



# School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

January 2017

## Time to update Teach Iowa account

It's time to clean up your district's account in the Teach Iowa job posting system.

Districts need to remove staff members who no longer need access to your account, add new staff members who will need access to your account, delete or close outdated job postings and check to see if your application pages are current.

The [TeachIowa.gov](http://TeachIowa.gov) website includes numerous tools to help with all features of the system.

At your convenience, you can access the informational webinar for guidance on [Cleaning Up Your Account](#).

For questions, contact Kelly Hart at 515-281-3061 or [kelly.hart@iowa.gov](mailto:kelly.hart@iowa.gov).



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## Proud of 2016, psyched for 2017

The holiday break provides educators with much needed time to rest, reflect and plan for the year ahead. For many, these activities result in lists and goals – what went well, areas for improvement, and hopes and dreams for the New Year.

As I look back at 2016, I see much to be proud of. First, Iowa cemented its place as the nation's leader in strengthening the teaching profession by fully implementing the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system. Today, more than 8,000 Iowa teachers hold formal, compensated leadership roles designed to strengthen instruction and improve student learning. As I traveled the state this fall, I witnessed countless examples of a new spirit of collaboration and peer-led learning sweeping across Iowa.



**Director Ryan Wise**

A recently released report by the American Institutes of Research (AIR) validated my observations. The AIR report found that schools that have implemented TLC reported stronger and more frequent collaboration with their colleagues; teachers in TLC schools were more likely to indicate professional development was useful and of high quality; teachers in the first two cohorts indicated TLC is positively affecting their professional structure by improving compensation, creating more leadership opportunities, and helping teachers to feel listened to; and, most teachers and administrators in the first two TLC cohorts reported TLC is helping to improve instruction.

A second celebration for 2016 was the passage of House File 2392, which set a new vision for Iowa students to graduate from high school ready for college and career training. This legislation focuses Iowa on three key tasks: developing an enhanced and more holistic approach to

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academic and career planning; strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs through modernizing the CTE framework; and instituting a system of regional planning that ensures access to a diverse array of rigorous CTE courses for all Iowa students.

In addition, 2016 was a foundation-laying year for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Iowa Department of Education launched an ambitious effort to listen and incorporate stakeholder priorities as we implement the most significant change in federal education policy in the last 15 years. We heard from nearly 1,000 Iowans through 13 listening tour stops in the spring and fall, an ongoing advisory committee, focus groups with education advocates, work teams focused on specific elements of ESSA and through online feedback.

Finally, in 2016 Iowa again led the country in high school graduation rates and remained the only state with a four-year graduation rate above 90 percent. All Iowans, and educators in particular, should be proud of this achievement.

Yet for each of these successes, there is more work to do. First, while TLC is strengthening the teaching profession, we have yet to see an impact on student achievement. Now that the foundational components of training and support for teacher leaders are in place we are confident this will result in improved student learning through teacher leaders coaching and supporting all teachers.

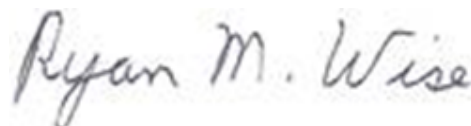
Second, as we move forward with the implementation of House File 2392, schools, community colleges and area education agencies have a major task ahead in the development of Regional Planning Partnerships. This process will require an unprecedented level of collaboration and coordination to ensure equitable access to CTE programming for all students.

Third, in 2017 the Iowa Department of Education will finalize and submit the state's ESSA plan to the U.S. Department of Education. In order to ensure this plan will empower schools to meet the needs of their students and lead to improved results, the Department needs to continue to hear from stakeholders. The draft plan will be published in the coming days and we look forward to another statewide information session tour and continued input.

Finally, in 2017 Iowa has an opportunity to translate our stellar high school graduation rate into postsecondary success. The Future Ready Iowa Alliance is actively working on recommendations to meet the ambitious goal of 70 percent of Iowa's workforce having education or training beyond high school by the year 2025. In addition, for the first time Iowans will have information on postsecondary enrollment patterns, remedial course-taking rates, and postsecondary retention and award rates that can be connected to every public high school in Iowa through the new Postsecondary Readiness Reports that will be released later this month.

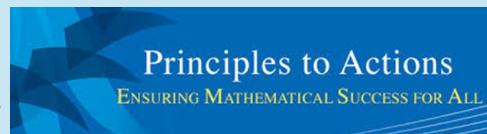
This account of progress and work ahead is by no means exhaustive. Iowa continues to develop and refine our academic standards and implement aligned assessments; we remain focused on ensuring all students read proficiently by the end of third grade; and we commit to continuing our collaboration with schools as we implement a system of Differentiated Accountability to ensure schools receive the support they need when they need it.

As we enter 2017, I hope you feel refreshed and ready to launch a new round of learning and growth within your school community. I wish you all the best in the year ahead!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan M. Wise". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

## Summer math institute focuses on effective teaching strategies

The Summer Mathematics Institute [registration](#) is now open and seats are filling up quickly. Register your teaching team for the launch of the statewide initiative for educators to focus on the *8 Effective Teaching Strategies* to ensure high-quality mathematics instruction in the classroom. Participants will learn how to put rigor, focus and coherence into the mathematics classroom and be ready for the Smarter Balanced Assessment.



Educators will receive a copy of the Principles to Actions book and Innovation Configuration (IC) Maps. Additional resources include an implementation plan, book study guides and connections to the Iowa Teaching Practices. Educators also will explore the additional 21 online learning modules, and learn about the Virtual Network for continued learning during 2017-18.

National keynote speakers are Steve Leinwand, lead author and American Institute for Research consultant, Margaret Smith, writer and University of Pittsburgh professor, and DeAnn Huinker, lead writer and University of Wisconsin professor.

The Summer Mathematics Institute will take place on June 13 for grades 7-12 educators, and June 14 for grades K-6. It will be held at the FFA Enrichment Center located at 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway in Ankeny. Click [here](#) to register. For questions, contact April Pforts at 515-725-2203 or [april.pforts@iowa.gov](mailto:april.pforts@iowa.gov).

## ICN introduces Technical Assistance Center (TAC)

Iowa's K-12 education and libraries may receive Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Category 2 (E-rate) discounts if using Iowa Communications Network's (ICN) Technical Assistance Center (TAC) services for internal data connections. With over 70 years of combined experience, ICN's TAC has strong expertise with vertical and horizontal inside plant designs and cable plant services from wiring closets to inside wiring of fiber and copper infrastructures.

A data closet full of unorganized cables can cause additional downtime and further delays in service installation and restoration. ICN's TAC team can recommend network rack location, cabling basket system solutions, cable types, and unique labeling schemes. Once a telecom closet is organized, it is easier to troubleshoot when needed.

TAC services include project evaluations, site surveys, structured cabling, customer-owned equipment installation, circuit extensions, wire management systems, and troubleshooting. USAC Eligible: Infrastructure and internal connections may receive USAC Category 2 (E-rate) discounts. For additional information, contact ICN's account consultants at [ICN.CSS@iowa.gov](mailto:ICN.CSS@iowa.gov).

## Conditional licensure coursework progress

Many staff members may hold a conditional license while they complete the coursework required to fully add a new endorsement.

Districts are often surprised in August when they find out that a staff member has not completed enough coursework to either add the endorsement or to continue with conditional licensure. The district is then faced with the challenge of having a late opening in a shortage area.

Some Iowa districts have implemented policies to require any educator on a conditional license to check in with a designated administrator each semester to provide evidence of coursework progress. This allows the district and the educator to have open communication about licensure expectations and timelines and it alleviates unexpected issues. Now is a great time to check in with your educators who hold conditional licensure to ensure sufficient coursework progress is being made.

## Celebrating Iowa's Success Event on Jan.23

Plan to attend the Second Annual Celebrating Iowa's Success Event scheduled for Jan. 23 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

The [website](#) has all of the information needed for a day of learning together.

For questions, contact Mary Jane Stites at [mstites@heartlandaea.org](mailto:mstites@heartlandaea.org) or Mark Crady at [mcrady@heartlandaea.org](mailto:mcrady@heartlandaea.org).



## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law by President Obama in July 2014 and the final regulations were outlined in July 2016. This legislation has made major changes to Vocational Rehabilitation laws and programs. Its purpose is to “empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence and inclusion in and integration into society.”

WIOA focuses on collaboration between Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) and the local school district. This means that IVRS will become more involved and visible in the schools and will work within the schools to create a continuum of services that will align with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). However, this continuum of services will not supplant the legal responsibility of the schools. The primary focus of this collaboration is to develop a system that will lead to competitive integrated employment for students with disabilities, regardless of the level of disability.

Several webinars and trainings have been conducted collaboratively between the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. These recorded webinars, PowerPoint presentations and Frequently Asked Questions documents, in addition to a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Iowa Department of Education and IVRS, can be found on the [Secondary Transition](#) page of the Department website. For questions, contact Kim Drew at 515-281-5265 or [kim.drew@iowa.gov](mailto:kim.drew@iowa.gov).

## C4K leadership webinar, Jan. 19, 1:30 p.m.

Plan to engage in the second administrator webinar with your colleagues on Jan. 19 at 1:30 p.m. The topic of the webinar is Setting the Conditions for Change and Implementation.

This [document](#) includes the dates and topics of each webinar beginning in January. The document will continue to be updated with each webinar Power Point and the recording for the webinar.

If you were unable to participate in the November webinar, it is available and can be viewed at this [link](#).

For questions, contact Educator Quality Co-Leads Linda Carroll at [linda.carroll@iowa.gov](mailto:linda.carroll@iowa.gov) or Mary Jane Stites at [mstites@heartlandaea.org](mailto:mstites@heartlandaea.org).





## Input sought on proposed draft of social studies standards

The Iowa Department of Education is seeking input from Iowans on a draft of [proposed statewide social studies standards](#) for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. An online survey open through Jan. 9 and public forums in January are available to seek feedback on the draft standards.

The draft represents the first statewide effort to update Iowa's social studies standards, which were adopted in 2008. Iowa's academic standards are the subject of ongoing review as part of the Governor's Executive Order 83. Read [more](#).



## Iowa districts honored for Advanced Placement work

Six Iowa school districts have been honored by the College Board for their work in providing Advanced Placement courses to their students.

Grinnell-Newburg and Williamsburg were added to the College Board's Seventh Annual Honor Roll for the first time this year. They join four districts that have been named to the honor roll several times: Ankeny, Indianola, Iowa City and Waukee.

The Iowa districts were part of the 433 school districts in the United States and Canada placed on the Honor Roll this year. In order to make the Honor Roll, districts had to simultaneously achieve increases in access to Advanced Placement courses for a broad number of students and also maintain or improve the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP exam. Read [more](#).

## History Teacher of the Year: Making the past come alive



It goes without saying that Iowa's History Teacher of the Year knows a thing or two about history. But he may know even more on how to make history come alive, engaging students to pursue a subject that in the past emphasized rote memorization of dates and places.

James Heithoff, a seventh-grade social studies teacher at Winterset Junior High in the Winterset Community School District, is a 17-year education veteran. Here are some of his thoughts on history and the classroom.

Read [more](#).

## Data and Reporting

### Student Reporting in Iowa opens Jan. 6

What better way to celebrate the new year than to start working on your winter Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI)?

Just a few reminders:

- The system opens Jan. 6.
- All buildings are expected to submit data.
- The primary focus of winter SRI is curriculum.
  - a. Public and nonpublic: Courses offered and taught in each accreditation area
  - b. For public districts: Courses in programs for Career and Technical Education (CTE) - NOTE: Public districts must complete the Courses in a Program portion of the Secondary CTE Reporting Application prior to certifying winter SRI.
- Most districts now have the option to do a School Interoperability Framework (SIF) collection rather than creating flat files.
- Certification date is Jan. 31.

For questions or concerns regarding your accreditation report, contact an SRI consultant.

### Microsoft Cy Pres program ends in June

The Microsoft Cy Pres program will end on June 30. This date is both the final purchase date and final filing date for redemption paperwork. This may mean that if a district or elementary school is negotiating a purchase in June, part of the negotiation should be for the vendor to deliver the invoice to the district in time for the district to get it filed with the claims administrator before June 30.

The final date to file an addendum to your application is March 31. Remember, the focus is PK-3 literacy. Information can be found on the Iowa Department of Education [web page](#). Remind your teachers to take part in the teacher [survey](#) at RISE. For questions or concerns, contact [david.tilly@iowa.gov](mailto:david.tilly@iowa.gov).

### Iowa's teacher leadership systems shows positive results

The first school districts to launch teacher leadership plans through Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation System reported a positive impact on educators' professional climate and classroom instruction, according to an interim evaluation report released on Dec. 6 by the Iowa Department of Education.

Among the teachers and administrators in the first 115 school districts chosen to launch teacher leadership, 39 districts in the 2014-15 school year and 76 in 2015-16 reported greater availability, frequency and quality of teacher leadership roles, support through professional development, and collaboration among teachers compared to school districts that had not yet entered the system. Teachers and administrators also reported the system had improved instruction, teacher satisfaction and professional climate. Read [more](#).



# Early Childhood Preschool Programs

## SVPP requirements for professional development

School districts implementing the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SVPP) are required to make professional development available for all preschool staff [256C.3.4(d)]. According to Iowa Administrative Code 281—16.3(8), the professional development offered must be appropriate to the role of staff (teachers and teacher associates) within the early childhood classroom.

It is recommended that teachers receive a minimum of 15 hours of professional development annually. The methods for how professional development occurs are determined locally (e.g., joint professional development offered by the Area Education Agency, district-offered professional development or Professional Learning Communities, a combination of methods, etc.). Any professional development offered to district teachers must also be available to community partner teachers.

Teacher assistants must be [properly qualified](#) based on program standards and are expected to participate in professional learning opportunities annually. The requirements for renewal of paraeducator or Child Development Associate (CDA) professional certificates are determined locally.

Additional sources of information include the [SVPP Implementation FAQs](#) and the [Meeting Program Assurances and Requirements](#) webinar, both available on the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#).

For information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, contact Jennifer Adkins at 515-725-2219 or [jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.adkins@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

### New year, new resolutions, and new outlook

The New Year is finally upon us. It is that time of year to talk New Year's Resolutions. I have been waiting for a while to ring in 2017 and I am excited to see what great things it will bring. I am not really sure what to expect, but if I am optimistic I am hoping that optimism will be contagious. Last year I had pledged to unplug a bit more and I really think I did a better job of that. Less television, less cellphones, and more quiet – it was great. Of course, there is always room for improvement so I will keep working on that.

This year my resolution is to have a positive outlook and to embrace change. It is really hard when we get into a groove to let go of old things and old ways and welcome new things. I tend to resist change because change is scary, but change can be a really good thing, too.

I know in this New Year we will see change and lots of it, so my goal is to embrace it in a positive way. Whatever change comes my way I want to make it work for me. As we march into 2017 I hope you will embrace change too and make it work for you, your staff, your students, and your communities. I think it will be a great year. Cheers to 2017!

In this edition of legal lessons I bring you School Wellness Policies – Final Rule, U.S. Department of Education releases New Guides and Resources for Reducing Recidivism for Justice Involved Youth, another Video on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from the Privacy and Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), and information about the Safe at Home Program.

#### **School wellness policies final rule**

Local wellness policies are an important tool for parents, local educational agencies (LEAs), school districts, and nonpublic schools in promoting student wellness, preventing and reducing childhood obesity, and providing assurance that school meal nutrition guidelines meet the minimum federal school meal standards.

- In 2004, Congress passed the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act (Sec. 204 o). This act required all LEAs participating in the National School Lunch Program or other child nutrition programs create local school wellness policies by School Year 2006.
- In 2010, Congress passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Sec. 204 of Public Law 111-296), and added new provisions for local school wellness policies related to implementation, evaluation, and publicly reporting on progress of local school wellness policies.
- In 2014, the proposed rule for wellness policies was published in the Federal Register for public comments.
- On July 21, 2016, the final rule was published in the Federal Register. The final rule strengthens the requirements on public involvement, transparency, implementation, and evaluation among other topics. The final rule requires districts and non-public schools to begin revising local wellness policies during the 2016-2017 school year and fully comply with the final rule by June 30, 2017.

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## Legal Lessons continued

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School wellness policies are reviewed every three years by the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Service as part of the Administrative Review of Child Nutrition programs. The following are common Local Wellness Policy (LWP) non-compliance findings.

- Lack of various stakeholders on wellness committee
- Lack of documentation to show who was invited and/or attended committee meetings
- Wellness Committee does not assess implementation at each building
- LWP has not been reviewed or updated
- Updates have not been made available to the public
- LWP is a template that has not been individualized to the district
- Lack of leadership overseeing compliance

### **Resources to support wellness policy development, implementation, and assessment:**

[WEBINAR - School Wellness Policy Update](#): Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.:

- ◇ USDA Local Wellness Policy Final Rule
- ◇ Iowa Association of School Boards Sample Wellness Policy
- ◇ Child Nutrition Administrative Review School Wellness Questions
- ◇ School Wellness Policy Resources

[Local Wellness Policy Outreach Kit](#): designed to engage school staff and parents in school wellness efforts. The kit provides ready-to-go communication tools.

[DE's School Wellness Policy webpage](#): includes a wellness policy check list, Administrative Review Questions, school building progress report, and resources to assist with implementation.

[Sample Wellness Policy](#): Developed in partnership with the Iowa Association School Boards. Due to the substantive changes, the policy and regulation have been rewritten in their entirety.

Dioceses of Dubuque: has an excellent sample wellness policy for non-public schools to use as a guide.

[Example Nonpublic Policy](#).

For questions, contact Patti Delger at 515-281-5676 or [patti.delger@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.delger@iowa.gov).

### **The U.S. Department of Education's Privacy and Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) released a video and brochure for school volunteers**

The U.S. Department of Education's Privacy and Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) released a new guidance video on helping school volunteers learn about their responsibilities under FERPA to protect the privacy of student information. The release was also accompanied by a brochure that schools can use to notify volunteers of their legal responsibilities under FERPA. The video can be found on the PTAC website at [PTAC Guidance Videos](#) or directly on [YouTube](#) and the brochure is [here](#).

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### **The U.S. Department of Education releases new guides and resources for Reducing Recidivism for Justice Involved Youth**

On Dec. 2, the U.S. Department of Education's released new guides and resources to help justice-involved youth transition back into school. The guides and resources are aimed at helping a student successfully reenter the school setting with the support of family, mentors, facility staff, and school employees throughout the process. The resources include a guide "You Got This," a Transition Tool Kit, resources for students with disabilities, and other helpful information.

[News Release](#)

[Guides and Resources](#)

### **Safe at Home Program**

Survivors of assault and abuse often live in constant fear. Their days are filled with anxiety, knowing that their abuser or attacker might strike again. Sadly, this is a scenario many Iowans face every day. More than 3,000 convictions for domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking transpired in 2015. Many of us know someone who is a victim of one of these heinous crimes.

The state of Iowa has a program that gives survivors the chance to start over and return to safety. Safe at Home (SAH) launched in January 2016 and is administered by the Iowa Secretary of State's office. It is an address confidentiality program for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking, or violent crimes. SAH is open to Iowa residents and their minor children. Participants are assigned a substitute legal address that they can use in place of their actual, physical address. This is a Des Moines address, regardless of where the participant lives. The Safe at Home program then forwards mail to their actual address. The intent of the program is to prevent participants' addresses from showing on public records.



Those enrolled in the program are able to engage in civic activities such as voting via absentee ballot, obtaining a driver's license, and enrolling their children in school, while still ensuring their address remains private. The SAH program is most effective for participants who have recently relocated, as it is not possible to redact addresses that are already listed on public records.

If a school needs to verify that a participant resides in their district, the SAH office can confirm the district without providing the physical address. Send any requests on official letterhead and mail or e-mail them to the SAH office. The SAH office will call the requester back and confirm whether or not the participant lives in the district. To verify an individual's enrollment in the Safe at Home program, call the Safe at Home administrator at 515.725.SAFE (7233). The address of the participant is confidential, but the participation of the individual in Safe at Home is not confidential.

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## Legal Lessons continued

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As this program enters its second year, it's vital to continue to spread the word about Safe at Home. If a school or district would benefit from a presentation or would like to receive posters, brochures or informational cards to distribute about SAH, contact [SafeAtHome@iowa.gov](mailto:SafeAtHome@iowa.gov) or 515-725-SAFE.

For more information or to fill out an application, visit the [SAH website](#). Applicants are also encouraged to contact one of the following agencies to discuss their safety or to work with the SAH office: [Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) or 515-244-8028, [Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#) or 515-244-7424, and [Iowa Attorney General Crime Victim Services](#) or 515-281-5044.

For quarterly e-mail updates, sign up for the newsletter at [safeathome.iowa.gov](http://safeathome.iowa.gov).

### Students with Disabilities

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



# Calendar

Jan. 15 • Iowa Department of Education approval  
Deadline for Modified Supplemental Amount  
For At-Risk/Dropout Application



*It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, telephone number 312-730-1560, fax 312/730-1576, e-mail: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)*



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