



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

October 2012

Cedar Rapids educator earns top teaching honor

Tania Johnson, a teaching veteran from Cedar Rapids, was named 2013 Iowa Teacher of the Year by Gov. Terry Branstad, Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds and education officials in September.

“Great teachers see the big picture in education as well as the potential in every student,” Branstad said. “They are essential to achieve our goal of giving all children in Iowa a world-class education. The Lt. Governor and I congratulate Tania Johnson and thank her for being a role model to students, to aspiring teachers and to her colleagues.”

Johnson spent most of her 22-year teaching career in Cedar Rapids kindergarten classrooms before she accepted a teacher leadership position in the school district

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Task force work is making a difference

I've learned a lot in Iowa about how difficult, but necessary, it is to come together as a state on a path to becoming one of the best education systems in the world.

That's why it's so encouraging to see consensus growing out of the work of six task forces assembled as part of education legislation this year.

These task forces have covered so much ground in so little time in areas such as improving our system for teacher evaluations, studying how much time children should spend in school, and choosing the best way to measure school readiness ([read more about them online](#)).



Jason Glass, Director

I'm particularly excited about the work of the Task Force on Teacher Leadership and Compensation, which has come up with a plan that I believe has the power to transform the teaching profession in our state. This group represents a cross-section of education stakeholders, including teachers, principals, superintendents, education associations, school boards, the Iowa Department of Education, and higher education. This work is critical because teacher leadership roles add structure to the way teachers work together and stems the tide of teachers leaving the profession.

So many talented people go into teaching to make a difference, but there aren't a lot of ways to move up. As a result, many teachers end up going into administration or just leave the classroom. We need a system that keeps teachers connected to their craft while creating pathways so that the most effective educators can work with their fellow teachers. This is about making a difference not just with the kids, but within the teaching profession as a whole.

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State Board adopts 2012-13 policy development priorities

Members of the State Board of Education have chosen the following policy development priorities for 2012-13:

- Competency-based education
- Online learning and other technological advances
- Reducing achievement gaps
- Improving teacher and leader preparation

Policy development priorities are established as part of the State Board of Education's strategic plan each year. These priorities are education issues that the State Board intends to research and discuss throughout the following year.

"These priorities provide a clear path and focus for our work," said State Board of Education President Rosie Hussey of Clear Lake. "We also must engage educators, education leaders, policymakers, parents and communities in a shared effort to elevate Iowa's standing as a leader in education and to ensure Iowa students are prepared for college and careers in a globally competitive economy."

Read more about the priorities [online](#).

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this fall. A Cedar Rapids native who was inspired by her own teachers to pursue a career in education, Johnson is best known for going above and beyond her work in the classroom.

As part of her new role, Johnson will become a member of the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Educator Quality, where she will provide critical insight from the perspective of working in the field.

Read more about Johnson and watch video from the Teacher of the Year announcement [online](#).

The finalists for the 2013 Teacher of the Year are:

- Heather Anderson, who teaches grades 1-3 at Cowles Montessori School in Windsor Heights (Des Moines Public Schools)
- Christine Green, a 7th grade science teacher at North Scott Junior High School in Eldridge
- Matt Heston, a mathematics teacher at Knoxville High School in Knoxville
- Joshua Steenhoek, a 5th grade math and science teacher at Jefferson Intermediate School in Pella



Hey, principals, it's *your* month!

To recognize the essential role that principals play in preparing today's students for the challenges of tomorrow, Congress has declared October as National Principals Month.

Principals are among the hardest working, yet often least recognized, individuals in education. Principals set the academic tone for their schools, and it is their vision, dedication, and determination that provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort.

National Principals Month honors these unsung heroes for their tireless efforts in pursuit of excellence in education.

Iowa schools named 2012 'National Blue Ribbon' schools

Five Iowa schools are among 269 schools nationwide named 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools for their overall academic excellence or for their progress in improving student academic achievement levels:

- Carroll High School (Carroll Community School District)
- Crescent Elementary School (Council Bluffs Community School District)
- Lincoln Elementary School (Mount Pleasant Community School District)
- Mitchellville Elementary School (Southeast Polk Community School District)
- West Delaware High School (West Delaware County Community School District)

The U.S. Department of Education will honor 219 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 12-13 in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are made in students' levels of achievement.

Read more about the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

'Counselor of the Year' nominations

The annual Iowa School Counselor Association (ISCA) conference recognizes counselors with Counselor of the Year awards at four levels: elementary, middle school/junior high, high school, and multilevel.

Counselors are typically nominated by their peers or administrators. Please consider nominating an exemplary counselor for this honor.

To nominate a school counselor, write a letter of recommendation and include the award category (elementary, middle school/junior high, high school, or multilevel). Include a statement describing the program, activity, and/or contribution demonstrating the individual's worthiness to receive this award.

Please note that all nominees must be ISCA members as of Oct. 15.

Nominations can be mailed to Janis Powers, Prairie Crest Elementary School, 401 76th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404, or faxed to Janis at 319-848-5283. The deadline is Oct. 15.



Arts program for children on IEPs

In partnership with the Iowa Department of Education, VSA Iowa – the state organization on arts and disability – is offering creative and performing arts workshops to classrooms across Iowa at no cost.

Through VSA Iowa's Arts for Children program, learning becomes an interactive process that challenges students to approach a subject from a new and exciting perspective.

Workshops enhance not only arts and humanities curricula, but also incorporate lessons in biology, mathematics, and social sciences.

This unique opportunity is available to classrooms with one or more students who have an Individualized Education Program.

Sessions range from one to three hours with material costs covered, if needed.

Workshops are taught by experienced VSA Iowa art instructors — many of whom are nationally recognized and also have a disability.

For more information, call 515-281-5839 or email info@vsaiaowa.org.

Register for Iowa Energy Summit 2012

Registration is open for the 2012 Iowa Energy Summit to be held Nov. 7-8.

The Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency has opened registration for attendance to the 25th annual Iowa Energy Summit, which will be held at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines.

The summit provides a range of information for those working in – and interested in learning more about – energy efficiency. Participants in the past have represented utility companies, engineering firms, architectural firms, manufacturing companies, K-12 schools, community colleges, colleges and universities, and other groups interested in and involved with energy efficiency. The conference allows participants to expand their knowledge about applying energy efficiency programs, policies and techniques to their customers, clients, facilities, and more.

Summit presenters are carefully selected through an abstract submission process designed to offer a broad overview of subject matter, in an effort to spark new ideas participants can incorporate into their own new and existing projects.



Topics for Summit 2012 include:

- B3 Building Energy Benchmarking system for Iowa's public buildings
- Driving energy efficiency;
- Setting and maintaining high sustainability goals;
- LED street lighting case studies;
- Estimated versus measured savings for common technologies;
- Technology demonstration projects: lessons learned;
- Iowa Energy Code: required basics;
- Energy reduction and production strategies;
- Getting to a market rate net zero emissions building;
- Energy Auditor's toolbox: innovative solutions to overcome implementation barriers.

For more information about attending or exhibiting, contact Kathy Eastman at 515-255-0882 or keastman@iowaenergy.org. To view the agenda or to register for the Summit, visit the Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency website at www.iowaenergy.org.

Is your school going green?

The Iowa Department of Education is participating in the Green Ribbon Schools program for the 2012-13 school year and invite public and private schools and districts in Iowa to apply for this national recognition through the U.S. Department of Education. The Green Ribbon School application will be available on the Department's website this month. Applications will be due Dec. 21.

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition award honors schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education, which incorporates STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways. Encouraging efficient schools allows administrators to dedicate more resources to education rather than utility costs. Healthy schools and good wellness practices ensure that all students learn in an environment conducive to achieving their full potential, free of the health disparities that can aggravate achievement gaps.

The Department is permitted as many as four nominations to submit to ED-GRS. To nominate more than one public school, at least one must be a school with at least 40 percent of students from a disadvantaged background. A school may be selected as honoree only once every three years.

Nomination selection process will be based on documentation of the applicant's high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars:

- **Pillar I:** Reduce environmental impact and costs.
- **Pillar II:** Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.
- **Pillar III:** Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

The Green Ribbon Schools application can be accessed on the Department's [website](#).



Data and Reporting

E-rate training sessions are scheduled

The Universal Service Fund E-rate application process for funding year 2013, the current school year, is tentatively scheduled to begin in November. To prepare for the annual application process, the Iowa Department of Education will offer training webinars for districts and schools.

Introduction to E-rate: (designed for E-rate newcomers; select one session)

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Completing Form 470: (for new and returning E-rate contacts; select one session)

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Completing Form 471: Webinar dates will be announced in the November edition of School Leader Update.

To participate in any of the above sessions, go to <https://iowa.adobeconnect.com/a830042961/erate/> and select “enter as a guest.” For more information, contact the Department’s Pam Jacobs at pam.jacobs@iowa.gov or call 515-975-0071.

New bullying, harassment data collection system is open

The Iowa Department of Education has opened the new data collection system for bullying and harassment reports for all public and accredited non-public schools in Iowa. Bullying and harassment data reporting will now be a separate application on Ed-Info. Access to Ed-Info is provided in each district through your local EdInfo security administrator. Bullying and harassment data will no longer be collected through the Anti-Bullying/Harassment form in Spring BEDS.

Data input in the new reporting system is for the 2012-13 school year. Schools are encouraged to enter data as incidents are reported. Districts that have entered no data will be reminded in December to enter data or to verify that they have no incidents to report.

Instructional webinars were held in August and September in advance of the data system launch. You may access Handouts for the instructional webinars, a link to a recorded webinar session and soon an ongoing Q&A on the [Anti Bullying Anti Harassment Webpage](#) at the [Department of Education website](#). Please share this information with district personnel who are responsible for reporting bullying and harassment incidents to the state.

For more information, contact Penny Bisignano at 515-725-2142 or penny.bisignano@iowa.gov or Barb Anderson at 515-664-6732 or barb.anderson@iowa.gov.

Data and Reporting continued...

Certified enrollment deadline looms

Certified Enrollment will continue to be completed through the submission of your student-level data. The steps for Certified Enrollment are as follows:

1. Submit files for all buildings through Pearson SIF Works – VRF data collector (portal.ed.iowa.gov);
2. Review reports in Student Reporting in Iowa (www.edinfo.state.ia.us);
3. Certify your resident students in Certified Enrollment (www.edinfo.state.ia.us).

Certified Enrollment will contain your:

- Non-fall supplementary weighting from spring;
- Fall 2012 supplementary weighting;
- Enrollment.

Your data can no longer be changed within any of the state applications. All issues identified during the certified enrollment process must be corrected in the local student information system and new files submitted by Oct. 15. There will be no Round 2 or 3 phone calls with EASIER consultants.

In order to accurately complete Certified Enrollment by the deadline, it is important that all districts begin submitting files as soon as possible on or shortly after Oct. 1. All records included in Certified Enrollment are generated by the attending district. Therefore, no district can be sure they are seeing complete counts until the last district in the state has moved data into Certified Enrollment. Early submission not only allows more time to verify the accuracy of your information, it also demonstrates collegiality among your neighboring districts.

Dates to remember:

Oct. 1: Count Day. Opening of VRF, Student Reports, and Certified Enrollment

Oct. 15: Certification deadline for filing Certified Enrollment (IC 257.6)

For more information, contact the Department's Kim Wilson at (515) 281-3757 or kim.wilson@iowa.gov.



Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Preschool Verification Visits start this month

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) Verification Visits for 2012-13 have been scheduled with a portion of districts awarded in 2010-11. Early childhood consultants from the Iowa Department of Education, together with early childhood specialists from the Area Education Agencies, conduct the IQPPS Verification Visits. Beginning in October and continuing through May, 54 districts and their community partners will receive a Verification Visit to ensure compliance with the requirements of Chapter 16 for SWVPP and the provision of quality preschool programming for children in SWVPP and 3-, 4- and/or 5-year-old children in special education on an instructional services IEP.

If the district is scheduled to have a Comprehensive School Improvement Visit during the 2012-2013 school year, the IQPPS Verification Visit will occur simultaneously.

The IQPPS Verification Visit includes all district and community partner IQPPS classroom sessions serving preschoolers in:

- Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs;
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) sessions for children 3-, 4- and/or 5-year-olds; and
- Early childhood sessions (such as community-based providers, child care, district tuition programs, etc.) serving children 3-, 4- and/or 5-year-olds on an IEP.

The IQPPS Verification Visit includes a district overview, classroom observations, family interview, review of documents (Classroom Portfolios, the Program Portfolio, staff and child files) and a summary meeting.

In addition to all listed documents, the district should provide a folder to the Department consultant containing information for each session including the names of the classroom teacher and associate, classroom location, names of children on IEPs and the current daily schedule. Districts are encouraged to include the AEA early childhood consultant and community partner administration in the Overview and Summary Meeting.



Learn more about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program or the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards [online](#), or contact Penny Milburn at Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844, Judy Russell at Judy.Russell@iowa.gov or 515-281-4705, or Amy Stegeman at Amy.Stegeman@iowa.gov or 515-725-2273.

Transportation

Iowa agencies drive home National School Bus Safety Week

The Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Transportation and Iowa Department of Public Safety are joining the National Association for Pupil Transportation in promoting National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 22-26. Motorists can expect heightened traffic enforcement directed toward motorists who pass stopped school buses illegally during this period.

The theme for this year's educational campaign is "I See the Driver. The Driver Sees Me!" It is derived from the national school bus safety poster contest held in 2011.

The purpose of the annual safety week is to educate students, parents/caregivers, bus drivers, educators, and motorists about the importance of school bus safety and measures they can take to decrease injuries and fatalities.

Each year, more than 800 students nationally are killed going to and from school. In Iowa, there were 207 school bus-related crashes in 2011, including three fatalities and seven major injuries. Through July 31 of this year, there have been 86 school bus-related crashes.

To learn more about school bus safety, what motorists must do when a school bus is stopped, how students can safely board or unload from a school bus, and the penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus, go to the Iowa Department of Transportation's [website](#).

In March, Gov. Terry Branstad signed into law Senate File 2218, the "Keep Aware Driving – Youth Need School Safety Act," commonly known as Kady's Law. The law is named after 7-year-old Kady Halverson, who was struck by a pickup truck while trying to cross the road to board her school bus.

Kady's Law increased the criminal penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus and directed the Iowa DOT to adopt rules that increase the administrative driving privilege sanctions. Under these rules, a person's driving privilege will be suspended 30 days for a first conviction, 90 days for a second, and 180 days for a third or subsequent conviction.





Legislative Update

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

Cormack at the Capitol

On football, referees and quality education

There is hesitation to use any example from the world of athletics in this column after earlier this year predicting a Minnesota Twins World Series appearance. As I write this, the Twins have a record of 64-89, which leads only the lowly Cleveland Indians in their division. They're even worse than the Kansas City Royals, normally the doormat of the division. With a rare Sunday at home recently, I watched an afternoon of the NFL Sunday Ticket, which many of you may know allows the viewer to have access to several live games at once. It was the first time I had used this feature on my satellite dish and I couldn't help but compare that feature to life at the Iowa Department of Education.

In watching the Sept. 23 slate of games, I watched three overtime games and many others that came down to the wire. It was hard to focus on any one game and yet each warranted my attention. (This was particularly true as my favorite team, the Green Bay Packers, wouldn't get robbed by the replacement referees until the next night. Folks, that was an interception by the way.) It was so much easier as a child to watch a game and to manually walk up to the television to change the channel. I think after an afternoon of NFL Sunday Ticket, my thumb has doubled in size.

Here at the Department, we are doing our best to do good work for the people of Iowa in three major areas at once. First, there are a series of administrative rules that are being rewritten or established based upon legislation that passed during the last Iowa General Assembly. The most exciting to me is the creation of a new Iowa Reading Research Center, which has brought an informal task force of leading literacy experts together to put the new law and funding provided by the legislative process into actual practice. By law, that center must be established and operational by Oct. 15. Our administrative rules help create the guidelines. If it reaches the goals, it will help young struggling Iowa readers.

Second, we are continuing to work on six task forces required by Senate File 2284 to be conducted by our department. Many of these, such as the Task Force on Teacher Leadership and Compensation, as well as the Instructional Time Task Force, will issue their final reports this month. I am truly proud of the diverse group of Iowans from all political stripes and many vocational backgrounds who have volunteered their time to join these task forces. In a time where I truly hate what passes for political discourse in the barrage of negative political advertising on both sides, it is refreshing to see real people sit down and in a constructive manner, engage in meaningful conversations about the future of Iowa education. I truly hope that both legislators in particular, and Iowans in general, read and reflect on the sincere work that is being produced in these reports.

Third, we are preparing for the 2013 legislative session. I've had the honor to join Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds during portions of their series of educational town hall meetings that they've recently held across Iowa. We will use comments from those meetings, information learned from the task forces, daily input we receive from Iowans and the latest research to propose a package of ideas for the next Iowa General Assembly to consider. There are no easy answers on how to restore Iowa back to the status of undisputed leader in the nation and the world in education. We are doing our best to help the Governor's office craft legislation to help move us in that direction. We strongly believe that our legislative ideas will move Iowa forward; we also want to ensure we give the people of this great state time to review them in an open manner.

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Legislative Update continued

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Our work requires us to implement with faith and fidelity what has passed into law. It requires us to study major educational concepts in detail and to produce recommendations discovered in that process. Finally, it requires us to look forward and propose meaningful changes that we believe will help drive increased student achievement in this state. As I begin my second year of service in this role, I can assure you the Iowa Department of Education is working hard to meet all of those demands in a positive and quality manner.

Feel free to contact me at any time to visit about any of the tasks we are working on, but please don't ask me any questions about NFL replacement referees or the 2012 Minnesota Twins record.

Good luck in all that you are doing for the students of Iowa. I hope your school year is off to a great start. We hope that our Department can be a helpful partner in your efforts this year.

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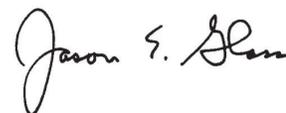
These are some of the recommendations agreed upon by the task force on September 28:

- Create and fund a system of career pathways for teachers that include pay increases for taking on more responsibility. There are five roles in this system: initial, career, model, mentor, and lead.
- Build the teacher leadership and compensation system structure at the state level while giving local districts the flexibility to choose their own paths to meet the goals.
- Incentivize teachers to work in high-need schools and shortage subjects.
- Raise the minimum starting salary to a competitive level.
- Establish a Commission on Education Leadership and Compensation to ensure consistent and successful implementation.
- Create a residency year for entry into the teaching profession to build a more seamless transition from teacher preparation to practice/employment.
- The Iowa Department of Education will collaborate with school districts that are implementing a peer coaching model. For example: The Central Decatur and Saydel districts were just [awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant](#) to create a new teacher leadership and compensation structure using the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching's Teacher Advancement Program model.

Look for the task force's final report this month on the Iowa Department of Education's website at www.educateiowa.gov.

I am inspired by the Iowans who served on this task force. I'm proud of their work, and I'm humbled by their care and concern for the future of Iowa's education system. I look forward to sharing their work with you and building support for these recommendations as they become the centerpiece of the Governor's education proposal to the Legislature in 2013.

Thanks for all you do on behalf of our state, our schools and our students.





Legal Lessons

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

Abuse, homelessness, and legal rights

Abuse of students by school employees

To deal with general allegations that a school employee may have abused a child in the course of that individual's employment, the Iowa Legislature in 1989 required all schools in the state to adopt a uniform procedure for investigating such allegations. The law is found at Iowa Code § 280.17. The State Board of Education adopted administrative rules, and the Iowa Department of Education formulated a sample policy for adoption by school boards of both public and private schools.

The Policy and Procedures for Charging and Investigating Allegations of Abuse of Students by School Employees is required by Iowa Code § 280.17 to be adopted by all schools. It is based on administrative rules adopted by the State Board of Education and found at 281-Iowa Administrative Code chapter 102, available online at the following link:

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=860:chapter-102-level-i-investigator-manual-&catid=411:legal-lessons

Any questions regarding the manual may be directed to Nicole Proesch, the Department's legal counsel, at nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661.

Chapter 102—Level I Investigator Training—NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Under Chapter 102.5 of the Iowa Administrative Rules, all public and non-public schools are required to annually appoint during an open meeting a Level I Investigator and alternate investigator to investigate complaints regarding abuse of students by school employees and volunteers. The names or positions and the telephone numbers or other contact information of the designated Level I Investigator and the alternate investigator shall be annually published in the student handbook, in a local news paper of general circulation, and prominently posted in all buildings operated by the school authorities.



Additionally, the board shall have arranged for in-service training for the designated Level I Investigator and alternate investigator. Initial training should be undertaken within six months of appointing a Level I Investigator or alternate investigator. Follow-up training should be undertaken at least once every five years. The training is to familiarize designated individuals with their roles, rules, procedures, and required timelines for action.

The delivery of training for Level I Investigator is changing this year, from the ICN to a self-paced activity online through AEA PD Online. The training consists of videos, case study scenarios, and online lessons to help meet the above objectives. Also, individuals will have access to the necessary materials, such as the Chapter 102 Level 1 Investigators Manual online (Blue Book - Revised January 2011).

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Legal Lessons continued

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There is no fee. To access the training, you must:

1. Go to <http://moodlesw.aeapdonline.org/course/view.php?id=116>
2. Login with your statewide Moodle username and password

*Please note, this is on our new statewide server, Moodle version 2.0. Since we have not completed a full migration from our old server, you will need to make a new username and password if you have not previously logged into the new server. To do so, from the link above:

- Click "Create a New Account" on the right side of the screen.
- Enter a username, password, full name, city, and email address, and then select your country.
- Click "Create My New Account".
- A verification email will be sent to you (you might want to check your spam filter/folder if you don't receive it). Click on the link in the email to verify.

If you have difficulty logging in to the Moodle server, please contact AEA PD Online at 1-800-255-0405 x14668. Questions about the content may be directed to Nicole Proesch at nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661.

Homeless students

In the wake of tough economic times, schools are seeing a rise of homeless youth, and many schools have raised the question of who is considered to be a "homeless youth." The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistant Act of 2001 (reauthorized in January 2002) – Title X, Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act – Sec. 725 is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of homeless children and youth.

The definition of the term "homeless children and youth" is as follows:

- A. Means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
- B. Includes the following:
 - i. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or awaiting foster care placement;
 - ii. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is public or private not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
 - iii. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - iv. Migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purpose of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clause (i) through (iii).

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Legal Lessons continued

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In Iowa, the rules regarding Education for Homeless children are located in the Iowa Administrative Code at 281, Chapter 33. These rules add further guidance to school districts regarding education of homeless children and youth and cover the following:

- A homeless child of ages 3-21;
- A child who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence;
- A child who is living in a car, tent, or abandoned building or some other form of shelter not defined as a permanent home;
- A child who is living in a community shelter;
- A child who is living with non-nuclear family members or friends (includes doubled up families) due to loss of housing, economic hardship or other reason.

THIS INCLUDES: Runaway youth or youth being forced to leave the home. Questions about who is a runaway may be directed to the local homeless liaison.

Educational Rights of Homeless Youth

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

1. Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there;
2. Attend either the local school or the school of origin, if this is in their best interest; the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed, or the school in which the child was last enrolled;
3. Receive transportation to and from the school of origin;
4. Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records;
5. Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for transfer of records;
6. Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other students including transportation and supplemental educational services;
7. Have access to free school meals/lunch programs;
8. Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited.

Local Homeless Liaison

Every Iowa public school district is **required** to have a liaison for homeless students.

A toolkit for the liaison as well as more detailed information about the McKinney-Vento Act and Chapter 33 is available at http://www.educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=422&Itemid=654

Questions about the content may be directed to Nicole Proesch at nicole.proesch@iowa.gov or 515-281-8661. Questions may also be directed to Sandy Johnson, the Iowa Department of Education's state coordinator for homeless education, at sandra.johnson@iowa.gov or 515-281-3965.

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Legal Lessons continued

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Compulsory attendance change for children in kindergarten

The education reform legislation passed last session makes a change to the compulsory attendance laws, effective July 1, 2012. Starting on that date, a child who is age five by September 15 and is enrolled in a school district is of compulsory attendance age. The only exception to this is if a parent notifies the district, in writing, of its intent to withdraw the child from the school district.

The purpose of this change is to increase attendance for children in kindergarten. If a child who is enrolled in kindergarten is not attending school, because the child is now of compulsory attendance age, the district is to follow its compulsory attendance policies and procedures unless and until the parent provides the district with written notice of intent to withdraw the kindergarten child from school. The Department is currently updating its materials on compulsory attendance to account for this legislative change. For questions about this change, please contact Nicole Proesch at nicole.proesch@iowa.gov.

Information Sharing for Children in Foster Care

Federal and state law on children in foster care requires child welfare agencies and school districts to cooperate to meet the educational needs of children in care. It is important to share information, to the maximum extent appropriate, to better serve this vulnerable population. To improve information sharing, Director Jason Glass entered a supervisory order declaring that court-appointed guardians ad litem in juvenile court cases (cases involving children who are in need of assistance [abuse and neglect] and children who are alleged to be delinquent) meet the definition of “parent” under FERPA.

If a school or an AEA receives a copy of a juvenile court order appointing an individual as a guardian ad litem for a child, the school or AEA shall recognize that guardian ad litem as the child’s parent for purposes of FERPA. This includes the right to inspect and review records and the right to consent to release records to others.

The order is on the Department’s web page here <http://educateiowa.gov/images/stories/appeals/book26dec250.pdf>.

The Department has more information about the education of children in foster care on its [website](#). For more information about this order, please contact Thomas Mayes at thomas.mayes@iowa.gov or 515-242-5614.



Calendar waivers are coming due

Do you intend to adjust your school year calendar to meet the needs of your students and community?

You may need to seek a waiver. Waiver forms for the 2013-14 school year are available at the Department's [website](#).

They are due Nov. 1.

For more information, please contact Amy Williamson at 515-339-4122 or amy.williamson@iowa.gov.

Calendar

- October 1 • Board Resolutions to Study Reorganization Due
- October 1 • Empowerment (ECI) Payment Schedule
- October 1 • Count Day
- October 1 • Facilities, elections and Sales Tax Report
- October 15 • Nonpublic Certified Enrollment Count Due
- October 15 • Nonpublic Textbook Services Request
- October 15 • Certified Enrollment DEADLINE
- October 15 • Operation Function Sharing
- November 15 • School Board Officers Report
- November 15 • SINA/DINA Plans Due

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