



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

January 2018

Iowa Learning Online spring term enrollment closes soon

Enrollment is closing soon for the Iowa Learning Online (ILO) spring term. With more than 40 [course offerings](#) available, ILO provides high quality opportunities for your students to improve their digital learning skills. Each term includes a four-week trial/ grace period so that students and schools can make sure that it is a good match.

Spring 2018 Cohort A:

Jan. 2 to May 4 (early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. Jan 16)

Spring 2018 Cohort B:

Jan. 16 to May 18 (early enrollment ends at 4 p.m. Jan 29)

ILO is also piloting a new service, Branch Out, to help schools take the first step to offering their own online service to meet local district needs. ILO provides the infrastructure and high school courses, and the local school provides the teacher. Click the link for more information about ILO's [Branch Out](#).



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Looking at education through a different lens

I have learned over the last two-and-a-half years as director of the Iowa Department of Education that this role has a rhythm. Summer provides time for reflection in the midst of a rush to close out the fiscal year. Fall focuses on the launch of a new school year and brings countless opportunities to spend time in schools. Winter welcomes legislators back to the state Capitol, and spring (like the weather in Iowa) swirls a bit of everything together.



Director Ryan Wise

Each seasonal change brings different perspectives more clearly into focus. This fall, I visited 25 school districts and heard from hundreds of educators on challenges and opportunities they see in their schools. In December, I had the pleasure of hosting Senator Amy Sinclair, chair of the Senate Education Committee, and Walt Rogers, chair of the House Education Committee, at the Department of Education.

Legislators and educators often view issues through different lenses. As my former professor Jal Mehta states in *The Allure of Order*, "Policymakers see general properties of schools, things that can be counted and measured from afar. School people see the particulars; they may know little to nothing about the school landscape as a whole, but they know much, including much that is not easily measured, about the schools in which they sit."

The Iowa Department of Education fills the space between policymakers and educators. When I became director, I collaborated with Department staff to articulate our [five critical functions](#). First on the list was partnering with stakeholders to effectively implement federal and state education policy. The Department works hard to understand and, when appropriate, to help shape education policy so that we can assist schools when it comes to the critical work of

Continued on pg. 2

implementation.

I've seen many examples of policymakers and teachers working to understand each other's perspective. I've enjoyed accompanying Governor Reynolds on many school visits. I appreciate her authentic enthusiasm for expanding Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) opportunities for all students, and I find her belief in, and support of, teacher leadership inspiring.

I also enjoy working with legislators on committees. An example is the recent Computer Science Education Work Group. Representatives Monica Kurth and Tom Moore and Senators Rita Hart and Amy Sinclair joined alongside educators and business leaders from across the state to develop a set of recommendations for advancing computer science education in Iowa. This was a powerful example of how we can work together to build the connections between educators and policymakers.

As we begin a new year and a new legislative session, I look forward to supporting our legislators as they seek information to make informed policy choices and to helping educators as they implement those policies. Continued collaboration across role boundaries will ensure Iowa continues to provide a world-class education for all students.

Ryan M. Wise



Iowa Visiting Teachers from Spain Program

The Iowa Visiting Teachers from Spain Program enables foreign teachers to have the opportunity to teach in an accredited primary or secondary school in the United States under a J1 Visa for up to three years, with a possible two-year extension. This provides local school districts and nonpublic schools the opportunity to fill vacant Spanish and dual language teaching positions.



2017-18 Visiting Teachers from Spain

With this program, school systems from Iowa have the option of recruiting highly qualified Spanish educators for a period of up to three years and at the same time provide students, parents, and communities the opportunity to work with professionals from other countries.

The visiting teachers from Spain are certified Spanish language educators with at least three years of experience. As a J1 sponsor, local institutions are responsible for ensuring that exchange visitors and their host schools abide by the strict program rules and requirements established by the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security. Local school districts hire the visiting teachers in accordance with all other local policies in terms of salary scale, licensure, and local system requirements.

The Iowa Department of Education is now taking applications for 2018-19 from school districts that are interested in the possibility of hiring a teacher from Spain. Click [VTS application](#) to find the application and other information about the Visiting Teacher from Spain Program. For more information, contact Mary Smith-Johnson at 515-242-6014 or mary.smith@iowa.gov, or Isbelia Arzola at 515-326-5962 or isbelia.arzola@iowa.gov.

Preparing for the ELPA21 Assessment

Iowa's assessment of English language proficiency, the ELPA21, will be available for schools to administer from Feb. 13 through April 13. In order to be ready, school leaders should begin taking the following actions in January:



1. Ensure your local education agency has designated the correct District Test Coordinator(s), Building Test Coordinator(s), and Test Administrators in the Iowa ELPA21 application of the [Iowa Education Portal](#). New for this year, coordinators for non-public schools should request the role of "ELPA21_NP_Coord". For assistance, contact the Portal Helpdesk at ed.portal@iowa.gov or 515-725-2040.
2. Complete the online training modules now available at [AEA Learning Online](#). Modules are specific to each user role: District Technology Coordinator, District/Building/Non-Public Test Coordinator, and Test Administrator. Those administering paper tests (for accommodation or religious exemption only) also need to complete the appropriate Paper Test Administration module. Directions for accessing the modules can be found [here](#).
3. Coordinators should review student records in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) of the [Iowa ELPA21 Portal](#) to ensure they are current, including state IDs and student test settings. Add any new English Learners not included in the certified enrollment file from last fall. This is best done by utilizing the "English Language Learner" template found in your student information system and uploading the file directly to TIDE.

For questions regarding the ELPA21 assessment process, contact Jennifer Riedemann at 515-661-7066 or jennifer.riedemann@iowa.gov.

Accessible materials for students with vision impairment

The [Iowa Department for the Blind \(IDB\)](#) works with schools, teachers of the visually impaired, and parents through their Instructional Material Center (IMC). This center provides accessible instructional materials (AIM) for Iowa's K-12 and college students who are unable to use standard print.

The IMC produces accessible textbooks and worksheets in:

- Braille
- large print
- audio formats

A print or electronic copy of requested materials must be provided by the school district. IDB contacts the individual ordering the materials to request the print or electronic copies.



Transcription can be a lengthy process.

- Materials need to be requested as soon as identified.
- Textbooks are unbound during the transcription process and are not returned to the district.
- Districts must assign an additional print copy of the text for the student. If an additional copy needs to be purchased, districts should contact the publisher or purchase through another vendor such as Amazon.

Title III: Did you know?

Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Title III requires effective English Learner (EL) programming, effective staff development (including content and preschool teachers) and effective EL parent outreach and involvement.

Special Education

Many districts over-identify or under-identify English Learners with disabilities. The incidence of ELs on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) *should be comparable* to native English speakers on IEPs.

Preschool

While preschool does not generate funding for ELs, using Title III monies to supplement preschool programs and to train staff is a great use of funds.

Need for ELL Teachers

Grand View University has been awarded a \$2.5 million scholarship to focus on getting more teachers certified as K-12 English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers. Teachers across Iowa are eligible to participate in this K-12 ESL endorsement program. Teachers in grant partner districts can participate for free.

Assessment

The ELPA21 will be used for the third year this spring and a new screener will be used beginning Aug. 1.

Basic Iowa EL Data

Iowa serves nearly 30,000 English Learners.

Of these 30,000 ELs, nearly 20,000 attend in 10 districts.

District percentages of ELs range from 0 percent to 43 percent.

Our ELs speak 232 different languages from all over the world.

For questions, contact Pam McDonnell at 515-380-5115 or pam.mcdonnell@iowa.gov.

Teach Iowa account maintenance webinar support available

The Iowa Department of Education is offering webinar support sessions intended to provide technical assistance for Teach Iowa account maintenance. In preparation for the spring hiring season, we will address selecting application pages for specific postings and creating and maintaining appropriate account access. These sessions are appropriate for all HRAdmin account users, and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions specific to their context. Two sessions are being offered. Registration information is found below.

Session 1:

Topic: TeachIowa Spring Training

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 24

Time: 1 p.m., Central Standard Time



Host: Lori Massey

Session number: Not Available

Registration password: This session does not require a registration password.

Click [here](#) to register for this training session.

Session 2:

Topic: Teach Iowa Spring Training

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 24

Time: 3:30 p.m., Central Standard Time

Host: Lori Massey

Session Number: Not Available

Registration password: This session does not require a registration password.

Click [here](#) to register for this training session .

Subgrants enable expanded services for homeless students

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act provides competitive subgrants to districts to expand services to homeless children, to create greater awareness and sensitivity of district and school staff about the ways to identify students who may be homeless, and to provide additional services to these children to increase their chances for academic success.



The current three-year subgrant cycle began with the 2015-16 academic year. The next subgrant competition will begin this spring. Subgrant application requirements and forms will be available on the Iowa Department of Education website mid-March.

Subgrants are open to any public school district in Iowa that has identified and reported a minimum of 25 homeless students on Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI). Subgrants are awarded through a competitive grant process.

For additional information on homeless education, contact Carolyn Cobb Paulaitis at carolyn.paulaitis@iowa.gov.

Open enrollment transportation assistance for 2017-18

The transportation reimbursement for the 2017-18 school year for qualifying open-enrolled families is \$497. Transportation assistance is only available to families who open enroll between contiguous districts. The cost of transportation reimbursement incurred by the resident district should be deducted from the tuition sent to the receiving district. If the application for transportation assistance is filed after the beginning of the school year, the cost of providing the transportation should be pro-rated.

If a parent/guardian qualifies for school transportation assistance, the resident district has the authority to determine how the transportation assistance will be provided. The type of transportation assistance is not a parent/guardian choice. The resident district may meet its statutory obligation in one of three ways:

1. Provide transportation for the pupil(s) to a stop on the bus line of the receiving district;
2. Allow the receiving district to enter the resident district to pick up the pupil(s) if the receiving district requests this arrangement. If either the sending or receiving district does not approve the arrangement, the resident district is still obligated to provide transportation assistance;
3. The resident district may provide a parent/guardian with a cash reimbursement at \$497 per child each year for up to four children in a family. The maximum number of children can include only one secondary (9-12) child and up to three elementary (k-8) children. 281-IAC 17.9

Income guidelines can be found in the [Open Enrollment Handbook](#) on the Iowa Department of Education website. For additional information, contact Eric Heitz at 515-281-4726 or eric.heitz@iowa.gov.

Registration for Iowa Go Alliance Academy courses is open

Iowa Go Alliance Academy is a college and career counseling training program provided by Iowa College Aid in partnership with Southern Regional Education Board and AEA Learning Online. See best practices in action and gain knowledge and resources that can be incorporated in your work with students immediately. Courses are offered for license renewal or graduate credit through Drake University, Morningside University and Viterbo University. Space is limited, so register today.

Building a College-Going Culture for All Students How to remove barriers to higher education, especially for low-income, first-generation and minority students.

[January 22-March 16, 2018](#)

[March 2-April 20, 2018](#)

[June 11-July 27, 2018](#)

College, Career, and Academic Planning (Prerequisite: Building a College-Going Culture for All Students) How to engage students in early college and career awareness, and support students in postsecondary and career planning.

[January 22-March 16, 2018](#)

[March 2-April 20, 2018](#)

[June 11-July 27, 2018](#)

Financial Aid and College Applications (Prerequisite: Building a College-Going Culture for All Students) How to support students and families navigating the complexities of filing the FAFSA and other financial aid and college applications.

[January 22-March 16, 2018](#)

[March 2-April 20, 2018](#)

[June 11-July 27, 2018](#)

Maximizing Counselor Impact: Module for Administrators How school leaders can engage effectively with school counselors. Developed in collaboration with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

[January 22-March 16, 2018](#)

[March 2-April 20, 2018](#)

[June 11-July 27, 2018](#)

For more information about Iowa Go Alliance Academy and course availability, [e-mail Ashley McKenna](mailto:Ashley.McKenna@iowa.gov).

Implementing the math standards

Is your standards implementation coherent?

Build Knowledge: Mathematics standards are not isolated concepts. Standards relate to one another, both within and across grades. The Coherence Map is an interactive website that illustrates the coherent structure of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics K–8 and high school. This site provides one representation of how the standards are connected to each other, and is derived from this [wiring diagram](#).

- [The Coherence Webinar](#)
- [Supporting ALL Learners in Working with Grade-Level Mathematics](#)
- [The Structure is the Standards](#)

Understand Coherence: Use the Coherence Activity: Uncovering Progressions and Themes from the Deep Dive Into the Math Shifts Professional Development to support a stronger understanding of Coherence.

- [Coherence Card Activity from the Deep Dive into the Mathematics Shifts](#)
- [Lesson Planning Tool](#)

How to use the Coherence Map: Each of the standards is illustrated with tasks, lessons, and assessments, as well as excerpts from the progression documents. The Coherence Map and supporting resources can be used to:

- Build student understanding by linking together concepts within and across grades.
- Identify gaps in a student's knowledge by tracing a standard back through its logical prerequisites.
- Visualize and understand how supporting standards relate to the major work of the grade.

[Coherence Map](#) [Coherence IA Core Advocates](#) Implementing the Shifts in the Mathematic Standards <http://bit.ly/iacblog>.
For questions, contact April Pforts at 515-314-6243 or april.pforts@iowa.gov.

Transfer in Iowa web portal assists students with transfers

Iowa's Regent universities and community colleges have joined to create a web portal dedicated to assisting students with the transfer process. The site serves as a one-stop resource for students planning their future. The url for the site is www.transferiniowa.org.

Each year, thousands of students transfer from Iowa community colleges to one of the state's three public universities. Transferring from one college to the next can be a big step, but need not be complicated. The website contains resources helpful in educational planning as well as information for students to discuss with their counselor or advisor.

The top question transfer students ask: How will my credits transfer? Students can learn about how their community college courses transfer to each of the three state public universities by following the links on the website. The website contains resources explaining statewide articulation agreements and individual program-to-program articulation agreements by community college. These resources are useful for students planning to transfer as well as counselors and advisors.

In addition to online resources, it's always a good idea for students to discuss their plans with both a community college and university counselor or adviser. Contact information for the office or person responsible for transfer and articulation at each postsecondary institution is available on the site.

School districts should communicate information about the articulation website to all elementary and secondary school students interested in or potentially interested in attending a community college or Regent university.

[Resources and coaching networks](#)

No one has to go it alone! The Iowa Department of education is working to support educators in building their content knowledge and coaching skills in a range of areas through the resources and coaching networks.

[Iowa School Report Card updated and released](#)

The Iowa Department of Education released the latest results of the Iowa School Report Card, a web-based school ratings system.

[Iowa students selected for prestigious United States Senate Youth Program](#)

Two Iowa students have been selected to participate in the 56th annual United States Senate Youth Program to be held March 3-10 in Washington, D.C.

[District builds a culture of collaborative improvement](#)

Humboldt Community School District exemplifies the collaborative culture that is part of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) Framework for Learning Supports.

[Key to successful teacher leadership is collaboration](#)

A centerpiece of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) program is collaboration.

[Cedar Falls teacher named 'Grammy' finalist](#)

Michelle Droe, a music teacher from Lincoln Elementary School in Cedar Falls, has been named one of 10 finalists nationwide for the Grammy Music Educator Award.

[Does your student want to serve on the Board of Education?](#)

Applications are being accepted for the student member of the State Board of Education.

[National report shows Iowa is No. 1 in graduation rates again](#)

Iowa's graduation rate stands at 91.3 percent, up for the sixth year in a row.

[Does your district have the next Teacher of the Year?](#)

The deadline to nominate the 2019 Iowa Teacher of the Year is April 27.

[The flu and you](#)

It's flu season again, and there's mixed reviews just how bad it will be. But schools should work to be proactive to prevent the unnecessary spread of the flu.

Data and Reporting

Student Reporting in Iowa begins

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. 5
- 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): 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 Schools Interoperability Framework collection rather than creating flat files
- Certification date is Jan. 31.

Spring pilot for Iowa's Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation

Schools have an opportunity to participate in a spring 2018 pilot for the Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation (SAMI).

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires all schools identified as either Comprehensive or Targeted to engage in a needs assessment as they develop an action plan in 2018-19.

For Iowa, the SAMI is the needs assessment for schools. The SAMI was adapted for Iowa using an established self-assessment developed and validated by national experts - the Self-Assessment of MTSS implementation (SAM).

Iowa conducted a small pilot of the SAMI in spring 2017. The pilot can expand to any school that would like to volunteer and meets the criteria for participation. Click to access [details about the SAMI](#), including the two ways to be part of the pilot:

1. To be an On Your Own site, you will need a SAMI facilitator who will access online, self-paced modules that provides the information needed to facilitate a school leadership team to engage in discussions and complete the SAMI, complete the SAMI in your school leadership team, and complete brief surveys on the SAMI and the process. Click for more information about being an [On Your Own site](#), and to sign up.
2. To be a Facilitated Pilot site, you will need to attend a two-day Iowa Department of Education/ Area Education Agency facilitated session on April 5-6 with your school leadership team, complete the SAMI, and complete brief surveys on the SAMI and the process. Click for more information about being a [Facilitated Pilot site](#), and to sign up.

This is sponsored by Collaborating for Iowa's Kids (C4K) - a collaboration across the Iowa Department of Education, Area Education Agencies and Local Education Agencies to support Early Learning Standards/Iowa Core within an MTSS framework through Differentiated Accountability.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Updated procedures for GOLD®

[Iowa Code section 279.60](#) requires the use of the GOLD® online system in district sponsored preschool programs.

Teachers, practitioners, and administrators are encouraged to use the [updated Iowa GOLD® Procedures](#) to assist them in setting up and using GOLD® online. The Iowa GOLD® Procedures are also posted on more than one Iowa Department of Education web page as well as the Iowa dedicated page on Teaching Strategies' website.

Language regarding FERPA protections and data collection as described in Iowa Code § 279.60 has been included, as well as information regarding the use of home language surveys and data hygiene. Contact information is available at the end of the document for any needed technical assistance.

For information about GOLD® requirements, contact Jennifer Adkins at 515-954-5652 or jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov, or Amy Stegeman at 515-725-2273 or amy.stegeman@iowa.gov, or Kimberly Villotti at 515-339-5519 or kimberly.villotti@iowa.gov.

SWVPP teacher licensure requirements

As districts and community partners receiving Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) funds prepare for the 2018-19 school year, be reminded of the qualifications required of SWVPP teachers. Per Iowa Administrative Code 16.9(5), districts can only accept funding for classrooms in which there is an appropriately licensed and endorsed teacher available for the program by Oct. 1 of the school year for which funding is sought.

Preschool teachers must hold a valid and current license issued by the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) under Iowa Code chapter 272 and hold endorsement from the BOEE that includes prekindergarten. The teacher may be employed by the district or by a private provider or other public agency with which the district has entered into an agreement under Iowa Code chapter 28E. Contact the [BOEE](#) for appropriate teaching endorsements and specific teacher information.

A teacher who has only the PK-K Early Childhood Special Education endorsement (also known as #223) is not appropriately licensed to teach in the SWVPP because the endorsement does not include preschool general education. Teachers without an appropriate endorsement should apply to BOEE for a Class B conditional license in one of the acceptable teaching endorsement areas.

Applications for teacher licenses and/or endorsements should be submitted to the BOEE in spring or early summer to ensure sufficient processing time so that license and endorsement status is appropriate for each teacher by Oct. 1. District superintendents will certify in CASA Assurances by Sept. 15 that all preschool teachers are properly licensed and endorsed. Teacher folder information must be entered as part of fall BEDS Staff. Data validations will apply within fall BEDS Staff based on appropriate license and endorsement types for different staff assignments.

For more information on the SWVPP, go to the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#) or contact Jennifer Adkins at 515-954-5652 or jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov.

Teaching Strategies webinar regarding GOLD®

Iowa subscribers are invited to join a free virtual town hall event on Jan. 9, 3:30 p.m. (CST), with Teaching Strategies CEO Kai-leé Berke. Subscribers should have received an electronic invitation from Teaching Strategies with the [registration link](#). Note the registration process includes a step for submitting existing questions to Teaching Strategies as possible content for the webinar. In addition, participants will also have the opportunity during the webinar to ask questions about MyTeachingStrategies™ and hear about updates to the technology product development work at Teaching Strategies. For questions about this event, contact Kimberly Villotti at the Iowa Department of Education at 515-339-5519 or kimberly.villotti@iowa.gov.

School Wellness Beyond the Cafeteria webinar



Sandy Hagen, registered dietitian from Regional Health Services in Cresco, delivers nutrition education lessons to students at Crestwood Elementary.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act requires local education agencies to have a wellness policy. Local wellness policies are an important tool for promoting student wellness through nutrition and physical activity and providing assurance that foods and beverages sold to students during the school day meet federal nutrition standards.

The school environment plays a fundamental role in shaping lifelong healthy behaviors and can have a powerful influence on students' eating and physical activity habits. An integrated school, parent, and community approach can enhance the health and well-being of Iowa students.

Learn about strategies and actions that schools can take to create a healthy environment that reaches beyond the cafeteria and engages the community during a webinar presented by Iowa Department of Education's Team Nutrition Program on Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 9 – 10 a.m. [Registration Link](#)

The webinar will be recorded and sent out to all individuals who register.

Questions? Contact Carrie at carrie.scheidel@iowa.gov.

Stay Connected! [Facebook: @healthyschoolsIA](#) [Twitter: @IAhealthyschool](#)

School nutrition training resources

USDA has established [Professional Standards Requirements](#) for school nutrition professionals who manage and operate school nutrition programs. The standards ensure staff have the knowledge, training, and tools they need to plan, purchase, and prepare healthy school meals.

Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services provides a variety of training options to meet the needs of school nutrition professionals.

- [What's New in School Nutrition Monthly Webinars](#) – Overview of a timely school nutrition topic and update on recent memos.
- [School Meal Web-Based Tutorials](#) – 17 interactive, self-paced trainings on a variety of topics. Credit hours range from 0.5 – 2.5 hours.
- [School Nutrition Webcasts](#) – School Nutrition Directors can utilize these short webcasts during staff trainings. They include hands-on activities and quizzes to assess knowledge gain.
- [Summer Short Course](#) – The Bureau partners with ISU Extension & Outreach to offer a series of in-person workshops during the summer.



Required Annual Training Hours	
All Directors	12 hours
All Managers	10 Hours
All Other Staff	6 hours
Part-Time Staff	4 hours



Legal Lessons

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

Bloodborne pathogen guidance, FAPE, homelessness

Happy New Year!

In this New Year's edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you information on Iowa Schools Bloodborne Pathogen Guidance, Q&A from the U.S. Department of Education on Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), and New Rules Effective for Athletics and Homeless Students.

Iowa Schools Bloodborne Pathogen Guidance

The Iowa Department of Education collaborated with the Iowa-OSHA Division of Labor, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Bureau of Immunization and IDPH Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology to update the [Iowa Schools Bloodborne Pathogen Guidance](#). The United States Occupational Safety and Health Act Standard requires Iowa schools and education agencies, as employers, to develop an occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens program. The program includes written policy and plan guidelines for employees. The school works with local health agencies, health providers, non-managerial school staff, and school personnel in developing the program and educating personnel, families, students, and the community to prevent potential exposures (United States Code 29 U.S.C. 661 et seq. Occupational Safety and Health Act and U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR 1910.1030). Links to the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) and US Department of Labor are located throughout the document.

If you have additional questions related to Bloodborne Pathogen training, Hepatitis B vaccination requirements, universal precautions, planning or policies for school employees, contact Iowa-OSHA senior industrial hygienists: Alma Márquez at 515-725-5667, Joanna Wilson at 515-725-5653, Tong Khamma at 515-725-5655 and David Phillips at 515-725-5650.

If you have questions related to immunizations, contact Don Callaghan, IDPH Bureau Chief of Immunization and Tuberculosis at 515-281-7301. If you have questions related to reportable communicable diseases, contact Rob Ramaekers, IDPH Surveillance Unit Lead Epidemiologist/Vaccine-Preventable Disease Surveillance Coordinator, at 515-725-1094.

Department Issues New Q&A on Free Appropriate Public Education following Supreme Court Decision

On Dec. 7, the U.S. Department of Education released a question-and-answer document regarding the unanimous March 2017 [U.S. Supreme Court opinion](#) on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-related case Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District clarifying the scope of a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

Here is a Q&A document for parents, educators and other stakeholders with information on the issues addressed in Endrew F. and the impact of the Court's decision. The Q&A addresses the court case, prior case law and the Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) standard. The document also explains how FAPE is currently defined, clarifies the standard for determining FAPE and addresses how this ruling can support children with disabilities.

You can view the Q&A document here: [Endrew F. Q&A](#)

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Legal Lessons continued

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New Rules Effective for Athletics and Homeless Students

On Nov. 15, the State Board of Education adopted an amendment to the Department's Administrative rule Chapter 36 – Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition. The revised Chapter 36 incorporates changes to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431, et seq.), as reauthorized in December 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Changes as a result of ESSA include modifying the requirements of the State Plan to include procedures that ensure that homeless students do not face barriers to accessing extracurricular activities because of their homelessness. As a result of this change these rules are being amended to ensure that homeless students are provided an exception to the 90 consecutive school days of ineligibility under the General Transfer Rule if they are determined to meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento as determined by the attending district. The District homeless liaison will review the individual student's circumstances to determine if the student is homeless. Once the liaison has determined the student meets the Definition the student meets the exception. The Athletic Associations do not play a role in the determination of whether or not a student meets the definition of homeless. Those rules will become final on Jan. 10. For questions on the changes to rule 36.15(3), contact Nicole Proesch at 515-281-8661 or nicole.proesch@iowa.gov.

[Chapter 36 Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition](#)

[Homeless Student Guidance](#)

Students with Disabilities

For questions regarding students with disabilities, contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or thomas.mayes@iowa.gov.

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Calendar

- January 1 • Last date to certify to the DE for reorganization or dissolution action effective July 1
- January 1 • Juvenile Home Program Budget
- January 2 • Winter VRF/SRI production sites close
- January 5 • Winter VRF/SRI production sites open
- January 12 • Determine number of students participating in whole-grade sharing for 2nd semester
- January 15 • DE approval deadline for Modified Supplemental Amount for At Risk/Dropout Application
- January 31 • Winter SRI certification deadline



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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