



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

November 2014

New accreditation model on horizon

Iowa's model of accreditation and improvement for districts, Area Education Agencies, and pre-kindergarten programs is scheduled for a substantial makeover for the 2015-16 year.

The model, called Differentiated Accountability, is designed to reward high-functioning schools and programs with greater flexibility while giving more support to those that need it. It is being developed by the Iowa Department of Education with input from representatives from Area Education Agencies, school districts, institutes of higher education, Iowa State Education Association, School Administrators of Iowa and Iowa Association of School Boards.

The goal is to streamline the entire process, with an

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Getting to the 'core' of the matter

Our schools have been hard at work to put the Iowa Core into practice in classrooms. This is critical because part of having a great education system is having clear, consistent expectations statewide for what students should know and be able to do from the time they start kindergarten until they graduate from high school.

At the Department, we've taken two major steps recently to support this work.

First, we launched a new, user-friendly website, lowaCore.gov, to bring the standards into focus for all Iowans and to support Iowa educators who are working to implement the standards in schools.

For the education community, IowaCore.gov is about providing a collection of optional classroom resources that teachers can use to implement the standards. Teachers and school administrators have been asking for these resources, and now we're providing more than 8,000 items.

IowaCore.gov also includes materials that parents and other Iowans can use to search the standards, to understand what is expected of students, and to understand how families can help at home.

If you haven't visited IowaCore.gov, I would encourage you to take the time to explore and use this great website. Please tell others about it, and let us know how we can improve it. You'll find



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Radon testing in schools and large buildings

Schools are required to test for radon in preschool rooms and day care centers according to standards by the [Iowa Department of Human Services](#) and [Iowa Department of Education child care programs](#). The American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists/American National Standards Institute's (AARST/ANSI) "Protocols for Conducting Radon Measurements in Schools and Large Buildings" is currently out for public comment until Nov. 3. Therefore, we anticipate the new AARST/ANSI "Protocols for Conducting Radon and Radon Decay Measurements in Schools and Large Buildings" will become a final publication before the end of 2014.

In preparation for this document, schools wanting to perform radon measurements need to choose between hiring a licensed professional to do the radon measurements or having school staff perform the measurements. Regardless, anyone doing radon testing in schools, whether a licensed professional or school staff member, needs to be adequately trained on the new AARST/ANSI school radon measurement protocols. Training on the new school radon measurement protocols will become available shortly, so stay tuned for when this training will be available.

Another important item that all schools will need to do before performing radon measurements in their buildings is to have all heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) units inside and/or outside their buildings thoroughly inspected and documented for proper operation and maintenance. This procedure is required within the new protocol so that any maintenance and operation problems involving the HVAC system can be corrected and adjusted before radon testing is performed.

For more information about radon testing in schools, contact Rick Welke at the Iowa Department of Public Health, 515-281-4928 or richard.welke@idph.iowa.gov, or Gary Schwartz at the Iowa Department of Education, 515-281-4743 or gary.schwartz@iowa.gov.

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a feedback form under the "contact us" section of the website.

A second major development with regard to our Iowa Core work is a new statewide process for reviewing the standards. This process will allow us to build on the solid foundation already set by the standards. The first phase of this review process centers on our science standards.

A team of Iowans with expertise in science will spend time reviewing that portion of the standards and will make a preliminary recommendation for improving them. This recommendation will be taken to the public for feedback early next year. The feedback will be considered by the review team before it sends a final recommendation to my office and to the State Board of Education by next summer.

The review of science standards will be followed by reviews of social studies, math, English language arts and 21st century skills. Each review will follow a similar format. You can find more information about this process on the Department's website at educateiowa.gov.

I'll also be sure to keep you informed about this important review process, which will further strengthen the Iowa Core standards and ensure they are the right fit for Iowa. I support the Iowa Core 100 percent and have since I was a school administrator. It's the right work for kids and for the future of our state.



Five Iowa schools are 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools

Five Iowa schools are among 337 schools nationwide named 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools for their overall academic excellence or for their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups:

- Northeast Elementary School (Ankeny Community School District)
- Gilbert High School (Gilbert Community School District)
- South Central Calhoun Elementary School (South Central Calhoun Community School District)
- West Cedar Elementary School (Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District)
- St. Francis of Assisi School, West Des Moines

The U.S. Department of Education will honor 287 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 10-11 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.

Since 1982, nearly 7,900 schools in the U.S. have received the coveted award. Read more about the 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

Core website aims at educators' needs

The state's new [Iowa Core website](#) features over 8,000 no-cost resources and materials for educators that may help them implement the core.

The resources are searchable online at IowaLearns.org, which is accessible through the Educator Resources tab at IowaCore.gov. The materials are adaptable to fit the individual needs of local classrooms.

The Educator Resources also include:

Instructional resources. Teacher tools to help design instruction that supports all students meet Iowa Core expectations. This includes sample units, scope and sequence documents, and additional guidance for teachers.

Implementation resources. Planning, professional learning and observational tools to help leaders implement the Iowa Core. This includes professional development modules and guidance for Iowa Core planning.

Assessment resources. Teacher tools to help engage in assessment for learning and assessment of learning the Iowa Core. This includes things like examples of formative assessment practices and assessment items.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey scheduled for early 2015

The Iowa Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is being planned. About 35 Iowa public high schools (grades 9-12) will be randomly selected to participate. The survey will take place in early 2015.

The YRBS was developed to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute to leading causes of mortality, morbidity and social problems among youth. The behaviors fall into six categories: unintentional/intentional injury, tobacco use, alcohol/other drug use, sexual behavior, unhealthy dietary behaviors, and physical inactivity. The survey takes one normal class period to complete and is anonymous.

Counties, school districts and students are not identified. As a symbol of appreciation, a monetary incentive is provided. The goal is for weighted data so that results may be applied to all students in Iowa.



Safe, supported schools focus of grants

If children perceive their environments as safe and supportive, academic performance improves. That is the basis for two federal grants that the Iowa Department of Education has received totaling \$13.2 million. Aimed at making schools safer and more supported, the two grants support mental health and behavior efforts. A third federal grant totaling \$257,000 will go toward helping school districts develop and implement high-quality school emergency operations.

The \$9.6 million grant is a partnership of the Iowa Department of Education and three of the highest-needs districts in the state: Davenport, Sioux City, and Waterloo. A total of 300 professionals will be trained as instructors in the Youth Mental Health First Aid program, which focuses on helping adolescents ages 12 to 18 who are experiencing mental health or addictions challenges. The newly trained instructors, in turn, will train an additional 2,250.

The grant will complement the \$3.6 million grant aimed at behavior within the schools. Called the Iowa School Climate Transformation grant, this will focus on six as-yet unnamed rural districts, in addition to Davenport, Sioux City and Waterloo.

The central focus of the grant will be to train educators to use effective strategies in dealing with behavior issues that can impact classrooms. The emphasis will be on incorporating [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#).

Finally, the School Emergency Management grant will be used to help every school in Iowa develop a plan that will emphasize safety within the buildings. That includes prevention, protection, and mitigation activities.

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emphasis on incorporating healthy indicators to determine which schools will be scheduled for visits.

The specifics of the model haven't been formalized yet, including whether it will be rolled out as a pilot project or statewide. But it's important to note that the previous site schedule through 2020 has been eliminated. What that means is that schools originally scheduled for site visits next year might not be in the new schedule for 2015-16.

Look to future issues of School Leader Update for more information on this as it becomes available. To learn more about this, go to the [Differentiated Accountability](#) page on the Department's website. Amy Williamson, bureau chief for School Improvement, will be speaking at superintendents' meetings this fall to provide details on the plan and opportunities for questions.

Data and Reporting

E-Rate webinar: Completing form 470

The E-rate program is undergoing significant changes for the 2015 funding year (2015-16 school year). While the form 470 has not undergone many modifications, the services that are E-rate eligible are now more focused on broadband. To ensure you apply for the correct eligible services, you are encouraged to participate in one of the informational webinars (no advance registration needed).

E-Rate form 470: (select one)

- Wednesday, Nov. 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Connect [here](#).
- Thursday, Nov. 13, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Connect [here](#).
- Wednesday, Nov. 19, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Connect [here](#).
- Thursday, Nov. 20, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Connect [here](#).

For those unable to participate in any session, a recording will be made available after Nov. 20 by connecting [here](#).

Training webinars for completing the new E-rate form 471 will be announced in the December SLU. For questions, contact Pamela Jacobs at pam.jacobs@iowa.gov or 515-975-0071.

Districts receive ELL grant aimed at boosting literacy

Denison, Des Moines and Postville school districts won a state grant in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education to boost the literacy skills of students who don't speak English as their native language.

The goal of the grant program is to develop effective literacy programs in each school district to raise the achievement of students identified as English Language Learners. Each program will apply research-based practices, clear achievement goals and a system to evaluate its impact on student performance.

The grant program was created by Iowa lawmakers. It provides \$500,000 for the first year, with the possibility of \$1.5 million over three years, depending upon state appropriations. Read more about the program by clicking [here](#).

Licensees need to keep up-to-date on financial obligations

State law requires licensees to comply with financial obligations to state and local governments, student loan and child support obligations, and board orders. Under Chapter 272D of the Iowa Code, the Iowa Department of Revenue is empowered to direct the Board of Educational Examiners to suspend a practitioner's license if that practitioner has outstanding debts with the



Department of Revenue. It is important to be aware of this possibility, particularly since this practice has become more common over the last couple of years.

If the licensee does not make any contact with the Department of Revenue within 60 days of notification, the license is immediately and indefinitely suspended. Once notified of this suspension, the licensee could be subject to additional sanctions for working while under suspension. For questions, contact Darcy Lane, BoEE attorney at 515-242-6506 or darcy.lane@iowa.gov.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Shared Visions: How to apply for preschool funding

Instructions for the fiscal year 2016 Shared Visions Preschool Program application will be available on the [Shared Visions Preschool Program web page](#) beginning Nov. 10. Applications will be submitted to the Iowa Department of Education through the online grant application system, [Iowa-Grants.gov](#). Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis contingent upon the state appropriation.

Shared Visions Preschool funding shall be used to provide comprehensive child development programs for children ages 3 to 5 who are considered most at-risk.

Questions submitted in writing to Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov will be addressed in a *Frequently Asked Questions* document and made available on the Shared Visions Preschool Program web page.

IQPPS Desk Audits for 2014-15

School districts receiving an Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) desk audit this year will not receive an onsite IQPPS verification visit this school year. Instead, in response to the desk audit, materials will need to be prepared by the school district administration and shared with the Iowa Department of Education in electronic format by Dec. 19.

Go to the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#) under "IQPPS Verification" to download the Desk Audit Form. This form will need to be completed and submitted electronically along with all evidence addressing assurances and criteria indicated in the Desk Audit Form.

A list of school districts that will receive a desk audit was posted to the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program](#) web page in May.

For more information on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, contact Penny Milburn at penny.milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844, Jennifer Adkins at jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov or 515-725-2219 or Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov or 515-725-2273.



Nutrition and Health Services

Ebola and your school (Hint: the flu is the *real* concern)

With Ebola making national headlines, the Iowa Department of Public Health has put out guidelines with which school personnel should be familiar.

Students who have had someone in their household recently return from Guinea, Sierra Leone, or Liberia within the last 21 days pose no risk to others at the school, and need to continue their education.

If an Iowa student is found to have been exposed to a confirmed case of Ebola, the student will be put into quarantine before becoming a risk for spreading the virus to others or contaminating the environment. Public Health officials are responsible for assessing who has been exposed or potentially exposed to the Ebola virus, determining what actions are appropriate, and ensuring those actions are carried out. These actions will protect others in the community.

Symptoms of Ebola may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to a person who is ill with Ebola, but the average is 8 to 10 days. Symptoms include a fever greater than 101 degrees, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain and/or unexplained bleeding or bruising.

Preventive measures are key in the unlikely event that there should be an outbreak in Iowa. No disinfectants are specifically recommended for use against Ebola; however, disinfectants labeled for use on non-enveloped viruses (i.e. norovirus, rotavirus, adenovirus or poliovirus) are effective against Ebola, and can be used on surfaces thought to be contaminated. No additional cleaning measures are recommended at this time for Ebola; however, as the influenza season is about to begin, additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces should be considered to reduce the spread of the flu.

If a school suspects a student may have Ebola, it should immediately contact the Iowa Department of Public Health at 800-362-2736 or 515-323-4360 for guidance. For more information on Ebola, click [here](#).

How to improve school breakfast

Are you interested in improving school breakfast or, if breakfast isn't currently served, starting up a school breakfast program for your students?

We invite you to participate in a survey being conducted by the University of Iowa and the Iowa Department of Education. The purpose of the survey is to better understand what school administrators think about the breakfast program at your schools and determine ways to increase participation in school breakfast. As you well know, starting the day with breakfast has been associated with improved academic performance, improved classroom behavior and attentiveness, and fewer visits to the nurse.

If you are interested in giving your input, click [here](#) to complete the short survey. It will not be possible to link you to your responses on the survey. If you have any questions, contact Patti Delger at patti.delger@iowa.gov.





Legislative Update

Contact Shan Seivert for all legislative items at shanlyn.seivert@iowa.gov or 281-3399.

Staying the course

Wow, I am already entering my third month as the policy liaison. Needless to say, my head is spinning and most days I feel lucky to find my way to work! I thought it might be a good time to share a few unique experiences that I have enjoyed while at the Iowa Department of Education.

During my second week, a nice, casually dressed man came to my office and informed me I was being arrested. He did not read me my rights nor was I told what I had done to be arrested. Since I am a law-abiding citizen, I did as the gentleman told me and was escorted to the third floor of the Department, where I was placed in a temporary cell. Thankfully my bail was only a quarter so there were a few people willing to pay, which made my jail time brief. Since I was a model jailbird, I was provided with a glow bracelet as a parting gift.



You're probably wondering what type of jail requires a quarter for bail and gives parting gifts. Luckily, my jail time was a result of the annual Department fair that raises money for great causes. This year a total of \$1,420.50 (\$1,285.50 for Youth Emergency Services and Shelter; \$135.00 for ALS) was raised! It was all in good fun!

The other fun experience was watching Director Buck take the ice bucket challenge. I have seen many people endure the peer-pressured icy shower on television, but had yet to see one happen live! He handled it like a real trooper!

Another unique experience includes my predecessor Mike Cormack. When you begin a new job, it is so helpful to receive input from the person who held the position before you. Usually that is a luxury, but unfortunately not the reality. Lucky for me, I am working in the lap of luxury! Mike accepts all my calls, answers my endless questions and does so with unbelievable patience and grace.

If you are a regular reader of the School Leader Update, you know that the Department has experienced three significant years in legislation and our current focus is to "stay the course" and concentrate on the implementation in several key areas.

A high priority is early literacy. Iowa Code sections 279.68 and 281 promote effective evidence-based programming, instruction and assessment practices across schools to support all students to become proficient readers by the end of the third grade. All public districts in Iowa will share \$8 million for implementation.

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Legislative Update continued

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House File 215 established the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system. The initiative is phased-in, beginning with \$3.5 million in planning grants during the 2013-14 school year (which all school districts applied for and received). Following the planning year, \$50 million was available for implementing local plans during the 2014-15 school year and another \$50 million will be available for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. School districts with an approved plan receive roughly \$309 per pupil. It is important to remember that after a district's initial year of participation, the funding rolls into the school funding formula. When the program is fully implemented in the 2016-17 school year, the state's contribution will be \$150 million per year, plus an annual growth factor. Participation in the system remains optional.

The Department is currently developing a system to monitor and measure the effectiveness of the TLC system related to the goals included in the legislation.

Another important piece of legislation is Iowa Learning Online (ILO). The HF 215 has appropriated \$1.5 million for each of the next three fiscal years to the Department to expand its virtual learning program.

HF 215 sets the stage for a new accountability assessment system for both public and accredited nonpublic schools. A task force was created and will provide recommendations by Jan. 1, with the goal of the new assessment being implemented during the 2016-17 school year.

HF 215 also established a Council on Educator Development to study and make recommendations for new statewide teacher and administrator development and evaluation systems.

Another key area is the Teach Iowa initiative, which combines three components to attract great teachers to the profession. The three components are the Scholars Program, Student Teaching Pilot and the Job Posting System. The components are designed to prepare teachers for the classroom and connect them to job opportunities.

Senate File (SF) 2347 (the 2014 education appropriations legislation) appropriated \$500,000 for the development of criteria and administration of a process for school districts to establish specific performance goals and to evaluate the performance of each attendance center. For further details, refer to the [Attendance Center Performance Rankings Legislative Report](#) that was developed in July.

Another priority included in SF 2347 is providing support for English Language Learners. The legislation includes three provisions to ensure support:

- English Language Literacy Grant Program: Appropriates \$500,000 for the grant program. (Deadline to apply was in October.)

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- Standards: Directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules to establish standards for the identification, selection, and use of research-based educational and instructional models for students identified as limited English proficient and standards for the professional development of instructional staff responsible for implementing the models.
- Limited English Proficiency – Weighting: Clarifies the length of time for weighted enrollment (cumulative, not exceeding five years and those years need not be consecutive).

As you may have surmised, our message for the 2015 Legislature will be “Stay the Course.” There were and are so many great priorities and key areas that our focus needs to remain on implementation.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding policy or legislative issues. I can be reached at my office at 515-281-3399, on my cell at 515-326-5595 and by email at shanlyn.seivert@iowa.gov.



Legal Lessons

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

Opting out, equal access and disciplinary practices

I can hardly believe it is already November. The school year is already flying by. I can already feel the brisk winter air when I walk into work in the morning. In the next few weeks, the leaves will be gone from the trees and we will be preparing for another winter. As much as I don't like long cold winters, I really appreciate the change in seasons. We all need a change in perspective from time to time, and for me I find that my perspective changes along with the change in seasons. I always look forward to upcoming holidays and spending time with family and friends. With the cooler weather comes more time in the house, which means hot cocoa, baking, crafts, movies, and some much needed snuggle time with my kids. They are growing so quickly now and I know they will not always be this little. For now, my perspective is focused on them as they change throughout the year. I am reminded that each day, each month, and each year is precious and I am thankful for it all.

In this November edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you some appropriate topics for this time of year. Here is some information on Opting Out of Testing, Guidance from U.S. Department of Education on Equal Access for All Students to Educational Resources, and an announcement from the USDE Office of Civil Rights regarding a Voluntary Resolution in a School Discipline Investigation.

Can you opt out of testing?

The Iowa Department of Education has received requests from parents and others that students be opted out of statewide assessments, district-wide assessments, and other assessments of student performance. The law provides for no opt out.

The law requires that all Iowa students be assessed.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 (hereinafter NCLB) each state shall demonstrate that it has a statewide accountability plan that takes into account the achievement of “*all* public elementary school and secondary school students.” NCLB, § 1111(b)(2)(A)(i), (b)(2)(C)(i), (ix) (emphasis added). The United States Department of Education has adopted rules implementing these statutory provisions. See, e.g., 34 C.F.R. §§ 200.2(b)(1), 200.6

Similarly, Iowa law requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding assessment of and reporting of student achievement. Iowa Code § 256.7(21). Pursuant to that statutory authority, the State Board promulgated a rule requiring “assessment of student progress for *all* students.” Iowa Admin. Code r. 281—12.8(1)(f) (emphasis added).

The requirement in federal and state law to report participation rates on statewide assessments does not change the obligation imposed by the plain language of state and federal law to assess all children.

The Iowa Code and implementing administrative rules also require all students be assessed in multiple other contexts. See, e.g., Iowa Code § 279.68 (early literacy statute); Iowa Admin. Code ch. 281—62.

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Legal Lessons continued

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The law contains no provision for parents to opt children out of assessments.

None of the statutes, regulations, and rules in state or federal law give the parents the authority to opt their children out of accountability assessments. They use the term “all,” and “all” as a statutory term “usually does not admit of an exception, addition or exclusion.” *Consolidated Freightways Corp. v. Nicholas*, 258 Iowa 115, 137 N.W.2d 900 (1965). The statutory scheme at issue conforms to this longstanding general rule.

NCLB contains limited provisions that allow children to participate in different assessment activities, but those are narrowly drawn and do not amount to a parental opt out. See, e.g., 34 C.F.R. § 200.6. NCLB’s parental involvement provisions also do not contain a provision allowing for opting out. NCLB § 1118. Likewise, Iowa education law contains references to unilateral parent “opt outs,” which are conspicuously absent from the statutes on assessment. See, e.g., Iowa Code §§ 256.11(6)(a) (physical education, physical activity, or CPR course, if conflicts with religious belief); 279.50(5) (human growth and development instruction). In the absence of such a specific authorization of parents to opt children out of assessments, the Department lacks the authority to approve of granting such requests.

Local school districts determine the consequences for withholding children from testing.

Although the law requires all children to be assessed, the law also does not specify consequences for parents who withhold their children from assessment. In the absence of specific consequences spelled out in statute, the general rule of local control is followed: consequences for participating or not participating in required assessments are determined at the local level. The Department will not interfere in those local determinations if those are reasonable.

USDE’s Office of Civil Rights issues a Dear Colleague Letter on equal access for all students to educational resources

On Oct. 1, the USDE issued a Dear Colleague letter reminding districts of their responsibility to provide equal access for all students to educational resources without regard to race, color, or national origin. This guidance outlines the standards set in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This is part of President Obama’s overall equity agenda and the push for schools and school districts to improve equity on a local level. See the Dear Colleague letter below.

[Press Release](#)

[Dear Colleague Letter](#)

[Resource Comparability Materials](#)

Districts should take the time to review this guidance to make sure they are in compliance with federal civil rights laws when dealing with issues of equal access for students. For questions, regarding Equity Issues, contact Margaret Jensen Connet at 515-281-3769 or margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov.

USDE’s Office of Civil Rights announces a voluntary resolution with Mississippi’s Tupelo public school

On Sept. 25, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) announced that it reached a voluntary resolution with the Tupelo Public School District in a two-year long investigation into the district’s school disciplinary practices. This announcement reminds school districts that they need to be reviewing their civil rights data to see if there are any disparities in the data that need to be addressed by the dis-

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Legal Lessons continued

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trict. A district that is proactive in reviewing this data and making changes to its practices based on the data is far less likely to have a visit from OCR. See the link to the press release and a copy of the resolution letter below.

[Press Release](#)

[Agreement](#)

[Civil Rights Data Collection](#)

For questions, regarding equity issues involving school discipline, contact Margaret Jensen Connet at 515-281-3769 or margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov.

USDE's Office of Civil Rights issues guidance on bullying of students with disabilities

On Oct. 21, as part of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights issued guidance to schools reminding them to be vigilant of bullying and harassment situations involving students with disabilities. Under federal law, if a student with a disability is being bullied, schools are required to take immediate action to investigate, stop bullying, and prevent it from reoccurring. This guidance makes it clear that protections exist for students under both the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. See the Dear Colleague letter below.

[Press Release](#)

[Dear Colleague Letter](#)

For questions, regarding Bullying and Harassment, contact consultant Barb Anderson at (515) 664-6732 or barb.anderson@iowa.gov. For questions regarding students with disabilities, contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or thomas.mayes@iowa.gov.



Calendar

The Core and the IEP

The Core-and-more battle cry in educating students on Individualized Education Programs turned to boots-on-the-ground reality this fall as teachers unpacked the Iowa Core in earnest. That's because the Iowa Core is now required in all schools, all grades.

And though teachers found it daunting at first, they are finding they love it.

Two teachers, one from Ames, the other from Madrid, talk about their experiences with the Iowa Core in the November issue of [Each and Every Child](#).

- November 1 • School Board Officers Report due
- November 17 • School Associations Report due



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



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