



School Leader Update

Iowa Department of Education

JUNE 2005

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

NEWS FROM THE DE

Progress on state priorities

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

- The legislature raised the level of funding for early childhood programs by \$21 million, although it still awaits the Governor's signature. The money will be used to increase access to early childhood education, and to implement the early childhood standards.

FOCUS ON HIGH SCHOOLS: The department, in collaboration with other Iowa educational partners, continues to keep a focus on middle and high schools as a follow-up to the December High School Summit. The following efforts are currently underway:

- DE Director Judy Jeffrey and State Board members have completed nearly all of their high school review meetings. They have met with the superintendents, board presidents and high school principals to discuss high school expectations, curriculum and graduation data, as well as opportunities for making improvements. A summary of the information gathered, and potential recommendations, will be given to the State Board and Governor later this summer.
- A summary also is being written of the data gathered from the series of 12 community conversations. Contact Rita Martens at rita.martens@iowa.gov.
- Both summaries will be combined into a plan of action for the DE, in collaboration with the entire education network and other educational organizations, as well as state entities involved with business and industry, economic development and cultural affairs. The plan is expected to be unveiled this fall.
- The statewide High Schools Leadership Team continues to coordinate the various initiatives aimed at high school improvements. Contact Glenn Grove at ggrove@aea13.org for details.
- Each of the area education agencies has identified at least one person to facilitate and lead regional discussions with high school leadership teams. This past winter, 34 individuals received training in Breaking Ranks II that was provided by six trainers and sponsored by SAI. Contact your local AEA for details on high school leadership discussions in your region.
- Wallace Grant funding (via the DE and SAI) will be available to AEAs to support the initial high school improvement activities.

TRANSITIONS: A SEAMLESS EDUCATION SYSTEM

- The DE, community colleges and four-year colleges and universities will use information from the community conversations and high school visits to discuss how they can best meet the needs of students with regard to rigorous coursework, sharing resources, and ensuring all students are adequately prepared for successful employment.

Iowa Grants Symposium: Exploring private funding resources for government entities

August 18, 2005

Iowa State Historical Building
Des Moines, Iowa

The Iowa Grants Symposium, sponsored by the Iowa Grants Enterprise Management Office (GEM\$), has been developed to help make private funding sources more comprehensible and accessible to Iowa's state and local government entities.

The day will begin with a discussion of Community Foundations and the County Endowment Fund legislation. This will be followed by a panel discussion featuring representatives from The Wellmark Foundation, the Iowa West Foundation and the Alliant Energy Foundation. They will each discuss various aspects of their grant process, such as the qualities they look for in successful grant applications, the importance of building relationships with potential funders and their reasons for denying applications.

Four breakout sessions are planned for the afternoon. Attendees will choose two sessions from the following:

- Endow Iowa
- 501(c)(3) Status for Government Affiliated Entities
- How to Begin! A proactive approach to seeking grants
- Locating Private Funding Resources

There is a \$25 registration fee, which includes morning refreshments, lunch and an afternoon break. Please refer to the GEM\$ web site, [www.iagem\\$.gov](http://www.iagem$.gov), for additional information and to register.

Nominate a teacher for national award

The U.S. Department of Education is still seeking nominations for its second annual American Stars of Teaching project, which recognizes outstanding teachers. The American Stars of Teaching project is part of the U.S. Department of Education's continuing effort to focus attention on exemplary classroom teachers who are successful in using innovative teaching strategies and raising student academic achievement for all of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored this fall as 2005 American Stars of Teaching. These teachers will be highlighted as representatives of the thousands of teachers who are making a difference in the lives of their students. One teacher, or team of teachers from a school, will be recognized in every state. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators or others can nominate a teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching. To nominate a teacher, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/american-stars.html>.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislature adjourns

The longest legislative session in 20 years concluded Friday, May 20, at 11 p.m. A total of 2,099 separate pieces of legislation were filed over the last five months. Direct access to all filed bills can be found at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Legislation.html>. Enrolled bills are those that passed both houses of the legislature. To know whether a given enrolled bill is in final form, look at the bottom of the bill for signature lines for the leaders of both the House and Senate. All enrolled bills can be found at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/GA/81GA/Session.1/Affected/05enroll.htm>. Note that once a bill passes both sides of the legislature and is messaged to the Governor, he has 30 days to sign the bill. As many bills, particularly the appropriations bills, were finalized on the last day of the session, the Governor will have until June 20, 2005 to sign, veto, or line-item veto these bills. Until then, all conversation about "what" bills contain is tentatively based on the enrolled versions of the bills.

The Department's Legislative Update web site can help you find those bills that have a direct impact on education. The only bills labeled as "fast track" bills on this web site are those that are enrolled (passed both sides) and pending action from the Governor. You can access the Department's Legislative Update page at <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/legisupdate.asp>. The Department will publish a detailed summary of legislative action on its web site once the Governor takes final action.

Funding Highlights

- Increased overall education funding by \$64,329,825
- Increased Community College funding by \$9,800,000
- Increased Early Childhood funding by \$21,150,000
- Increased Teacher Quality funding by \$24,300,000

Policy Highlights

Bills passed by both Houses (pending Governor's action)

SF 36 – Allowable Growth

- Sets the allowable growth rate for FY07 at 4 percent.

SF 245 – Core Curriculum Goal and Reporting

- Establishes an 80% goal for students taking a model core curriculum established by the State Board of Education
- Requires a 4-year high school plan for all students by the end of 8th grade that includes annual reporting of progress toward the core curriculum.

SF 342 – Supplemental Appropriations Bill

SF 346 – Federal Block Grants Bill

SF 403 – Cost of Public Records Requests

HF 423 – Athletic Participation

HF 739 – Iowa Learning Technology Commission and Pilots

HF 742 – Early Intervention/Class Size Reduction Policy Bill

HF 761 – Early Childhood Policy Bill

HF 772 – Violations to Open Meeting Laws

HF 816 – Education Appropriations

- Creates an Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce Foundation
- Authorizes new National Board Certification applicants
- Funds the equivalent of one day of Professional Development under Teacher Quality at \$10 million to be distributed per FTE and average per diem.
- Provides \$6.625 million new dollars for salaries or professional development distributed per the compensation formula in IC 284.

HF 825 – Human Services Appropriations

HF 868 – Grow Iowa Values Fund

HF 875 – Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)

HF 882 – Standing Appropriations Bill

- Funds Shared Visions at same level as last year
- Provides \$500,000 for HF 739 pilots
- Makes adjustments to open enrollment statute
- March 1 regular application deadline
- Good cause open enrollment decisions back to resident district
- SILO certificate of need limited to school districts smaller than 250
- Funded Early Intervention/Class Size Reduction at same level as last year
- Adjusts school district budget guarantee provisions
- Legalizing language for school foundations

HF 883 – Corrective Action for Linn Co. School Tax Issue

Some notable bills that did not pass

HF 55 – Before/after school allowable growth

HF 340 – Sale of ICN assets

HF 596 – Add sexual orientation to Civil Rights law

HF 729 – IPERS

HF 732 – PreK and K funding adjustments

HF 740 – DE misc. bill

HF 741 – Driver education by teaching parent

HF 848 – Adjust School Foundation level to 100%

HF 853 – Tax credit for contributions to school tuition organizations

HF 873 – Recommendations from Governance Task Force on government efficiencies

SF 27 – Iowa Studies curriculum

SF 220 – PPEL expansion and school early start data

SF 406 – Bullying and harassment

SF 416 – Community college levy, cigarette tax increase, and adjustment to school foundation level

SSB 1159 – Educator Quality policy enhancements

Questions? Contact Jeff Berger, 515/281-3399, jeff.berger@iowa.gov.

Competent Private Instruction — deadline for reporting student progress

Thursday, June 30, 2005, is the deadline for families of students receiving CPI to report results of standardized tests or portfolio evaluations to their school district of residence. Standardized test scores should show the national percentile rank and national grade equivalent. School districts then report these test scores to the DE June 30. Districts must also submit Form C-1 if the child falls below the 30th percentile on the annual assessment.

Contact: Elizabeth Calhoun at 515/281-8170 or elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov .

Tools for implementing the District Career Development Plan at the building and district level

The *Building Level Professional Development Plan Workbook* is a tool to help districts that choose to implement the District Career Development Plan (DCDP) at the building level. The DCDP is part of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) and is required of public school districts. The optional building level plan for professional development is recommended to clarify the actions needed to address student-learning needs and design professional development at the building level. The workbook follows the Iowa Professional Development Model and provides a series of steps and suggestions for school teams to use as they build a plan for implementing the DCDP. For buildings that already have a professional development plan in place, the workbook may be used to review the plans to ensure that all essential elements are in place. It is recommended that the building plan be developed jointly by the school administrator, teachers, and others. Use this workbook to help the leadership team consider the district and building data and goals, as well as the local context for planning, making decisions, and communicating information.

A *Workbook for Describing the District Career Development Plan* is also available on the DE website. This workbook provides a tool for the district professional development leadership team to study the CSIP and organize the elements of the District Career Development Plan into a brief professional development document. This document may be used to share information about professional development among faculty members and other stakeholders. A succinct document about district-level professional development will also assist in developing building plans and individual teacher career development plans.

Both workbooks are companions to the *Iowa Professional Development Training Manual*. For an electronic version of the *Building Level Professional Development Plan Workbook*, the *Workbook for Describing the District Career Development Plan*, and the full text of the *IPDM Training Manual* see:

<http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/tqt/tc/prodev.html>.

Questions? Contact Deb Hansen, 515/281-6131, deb.Hansen@iowa.gov.

The contact for items under Legal Lessons is Carol Greta, Legal Consultant, 515/281-8661, carol.greta@iowa.gov.

New legislation affects schools

Three new laws of interest to education stakeholders passed by legislators this year become effective this coming July 1, and you'll find a brief summary below. Remember, the status of all bills (with links to the exact language) may be viewed at the DE's web site. The URL is: <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/legisupdate.asp>.

1. Transfer students and athletic eligibility (H.F. 423)

As of July 1, when a high school student transfers into an Iowa high school without a contemporaneous family move or other exception allowed by law, that student is still ineligible to compete for the new high school in interscholastic athletics, but the ineligibility is limited to *varsity* level sports. During the 90 school days of

ineligibility, the student may participate and compete at any non-varsity level – junior varsity, freshman, and/or sophomore teams.

The other change brought about by this bill is to change the open enrollment law's provision about eligibility for athletics. Currently, 282.18(13) states, "A pupil who participates in open enrollment for purposes of attending a grades in grades ten through twelve" Come July 1, this is changed to "grades nine through twelve." Also, students who transfer via open enrollment may also participate and compete at any non-varsity level – junior varsity, freshman, and/or sophomore teams during the 90 school days of ineligibility.

2. Violations of open meetings and open records law (H.F. 772)

The major change here is from "three strikes" to "two strikes." That is, a member of a governmental body may be removed from office by a court of competent jurisdiction if that member violates either the open meetings law or open records law twice, not the three times as now provided.

3. Costs related to open records requests (S.F. 403)

Previously, Iowa Code section 22.3 allows public bodies to charge for the "cost" of providing copies of public records. The law has been changed to state that the "actual cost" is allowed to be charged. The definition of "actual costs" states that they "include only those expenses directly attributable to supervising the examination of and making and providing copies of public records. Actual costs shall not include charges for ordinary expenses for costs such as employment benefits, depreciation, maintenance, electricity, or insurance associated with the administration of the office of the lawful custodian."

FOOD & NUTRITION

Guidelines for School Wellness policies

To assist districts with their School Wellness policies that are due July 2006, several Informational ICN sessions are being offered through IPTV's K-12 Connections. Iowa Partners for Healthy Kids, including ISU Extension, the Iowa Department of Education, and IPTV, will be offering two different ICN sessions:

Introduction to Local School Wellness Policies

This one-hour session, offered on August 16 & 17, will be a general introduction to the *what* and the *why* of school wellness policies. The audience for this session is all school staff and the session will be offered several times throughout the two consecutive days. During the session, members of the panel will address what the policy means for Iowa schools as well as answer specific questions about how the policies may be shaped and implemented by local districts. Panel members will include physical activity and nutrition experts, representatives of various state agencies, and staff members of the Iowa Department of Education.

School Wellness Policy Process

This two-hour session, offered on August 18 & 19, will help local teams with the *how* of developing and implementing local school wellness policies. The audience for this session would be members of the local teams of educators, parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, the public and other stakeholders in the development of the local wellness policy. The session will be offered several times throughout the two consecutive days. Members of the panel will discuss the process of development and implementation as well as answer frequently asked questions. Panel members will include physical activity and nutrition experts, representatives of various state agencies, and staff members of the Iowa Department of Education.

Check the Iowa Distance Learning Database K-12 Calendar online for additional program information, times, and registration information. The following link will take you to a listing of the Iowa Distance Learning Database Upcoming Events by Title. Scroll to a title for one of these sessions, click for the additional detail, and register online at the bottom of the page. The sessions are offered at no cost to Iowa schools.

www3.iptv.org/iowa_database/calendar_list_title.cfm.

Taped sessions will be made available upon request at additional times via IPTV's K-12 Connections Educational Service throughout the 2005-2006 school year.

TOPICS YOU'LL SEE IN FUTURE ISSUES

New and emerging issues

We expect several issues to evolve over the summer, and we plan to provide guidance or information as soon as possible. Please watch for details in emails on specific topics or the summer issues of the School Leader Update. The new and emerging issues include:

- Guidance for AYP and APR reporting.
- Kindergarten assessments.
- Iowa's response to the USDE announcement about NCLB flexibility for students in special education.
- Constitution Day, which has been set for Sept. 17 of every year, on which all educational institutions that receive federal funds must provide an education program about the Constitution.
- Teacher Quality provisions, including the additional day of professional development.
- 2005-06 site visit schedule.

CALENDAR

Deadlines and Dates to Remember

June 7, 9	Emergency Preparedness: Safe Food in our Schools , via ICN
June 8-10	HIV/AIDS/STDs in Youth at Risk: Eliminating Disparities Among All Youth, Kansas City Airport Hilton.
June 30	CPI student progress reporting deadline.

HELPFUL EDUCATION LINKS

The DE Electronic Mailbag: <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ootd/mailbag.html>
IPTV education resources: http://www.iptv.org/educational_resources.cfm
School Administrators of Iowa: www.sai-iowa.org/
Iowa Association of School Boards: www.ia-sb.org
Iowa State Education Association: www.isea.org

SCHOOL LEADER UPDATE is produced monthly by the Iowa Department of Education for school leaders of Iowa. Comments and submissions should be sent to Kathi Slaughter, 515/281-5651, kathi.slaughter@iowa.gov.