Leadership and Compensation. The taskforce will help the state move forward strategically in the areas of teacher leadership roles and compensation issues. Members of the Taskforce on Teacher Leadership and Compensation are:

**Teresa Bellinghausen**, Teaching and Learning Consultant, Heartland Area Education Agency

**Connie Boesen**, a member of the Des Moines School Board

**Molly Boyle**, Third-grade Teacher/2011 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Brookview Elementary School, Waukee Community School District

**Mary Jane Cobb**, Executive Director, Iowa State Education Association

**Tom Downs**, Executive Director, Iowa Association of School Boards

**Paul Gausman**, Superintendent, Sioux City Public Schools; Chairman, Urban Education Network of Iowa

**Jessica Gogerty**, School Improvement Leader, North High School, Des Moines Public Schools

**Jodie Graham**, Principal, Humboldt Middle School, Humboldt Community School District

**Justin Gross**, Principal, Nevada High School, Nevada Community School District

**Julie Heller**, Crisis Interventionist for Behavioral Disorders Program, Central High School, Davenport Community Schools

**Kent Henning**, President, Grand View University

**Angie Jandrey**, Kindergarten Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, Mount Pleasant Community School District

**Ann Lebo**, English Instructor, Grundy Center High School and Hawkeye Community College

**Duane Magee**, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Waukee Community School District

**Kent Mick**, History Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator, Corwith-Wesley-LuVerne Community School District

**Diane Pratt**, Talented and Gifted Specialist, Fort Dodge Community School District

**Dan Smith**, Executive Director, School Administrators of Iowa

**David Stoakes**, Superintendent, Cedar Falls Community School District

**Denny Wulf**, Superintendent, Norwalk Community School District

**Don Zuck**, Executive Director, Ankeny Economic Development Corp.

## Website shows how to create school safety plan

Every school in Iowa should have a school safety plan in case of natural disaster, medical emergencies, bomb threats and other situations. Though not mandatory in Iowa, leaders in education, law enforcement, fire safety and homeland security agree that school safety plans are important. With that in mind, a group from various agencies and associations banded together to create Iowa School Safety Products for schools.

[At this link](#), school leaders will find a guide book that serves as a template for creating local school safety plans. Flip charts offer how-to advice educating teachers about an emergency or how to react to one.

School leaders should make these plans their own. The goal is to get all stakeholders on the same page when it comes to school safety. Contact Jeff Berger at the Iowa Department of Education for more information: [jeff.berger@iowa.gov](mailto:jeff.berger@iowa.gov) or 515-281-3968

### **Iowa School Safety Guide Partnering Agencies**

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Iowa Department of Education  
Iowa Department of Public Safety – Intelligence Fusion Center  
State of Iowa Fire Marshal's Office  
School Administrators of Iowa  
Iowa State Education Association  
Iowa Association of School Boards  
Heartland Area Education Agency



## Going green? Here's a conference for you



Going green with school construction or renovation not only is environmentally sound, but it can make a difference in your budget's bottom line. To that end, Iowa's chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council is holding a conference April 19 in Johnston.

For an event schedule and registration materials, go to: <http://usgbciowagreenschoolsattendee-eorg.eventbrite.com/>.

## Poverty and schools: Webcast focuses on relationship

Dr. David Berliner, a recognized expert in the field of education, will discuss the poverty/school relationship for Iowa Educational Research & Evaluation Association members and guests. You are invited to join this hour-long presentation and discussion from the comfort of your own computer on Wednesday, April 4, from 10-11:00 a.m. A link to the webcast will be available on the IEREA website, [www.ierea.org](http://www.ierea.org). For those unable to attend the live webcast, the recorded presentation will be available on the IEREA website in mid-April.

# Classroom arts program serves children with disabilities

There is a joint initiative between the Iowa Department of Education and VSA Iowa to provide arts programming in classrooms that serve children with disabilities.

VSA Iowa, the state organization on arts and disability, is a non-profit focused on making the arts accessible to all.

The Arts for Children Program offers arts workshops to Iowa schools at no charge to educators or participants. Class hours with Teaching Artists are available to classrooms serving one or more students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Teaching Artists collaborate with classroom teachers to provide one- to three-hour workshops. Classes are targeted toward children with disabilities, but are also aimed at increasing classroom engagement and enhancing curriculum for all students.

VSA Iowa provides specialized instruction to the Teaching Artists in the principles and practices of Universal Design for Learning. Educators will not only model collaboration in the classroom, but also acquire skills that will aide them in adapting lessons to the needs of any child, no matter their ability level.

If you are an educator or coordinator interested in building a residency or workshop with a VSA Iowa teaching artist, call VSA Iowa's program director E.B. Updegraff at (515)281-5839 or email her at [eb@vsaiowa.org](mailto:eb@vsaiowa.org).



## Special education survey

If you have not done so, there is still time to take the Iowa Department of Education's survey on special education in Iowa. It's a qualitative survey asking administrators, teachers, parents, students and community members to give us their thoughts about special education in Iowa. We will share details of the survey after we have viewed the results. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IEPGAP>.



## Iowa School for the Deaf offers language-rich environment

Did you know children who are deaf or hard of hearing often have extensive language gaps? Can you imagine how those gaps affect classroom success?

Now is the time to consider if your deaf or hard-of-hearing students might benefit from the language-rich environment that



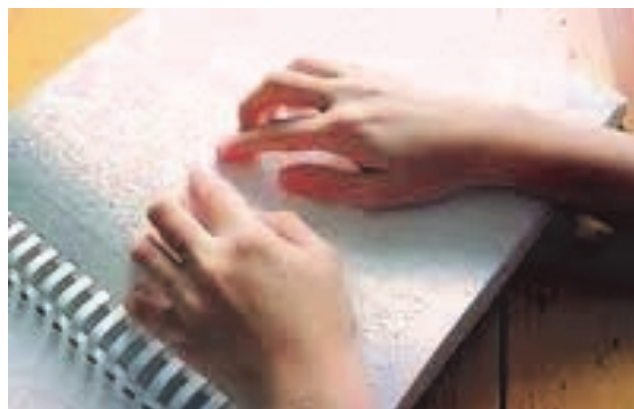
inspiring confidence • leadership • success • independence for children from Iowa and Nebraska

Iowa School for the Deaf provides. You're invited to visit Iowa School for the Deaf to learn about individualized programming (tuition-free for Iowa residents), specialized educators and tailored environment bridges the learning gaps. For details, call 712-366-0571 or go to <http://www.iadeaf.k12.ia.us>.

## Order alternative format textbooks for 2012-2013 year

Principals should ask teachers and IEP teams to order the textbooks now for next year so there is a smooth transition to the next grade and classes. Alternative format textbooks, including Braille, large print, audio and digital text, can also be included in a 504 plan. Schools should order standard grade-level books now and any others as soon as they are identified as needed.

Elementary schools can order the textbooks for students' grade-related subjects, such as social studies or science. Middle or high school students might not have their schedules yet, but their schools will know many of the required classes for each grade level. Some schools may be able to confirm electives in advance (as a reasonable IEP accommodation) so alternative format textbooks can be provided in a "timely manner" to students who need them. Remember that the Iowa Department of Education has defined "in a timely manner" as the same time as other students.



More information can be found [here](#).

## ELL conference: Save the date

The 2012 *Our Kids Summer Institute* has been set for June 19-20 at Valley High School in West Des Moines.

Sessions will cover Response to Intervention, co-teaching/ collaboration and technology. Teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend.

More information, including how to register, will be coming soon. Questions should be directed to [ourkids2012info@gmail.com](mailto:ourkids2012info@gmail.com).

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Our Kids 2012—June 19 & 20, 8am-4:30pm**

More Info Coming Soon!

**Location :** Valley High School,  
West Des Moines

**Sessions Topics Include:**  
Response to Intervention  
Co-Teaching/Collaboration  
Technology

## A challenge and a chance

Your school could have a chance at \$1,000 when your students demonstrate smart financial know-how in the National Financial Capability Challenge between March 12 and April 13. Enroll at [www.challenge.treas.gov](http://www.challenge.treas.gov). The National Financial Capability Challenge encourages educators to teach high school students about the basics of personal finance so they can take control of their financial futures. The U.S. Department of the Treasury, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, offers comprehensive lesson plans and sample test questions in the Educator Toolkit. If at least one student from your school



scores in the top 20 percent nationally, your school will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win one of 30 cash prizes. Each winning school will earn \$1,000 for its financial literacy programs and scholarship fund. To be eligible, make sure your students authorize the release of their scores when they take the online test.

The drawing is open only to participating Iowa high schools and is sponsored by Iowa Student Loan®, the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Jump\$tart, Junior Achievement of Central Iowa and the Iowa College Access Network.

## Iowa Financial Literacy Challenge

In recognition of Financial Literacy Awareness month in April, Iowa College Aid will host a statewide student video competition. The competition will encourage students to demonstrate the skills they have learned through their completion of the Iowa Financial Literacy Program. Prizes will be awarded to the student and school who best showcase the importance of financial literacy concepts and skills.

The Iowa Financial Literacy Program is available at no cost to Iowa high schools through the I Have A Plan Iowa™ web portal. To learn more, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456.



## Re-join the competency-based conversation online

The competency-based education collaborative website has been re-launched by the Iowa Department of Education.

The collaborative website includes videos, materials and readings from the December state conference on competency-based education. The readings are available under the Event Archive tab at the top of the page.

Join the conversation at <http://iacompmed.com/>. The Twitter hashtag for competency-based education remains #iacompmed.

## Early Childhood Preschool Programs

### Using preschool funding appropriately

According to IAC 281-98.13(1), districts may use the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funding for the purpose of providing a high-quality early learning environment for 4-year-old children whose families choose to access such programs. Because programs are specifically instructional, expenditures generally are limited to the functions of instruction, student support services and staff support services, but also include expenditures required in 281—chapter 16. Inappropriate uses of categorical funding include, but are not limited to: capital expenditures other than equipment; facility acquisition, debt service, operational or maintenance costs or administrative costs that supplant; or any other expenditures not directly related to providing the statewide voluntary 4-year-old preschool program or that supplant existing public funding for preschool programming.



### Guidelines for long-term substitute teachers

The Iowa Department of Education understands that on occasion a long-term substitute is needed to provide instruction in preschool settings. The substitute does not need to hold one of the three PK teaching endorsements. The guidelines from the Board of Education Examiners (BOEE) are the same for preschool as they are for K-12. A long-term substitute may not teach longer than 90 days in one classroom; after 90 days, the district administrator must write a letter to BOEE requesting an extension. A district may not begin the school year with a long-term substitute.



# Student Health and Nutrition

## And the winner is...

The results are in for the “Youth in Action for a Healthy Iowa Video Contest” held by the Iowa Department of Education’s Team Nutrition Program. The videos were to be created by middle or high school students showcasing how their schools promote healthy eating and/or active lifestyles. The panel of judges included representatives from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Education, State of Iowa Youth in Action Committee, Iowa Partners: Action for Healthy Kids, and the Midwest Dairy Council. All of the judges were impressed with the work of the students and the great things that are happening in Iowa schools. Among the 50 entries, here are the winners:

### Middle School

First Place (\$1,000): [Price Lab – Cedar Falls](#)

### High School

First Place (\$1,000): [Clinton](#)



## Transportation

### Bus safety survey on the horizon

The Department of Education in conjunction with the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) will be conducting a second annual nationwide “stop arm violation survey” on Wednesday, May 9. Further information, along with a template and format for recording violations, will be provided at a later date. We are bringing this to your attention now so your district and transportation director can begin to plan for this nationwide survey and to also alert your school bus drivers to the role they will play in helping this to be a successful and fact-based survey. Your drivers need to understand the importance of this survey since they will be the ones on the “front line” and will actually be recording the violations. Last year, we had approximately 51 percent participation from Iowa school districts. We want to see the participation increase this year. Please direct questions to [max.christensen@iowa.gov](mailto:max.christensen@iowa.gov).





## Legislative Update

Contact Mike Cormack for all legislative items: [mike.cormack@iowa.gov](mailto:mike.cormack@iowa.gov) or 515-281-3399.

### Cormack at the Capitol

Spring training has begun for my favorite sports season, our American pastime of baseball. As a lifelong Minnesota Twins fan, let me proclaim that this is the year that they will win it all as World Series champions. This is an annual prediction. So far in my lifetime, I have been correct twice. While I'm still searching for another expert to share my opinion, hope springs eternal this time of year. All fans think their team can win it all, even Chicago Cubs fans who have only waited 102 years to be proven right since the last time it was done.



I try to look at the glass half full instead of half empty. So it goes with education reform. Though major elements of education reform were modified or eliminated in the committee process, major concepts remain. I believe that the chance of final passage of a quality educational bill remains strong. On Feb. 21, the Iowa House Education passed a modified version of HSB 517, which is the Governor's education reform package. The next day, the Iowa Senate passed SSB 3171, which was an original attempt at changing educational policy but contained some elements of the original legislation in areas such as competency-based education. Neither will be the final bill on education reform, but they did pass through the funnel week deadline to keep this topic alive for further discussion. As you read this, internal work is being done on both pieces of legislation as the bodies prepare to debate these measures before their respective chambers. By day's end, both chambers, as well as the Governor's office, will either come to a consensus or not. Clearly, it is the hope of our department that meaningful legislation reaches the desk of the Governor that helps strengthen Iowa's school system.

Iowans are joining us in that belief. In the Feb. 22 Des Moines Register Iowa Poll, 56 percent of Iowans said that improving the quality of public education should be the No. 1 policy goal for the legislative session. On a host of issues, solid majorities support the key pieces of the Governor's blueprint. While popularity alone shouldn't guide good public policy, good public policy combined with popular support is often the way ideas become law. It is my sincere belief that this legislative session will not conclude without a bill on education reform.

On Feb. 28, Director Jason Glass submitted our ESEA (No Child Left Behind) waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education. As we have shared in previous columns, there is a link between passing education reform and the waiver attempt that our state is making. Some areas of education reform have nothing to do with the waiver. But, in areas such as in evaluation or assessment, it is important to show federal officials that we are making changes to the status quo. Much like when Joe Mauer steps to the plate for my Twins and sees a fastball over the plate, our waiver request will be going, going gone without any changes in those areas from the status quo. (Please stay healthy this year, Joe!)

On March 16, House bills must be passed out of Senate committees and vice versa to remain alive. That is the second funnel week. For education reform to remain alive, absent some extraordinary legislative rules that are rarely done, either the House or Senate bill must have passed through a chamber in the other body.

*(continued on page 12....)*

## Legislative Update continued

Decisions are made on a daily basis about whether to proceed on these bills and, if so, how to modify them. If you have strong opinions on particular measures or an entire bill, please share them with your local legislators. We also welcome your input on these measures, as well.

As noted last month, you can monitor the progress of each bill on the official legislative website or through links on our department's website. Should education reform be passed by both chambers, it is likely to be an issue that takes the entire session to settle. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on April 17, but it could do so on any date before or after that. Last year, a June 30 adjournment certainly reminded us of that.

Education policy is very important and should receive strong scrutiny through the legislative process. It is my hope that not only will the Minnesota Twins reclaim their rightful spot as baseball champions next fall, but that will happen when new educational policies will begin to make positive changes in the lives of Iowa students. Hopefully, that policy will become law after bipartisan consensus finds areas of agreement that produce good public policy. However you feel on this topic, please stay informed and share your views with policymakers.

If in the extremely unlikely event that there isn't a World Series on the horizon for the Twins, if the Cubs can win it all, that probably wouldn't be terrible, either. It would be a change of thinking to virtually everyone on the planet who has no memory of such an event taking place in their lifetime and might make the legislative changes we've proposed seem mild in comparison.

Good luck in all of your efforts as your school year heads into the spring season.



## Governor's Volunteer Awards

The deadline to submit nominations for the Governor's Volunteer Awards is April 6. 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.

To help select your "Super Star" volunteers for a Governor's Volunteer Award, think about their contribution to the agency/organization. What were the benefits of the nominee's efforts? What makes the accomplishments of this nominee more significant than those of other volunteers? How many hours were contributed by the volunteer to the agency/organization?

For more information, go to: <http://www.volunteeriowa.org/awards/> or contact [ruth.jones@iowa.gov](mailto:ruth.jones@iowa.gov).



## Legal Lessons

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

### Accreditation rules, mandatory reporting, online schools

#### **Accreditation Rule Changes**

Please take note of the following changes to chapter 12 accreditation rules:

1. Physical for certified staff. The requirement of a pre-service physical for certified staff is no longer an accreditation requirement. Administrators certainly should continue to make sure that all staff members can perform the duties assigned to them, but the Department will not be checking on accreditation visits to see proof of this. Bus drivers still need physicals every two years, although insulin-dependent drivers must have an annual physical.
2. Secondary credit for younger students. An individual student not yet in high school may (this is not a mandate) be allowed to take a course for secondary credit if all of the following are true:
  - The student satisfactorily completes the course.
  - The course is offered in the curricular area of English or language arts, mathematics, science or social studies.
  - The course is taught by a teacher licensed by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners for grades 9-12 and endorsed in the subject area.
  - The course meets all components listed in subrule 12.5(5) for the specific curricular area.
  - The board of the school district or the authorities in charge of the nonpublic school have developed enrollment criteria that a student must meet to be enrolled in the course.

#### **Wake-up Call for Mandatory Reporters**

An unusual arrest was made in Iowa recently when law enforcement took into custody a mandatory reporter, charging her with failure to make a report of suspected child abuse.

Although the person arrested is not an educator (she is a mandatory reporter by virtue of being a child-care provider), this incident serves as a sobering reminder that there are three possible consequences if a mandatory reporter does not make a report of suspected abuse. Those consequences are:

1. Disciplinary action by the Board of Educational Examiners (including possible loss of license);
2. Civil liability if the child is further harmed by the failure to report; and
3. Conviction of a criminal misdemeanor charge of failure to report.

Whether the mandatory reporter who was arrested will eventually be convicted remains to be seen. All mandatory reporters are reminded not to conduct their own investigations. The duty of a mandatory reporter is to report the suspected abuse to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS). The mandatory reporter does not fulfill this duty by reporting to a colleague at school (for instance, to a school counselor, school nurse, or to the building principal).

Mandatory reporters should not discuss an incident of possible abuse with other staff to get their opinions as to whether abuse has occurred. The suspected abuse must be investigated by DHS; it is DHS staff who have the training to determine whether abuse has occurred. A mandatory reporter's duty is to report. *(continued on page 14....)*

# Legal Lessons continued

## Online Schools: Guidance to Resident Districts

This item is an attempt to answer the most frequently asked questions from resident districts about the online schools in development at the CAM and Clayton Ridge school districts.

### Eligibility to enroll in CAM's or Clayton Ridge's online school

- Enrollment is open to any student who:
  - is a resident of Iowa
  - is between the ages of 5 and 21 ("school age")
  - is not under suspension or expulsion (unless the period of suspension or expulsion will end by the start of the 2012-13 school year)
  - does not have a GED or has not met graduation requirements of the student's last school of enrollment
- This includes students who are home-schooled (receive CPI, competent private instruction)
- This includes students with disabilities. (It is a violation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to exclude a student from an online school solely because the student has an IEP. Students who receive special education programs or services are to be evaluated by the receiving district with the assistance of the AEA to determine whether the receiving district can offer a FAPE to the child. Parents will be given notice by the receiving district of their procedural rights if the district determines that the answer is "no, the district cannot provide a FAPE.")
- If the student's family misses the open enrollment deadline (see next set of information below), the family may tuition-in the student

### Open Enrollment Information

- The open enrollment deadline of March 1 applies; operation of a new school or a new virtual school is NOT good cause for any family to miss the deadline
- If a family files for open enrollment to CAM or Clayton Ridge on or before March 1, the resident district cannot deny the application
- This is lawful open enrollment to an Iowa school district; it is not open enrollment to an attendance center outside the state of Iowa
- CAM and/or Clayton Ridge may have edited the open enrollment form to clarify for parents that enrollment to CAM or Clayton Ridge is for public schooling, not for CPI; however, a CPI student could open enroll to either and then choose dual enrollment for coursework (provided that the parent provide at least 25% of the coursework, as with all other CPI students), and in such a case, the receiving district would get dual enrollment funding, not 1.0 funding

# Legal Lessons continued

## Open Enrollment Finance

### **As is true of any open enrolled out student:**

- The attending (receiving) district codes the student as open enrolled in and will see the student in Certified Enrollment under “Non-Resident Public Students Attending your District or Students Entering”
- The resident district will see the student in Certified Enrollment listed under “Resident Public Students Attending another Iowa Public School District or Students Leaving”
- The receiving district bills the resident district quarterly
- The student generates 1.0 per pupil funding unless the family indicates that it is choosing to provide CPI for a child and is using dual enrollment only

### **If the student terminates open enrollment before count date:**

- If the student returns to the resident district and becomes regularly enrolled at the resident district, count as a resident student being served by the resident district, and send prorated tuition to the receiving district for the days the student was served by the receiving district
- If the student returns to the resident district but resumes CPI with no services from resident district, do not count
  - Send prorated tuition to receiving district for the days the student was served by the receiving district
  - Call Su McCurdy for option of going to School Budget Review Committee for modified allowable growth

### **If the student terminates open enrollment after count date:**

- The resident district send prorated tuition to the receiving district for the days the student was served by the receiving district

## Miscellaneous

### **A student who open enrolls to CAM or Clayton Ridge becomes a student of that district, the same as any open enrolled student.**

- The student cannot dual enroll with the resident district for any purpose
- If the student wants to participate in other courses, clubs or extracurricular activities, this must be done exclusively through the receiving district
- The student will be assessed at the same time and by the same assessment as the other CAM and Clayton Ridge students, and the results will “belong” to CAM or Clayton Ridge for all accountability and reporting purposes, state and federal

### **If the Department determines that the receiving district should receive .3 per pupil and not 1.0 per pupil funding:**

- The receiving districts must refund any overpayments of tuition to the resident districts, and the resident districts would get a downward auditor adjustment
- The receiving districts could go to the SBRC, where they would have to show unusual and unique circumstances that those districts could not have foreseen

# Deadline nears for Teacher of the Year

Time is running out to recognize world-class teachers in your district by nominating them to be the 2013 Iowa Teacher of the Year. The deadline for nominations is April 2. More information is available [here](#), or contact Deborah Humpal at [deborah.humpal@iowa.gov](mailto:deborah.humpal@iowa.gov).



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## Iowa Department of Education

400 E 14th Street  
Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Ph: 515-281-5294  
[www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov)