



School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

March 2021

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[Unlocking new possibilities](#)

Teachers change the world one child at a time. And with each child, we unlock, and unleash, new possibilities into the world. While we could never find enough ways to honor our teachers for the work they do, there is one specific way you could recognize a teacher in your school — by nominating one of them as the 2022 Iowa Teacher of the Year.

This prestigious award is an opportunity to recognize an exceptional Iowa teacher who is helping redefine education. Anyone, including students, parents, school administrators, colleagues, college faculty members and associations can submit a nomination, which can be found on the Department's [website](#). Nominations are due by April 1.



[Read more](#)

[Iowa's Therapeutic Classroom Grant is now open](#)

This one-time competitive grant is offered to public school districts in Iowa and is part of requirements set in place by [Iowa Code 256.25](#). The grant supports public school districts to establish therapeutic classrooms for learners whose emotional, social, or behavioral needs interfere with their ability to be successful in their current educational environment. Districts applying for the grant may seek funds to establish new classrooms and/or install critical components into current classroom/programs that they are developing into therapeutic classrooms.

Listen to a webinar providing details about the grant and learn more on the [Therapeutic Classroom Grant Webpage](#)

Timeline:

March 12: Grant applicant questions due

March 19: FAQ released for grant application questions

April 30: Applications due

May 31: Awards announced

No later than Aug. 1: Funds distributed

For questions contact Barb Anderson at barb.anderson@iowa.gov or 515-664-6732 or Kathy Bertsch at kathy.bertsch@iowa.gov or 515-419-2444.



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[Iowa Military Compact](#)

The state of Iowa is a part of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. The compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation.



In Iowa there are over 1,000 students who are currently covered by this compact, although this number fluctuates when servicemembers are put on or taken off of active duty orders. Each state has a board and an appointed commissioner to help implement the compact. For more information [view details of Iowa's board with commissioner contact information](#) and [access a brief video on what the compact does](#).

For questions or concerns about supporting military students in having successful transitions, contact Leah Johnson at newuanda@hotmail.com or 515-770-4474 or Dennis Harden at dennis.harden@iowa.gov or 515-281-4716.

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[Celebrate Purple Up Day on April 15](#)

Coming up in April, we celebrate military kids. Across the nation, states and school districts will celebrate the important role military children play while their service member parents serve our country through special events and wearing the color purple. Schools are invited to participate in their own way. For more information, view this [list of great ideas](#) for schools to celebrate Purple Up Day.

Iowa's Child and Youth Program has selected April 15 as Purple Up Day. Wear purple on April 15 and take a group photo to share with #iapurpleup.

For questions, contact Dennis Harden at dennis.harden@iowa.gov.

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[Webinar: New Food Code – How does it impact school nutrition?](#)

School Nutrition Programs have a lot of their plates. School year 2020-21 continues to be challenging with adapting school meal service to be available for all learners, meeting United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations under USDA waivers, and now new and updated Food Code guidelines.

In Iowa, the Department of Inspection and Appeals (DIA) is the state agency authority who issues school food licenses to operate. The DIA conducts school food safety inspections and ensures proper compliance of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code regulations. Beginning February 2021, the food code has been updated from Food Code 2013 to FDA Food Code 2017.

Learn how these changes will impact school nutrition programs during the News to Know webinar on March 22 from 2-3 p.m. with Julie Kraling from the Iowa DIA and Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services staff. All are welcome to participate. [Register now for the News to Know webinar](#).

For questions, contact Jean Easley at jean.easley@iowa.gov or 515-360-5149.

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[National School Breakfast Week March 8-12](#)

With free school meals, there has never been a better opportunity to showcase school breakfast and remind students and families how breakfast helps children succeed. This school year, many Iowa schools have expanded their breakfast programs by



implementing breakfast in the classroom and grab n' go options. By making school breakfast the easy choice, schools have seen dramatic increases in participation.

School Nutrition Association's (SNA) 2021 theme for this week is "[Score Big with School Breakfast](#)," a fun way to show students, families, and stakeholders all the ways that the school breakfast program is a winner. SNA has created promotional resources and ideas to help celebrate.

For questions, contact Carrie Scheidel at carrie.scheidel@iowa.gov or 515-281-4758.

Pictured: All Saints School in Cedar Rapids offers Breakfast Buckets where students select breakfast items to fill their bucket and take to the classroom to consume. The school has similar levels of participation in breakfast and lunch programs.

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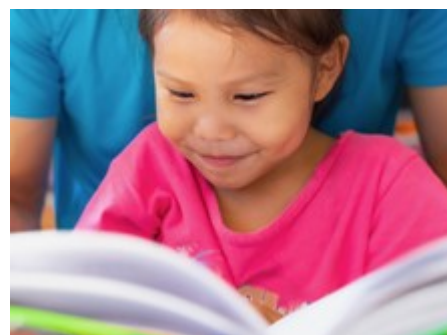


[Spring into myIGDIs Early Literacy Assessment](#)

It's not too late to begin early literacy screening for preschool. Spring myIGDIs information from preschool can be helpful for kindergarten teachers to plan instruction after a year that has been challenging in a variety of ways.

To reserve myIGDIs spring screening seats for preschool students if you did not screen in the fall or winter, complete this [survey](#). Contact Heather Miller at Heather.miller@renaissance.com to add seats in myIGDIs if your district/program administered myIGDIs in the fall and/or winter. The spring window began Feb.15 and ends May 14. Contact myIGDIs support at Myigdis-support@renaissance.com or 877-535-9299 for all other inquiries including status of setup information, login information, etc.

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[Register now for Iowa College and Career Readiness Academy March session](#)

Registration is now open for the March session of the [Iowa College & Career Readiness Academy](#). These professional development courses are offered for license renewal, graduate credit, or for no credit (free).

The Academy was developed by Iowa College Aid in partnership with AEA Learning Online, AEA PREP, and the Iowa Department of Education.

Participants may earn a College Access Professional Certificate by completing 101-301, a College Access Specialist Certificate (101-501), and an Equity digital badge by completing 601.

[See the full 2020-21 course schedule](#) or contact Megan Sibbel at megan.sibbel@iowa.gov.

Courses beginning on March 15:

101: FOUNDATIONS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS IN IOWA [Register](#)

201: CREATING IOWA'S COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS CULTURE [Register](#)

401: PLANNING AND THE DISTRICT'S ROLE IN CREATING A STUDENT-CENTERED CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN [Register](#)

601: ADVANCED EQUITY ISSUES IN PLANNING, ACCESSING AND FINANCING POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES [Register](#)

[NEW!] 701: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS FOR K-5 SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND EDUCATORS [Register](#)



**IOWA COLLEGE &
CAREER READINESS
ACADEMY**

A Program of Iowa College Aid



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