



School Leader Update

Iowa Department of Education

November 2007

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

On Thursday, Oct. 25 at Mount Vernon High School, the Governor discussed his goal for Iowa's core curriculum to be adopted statewide by 2010 at the high school level.

The core curriculum in math, science, and literacy for grades 9-12 has been available to districts since 2006. Senate File 588, which was passed during the 2007 legislative session, expanded the core curriculum to include grades K-8 and added areas such as financial literacy, health literacy, civic literacy, and employability skills for grades K-12.

The core curriculum supports Iowa's philosophy that the key to student achievement lies not in long lists of standards, course titles, and high stakes assessments, but in the quality of teaching.

The core curriculum provides assistance to teachers in instructional strategies and model unit development that promote more challenging and meaningful student work. It is truly "what matters" between the bookends of standards and assessments. It is the heart of what teachers teach.

Core is about all students, regardless of career path chosen. The core model will provide flexibility and adaptability to imbed within broader local curriculums. That means regardless of the courses or career pathway that a student and family selects, all students will be expected to achieve the skills needed for success beyond high school.

The Iowa Test of Educational Development will continue to be the 11th grade assessment for the core and to meet the accountability requirements for No Child Left Behind, the federal legislation that requires schools and districts to achieve annual goals in reading and mathematics. To prepare our students for the 21st century, the core curriculum will provide guidance for on-going assessment of student learning and examples of student assessments that go beyond paper and pencil to demonstrations and performances of achievement in Iowa classrooms. This helps teachers determine what students are learning, what they are not learning, and helps teachers make adjustments in instruction to meet student needs.

The Iowa Testing program will have high school assessments for high school math and science this coming spring. By the end of 2009 it is planned to have social studies, English, and language arts. There are also plans on the drawing board for an integrated mathematics test. These tests will be available to help school districts determine if students are learning as they go.

Iowa's core curriculum emphasizes not only that Iowa students can read, write, and compute, but that we believe a good education system produces individuals who can think critically, work with others, manage their own affairs, and contribute to their community.

NEWS FROM THE DE

State Board of Education to Meet

The State Board of Education will meet Wednesday, Nov. 14 in the State Board Room of the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines. Please know that the finalized agenda will be posted on the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/545/1002/> a couple of days before the meeting. The schedule for upcoming meetings is also available at this address.

Iowa Department of Education Releases State Report Card

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) recently released *The State Report Card for No Child Left Behind*. The report shows that the overall state percentage of Iowa public school students in grades 3-8 and 11 met the state's annual objectives. In addition, 90.7 percent of Iowa's public schools met state achievement targets for the 2006-2007 academic year.

This year, the report card reflects an effort to track student progress over time through a growth model. Through this model, the districts follow students who are currently testing below proficiency to document their progress over time. If an individual student makes adequate yearly growth, he or she will be added to a school's proficient-student count. It is estimated that 128 schools were helped by the growth model.

The complete report is available on the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/652/619/>. In addition, Iowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey has provided information about the report card in a podcast located at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/category/27/639/1157/>.

Five Iowa Schools Named Blue Ribbon Schools

The U.S. Department of Education has named five Iowa schools as 2007 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools. The schools are Bryant Elementary School in Dubuque, Clay Central-Everly Elementary School in Everly, John Glenn Elementary School in Donahue, Maple Valley Elementary School in Mapleton, and Mount Vernon Community High School in Mount Vernon.

These schools are among 287 schools honored as 2007 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools. The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: 1) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; and 2) Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

Annual Iowa High School Summit to Be Held

The 4th Annual Iowa High School Summit will be held this year December 10-11, 2007 in Hy-Vee Hall at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

The summit will feature Ray McNulty, Barrie Bennett, and Charlie Abourjilie as keynote speakers. McNulty is the co-founder of the Successful Practices Network at the International Center for Leadership in Education. Bennett is a colleague of Michael Fullan at the School Improvement Network. Both of these leaders are returning to Iowa to share information on the teaching learning connection. Abourjilie, a classroom teacher with specific insights into the value of relationships, is sponsored by Iowa Character Education.

In addition, 25 breakout sessions will feature Iowa practitioners who will share insights about their reinvention initiatives and the teaching learning connection.

School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) is again handling registration. The link for registration materials can be located at <http://www.sai-iowa.org/events.html>.

24th Annual Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest Announced

March 2008 will be designated as Women's History Month by the Governor, the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives, the President of the United States, and the U.S. Congress.

To give students a deeper and more relevant appreciation of women's role in history, the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, the Iowa Department of Education, and the State Historical Society of Iowa are sponsoring the 24th annual statewide essay contest, "Write Women Back Into History," for students in grades 6-9. The 2008 theme is "Women's Art: Women's Vision."

Prizes will be awarded, each finalist will receive a certificate signed by the Governor, and the winning essayists will be recognized at a special ceremony at the State Capitol during Women's History Month. They will also be introduced in the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives.

Guidelines for the contest will be available in mid-November at www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/wom_history/index.html. Submissions for the contest are due on January 25, 2008.

For questions or to receive the guidelines, contact Lori SchraderBachar at the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women at 515-281-4470, 800-558-4427, or lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov.

Career Ladder and Pay for Performance Pilot Planning Grants Approved

The Iowa Pay for Performance Commission recently approved two Iowa school districts, MOC-Floyd Valley and Mount Pleasant, for Pay for Performance Planning grants. In a separate action, the Iowa Department of Education approved the Cedar Rapids Community School District for a Career Ladder planning grant. In 2007, Senate File 277 designated \$1 million dollars for a maximum of 10 planning grants for career ladder and pay for

performance pilot projects. A total of three districts applied for planning grants under this program, with a total request of approximately \$171,000.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Open Enrollment and Foster Care Students

Open enrollments that involve a child that has been placed in foster care can be confusing. In cases involving a child placed in foster care a school/district official must determine if the parents' rights have been terminated. The status of parental rights determines who has the right to sign open enrollment papers and it determines which district to bill. If the student has an individualized education program, the complexity increases. The following chart can assist local educational agencies when answering questions related to open enrollment.

Additional questions can be directed to Lois Irwin at 515-281-8582 or lois.irwin@iowa.gov.

| Student in Foster Care | Parental Rights | Permission to OE | Cost of Tuition/Expenses |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| IEP | Parents have rights | Parent | Parent Resident District |
| | Parents do not have rights | DHS or designee | State of Iowa via AEA |
| Non IEP | Parents have rights | Parent | Foster Care District |
| | Parents do not have rights | DHS or designee | Foster Care District |

QUALITY TEACHING

Workshop on Effective Practices in Math Instruction to be Held

"Instruction at the Core of Improved Student Learning in Middle and High School Mathematics" is a workshop that will emphasize effective practices in mathematics instruction and in leading instructional change at the middle and high school levels.

The target audience for this workshop is secondary level administrators, teachers, central office personnel, and area education agency (AEA) consultants. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 6 at the West Des Moines Sheraton, and November 8 in Cedar Rapids at the Crowne Plaza. There is no fee, but participants must register. To register go to the following site and choose the date you choose to attend: <http://www.trumba.com/calendars/de-sponsored-professional-development?eventid=69511241&view=event>

See the attached flyer for additional details. If you have questions, please contact Deb Hansen at 515-281-6131 or deb.hansen@iowa.gov

2008 Winter Institute to be Held

School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) and the Iowa Department of Education (DE) will be hosting the 2008 Winter Institute. This is a one-day event that is repeated in the following regions:

February 19, 2008 West Des Moines — Marriott

February 20, 2008 Coralville — Marriott

February 21, 2008 Storm Lake — Kings Point Resort

For registration information go to <http://www.sai-iowa.org/events.html>. The target audience is school administrators, Teacher Quality Committee members, Professional Development Leadership Team members, central office personnel, and area educational agency consultants. Team participation is welcome, but not required.

Session will include:

- Technical assistance on regarding the new requirements for the Attendance Center Plans and Individual Teacher Development Plans
- Frequently Asked Questions about the Teacher Quality Act
- Updates from the Iowa Department of Education about the Core Curriculum

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Hansen at 515-281-6131 or deb.hansen@iowa.gov.

The contact for all Legal Lessons items is Carol Greta, carol.greta@iowa.gov; 515-281-8661. Past Legal Lessons articles about topics that are universally true and always relevant can be found on the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/category/11/411/985/>. You can also view appeal decisions rendered by the State Board of Education or the Director of the Iowa Department of Education between 1989 to present at <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/appeals.asp?>.

2007-2008 Anti-Bullying/Harassment Data Collection Form

The data collection form used to report incidents of bullying and/or harassment for the Spring BEDS is attached as a Word document, since there were difficulties opening the form as a PDF file.

Link to “Blue Book” for Level I Investigators

After the training October 1 of Level I investigators of allegations of abuse of students by school employees, the “Blue Book” was amended. The new content is the addition of the last two pages, pages B-46 and B-47. The link to the entire “Blue Book,” which is on the Iowa Department of Education’s (DE) website, is: <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/860/985/>.

International Student Enrollment

The Iowa Department of Education’s website now contains guidance to school districts regarding international students, such as students with J-1 (foreign exchange students) visas, students with F-1 visas, students with B-2 or similar dependent visas (those that end in the number 2), and immigrant students (non-visa holders). Specific information on how to handle each of these situations can be found at: <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1064/985/>. See also the **FAQs** on this subject at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/component/option,com_kb/page,viewcat/catid,254/Itemid,67/.

Visa Classifications

The federal government (the Department of Homeland Security) has increased the types of visas available to non-immigrants from 13 to 22. Visas consist of a letter (A – V) and a number (1 or 2). The number indicates whether the visaholder is the primary visitor to the U.S. (indicated by a 1) or the spouse or dependent of a visitor (indicated by a 2). The letters indicate why the visa was issued. For instance, most schools are familiar with F-1 and J-1 visaholders. Both indicate student status, and the “1” indicates that the student is here without parents. A complete list is on the Iowa Department of Education’s website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1065/985/>

Expelled Students and Their Options

Other than continuing to serve a student with an individualized education program (IEP), a school that expels a student has no obligation to provide for the educational needs of the student during the period of expulsion. However, a district may choose to continue to serve an expelled regular education student via an alternative placement. A school or school district is not obligated to enroll a student whose period of expulsion has not expired and has legitimately moved into a new district.

The family of students of compulsory attendance age can enroll in competent private instruction (CPI). **A district must allow a resident student who has been expelled to file Form A, Report of CPI. However, the district does not have to allow the student to dual enroll or enroll in a Home School Assistance Program (HSAP), if the district provides a HSAP.**

Annual Notices

School districts are required to give all patrons several annual notices. The Iowa Department of Education (DE) has compiled a list — **which may not be exhaustive, but represents the DE’s best efforts** — of state and federal notices that all districts are required to give to the public every year. This list does not attempt to include notices that are to be given to specific populations (such as notification of non-highly qualified teachers; notices to competent private instruction families about testing; etc.)

The list of notices and links to some of the model notices can be found on the Iowa Department of Education website at: <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1069/985/>

Decision-Making Matrix for Allegations of Bullying or Harassment

Senate File 61, which created new Iowa Code section 280.28, requires districts and nonpublic schools to collect and report harassment and bullying incidence data. The matrix designed to assist school personnel determine whether an incident needs to be reported under the new law can be found on the DE website at: <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1071/985/>.

The situations listed in the matrix are not to be taken literally, and are usable as scenarios from which school personnel can extrapolate their own situations. The obvious harassment situations that must be reported and investigated are not covered. **When in doubt, INVESTIGATE.**

FUNDING AND GRANTS

E-rate Training Sessions Scheduled

Please forward the following information to your E-rate contact. Training sessions via Iowa Communications Network (ICN) video conferencing for completing required E-rate forms for the 2008-2009 school year have been scheduled on the following dates/times. ICN sites will be added upon request.

E-Rate 102: Form 470

November 13, 14, 15, and 20 (repeat sessions; all from 3:00-5:00 p.m.)

E-Rate 103: Form 471

November 29, December 4, 6, and 12 (repeat sessions; all are from 3:00-5:00 p.m.)

To request a site for either/both trainings, send an e-mail with desired dates and ICN site to Debbie Fiscus at debbie@iptv.org. If you have questions about the training sessions, please contact Pam Pfitzenmaier at 515-669-8159 or pam.pfitzenmaier@iowa.gov.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) will be providing technical assistance to districts planning to apply for Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds funding for the 2008-2009 school year. The sessions will address Collaboration (December), Assessing Community Needs (January), and Application Writing (February). Specific dates, times, and locations will be posted on the DE website when confirmed. Guidance is also available at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/940/1103/1/3/>.

There are three sessions remaining in the DE Iowa Communications Network (ICN) series about Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, scheduled for November 16, December 14, and January 18. (Please note January date change.) Contact Lorri Cooper for further information at lorri.cooper@iowa.gov.

STUDENT HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Iowa Receives 2007-2009 Team Nutrition Training Grant

Iowa received a Team Nutrition Training Grant for 2007-2009 from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The focus of this grant will include training of food service professionals, student empowerment, and adult role modeling. Continue to watch for ways you can be involved as an individual and a school to promote the Team Nutrition messages of healthy eating and physical activity. As information becomes available it will be posted on our website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/373/438/>. Check out USDA Team Nutrition resources at <http://teammnutrition.usda.gov/library.html> for new and updated team nutrition resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Watznauer, Team Nutrition Grant Project Director, at 515-281-5676 or gretchen.watznauer@iowa.gov.

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application Verification

As a reminder, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires verification of a percentage of the free and reduced price meal applications each year, these must be completed by November 15. The verification summary report will be available online **after December 1**. The form currently appearing on the web system for school year 2008 does not contain revisions required by USDA. The changes will be available **after December 1**. Local educational agencies that submit their information on the old form will be required to re-submit on the new form. The website is <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/CNP/security.asp>.

Contact Nancy Christensen at 515-281-5663 or nancy.christensen@iowa.gov for assistance.

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

Today almost 21 million children and adults have diabetes in the United States. One of every three babies born in the year 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime. The American Diabetes Association offers a variety of tools and information for your students and their parents to help them understand the disease and how it can be prevented by maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Help spread the word about this serious disease that affects so many of our friends, family, co-workers, and students by having a School Walk for Diabetes at your school! To find out more go to www.diabetes.org/schoolwalk or contact Melissa Marcsisak 515-276-2237 Ext. 6864 or mmarcsisak@diabetes.org.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for Students with Disabilities

Registration information is now available for the free wheelchair training classes being sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) in conjunction with the University of Iowa's Center for Disabilities & Development (CDD). As mentioned last month, these classes will center on the transportation of wheelchair bound students in the areas of tie downs, evacuation, and all types of safety issues dealing with wheelchairs. For additional details, see the [October issue of School Leader Update](#)

To register, go to the CDD website at <http://www.uihealthcare.com/cdd>, click on Continuing Education on the left side bar then the November (7, 8, 9, or 10) event to register online. If you have any problems accessing the website or registering, contact Brenda Nosbish at brenda-nosbish@uiowa.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Iowa School Alerts Program Available in Time for Winter Weather

The Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has launched a free notification system that allows schools to directly e-mail parents, staff members, the media, and others with just one message when classes must be cancelled.

The Iowa School Alerts program (<https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>) allows school superintendents or their designees to log in from any computer with an internet connection and send one message to everyone who has signed up to receive notifications for that district. The e-mails can be sent to work or home inboxes, e-mail-enabled cell phones, and PDAs, making it easier for parents to be informed when classes are cancelled, dismissed early, or will start late. DAS has also been signing up media outlets across the state so they will receive notices automatically as well.

If you are interested in getting your school district on board, or would like more information about Iowa School Alerts, please contact Darrell Fremont, Program Manager in the Iowa Department of Administrative Services-Information Technology Enterprise, at 515-242-6009 or darrell.fremont@iowa.gov. When you sign up you will be provided with materials that can be used to inform parents about the program.

Study for the Legislature on Student Information Systems Needs Your Input

Parex Consulting Group will be conducting the Statewide Student Information System Study required by House File 468. They will use focus groups and an electronic survey to gather the necessary information. There are still openings available for the focus groups in Council Bluffs:

| Date | Time | Location |
|------------|---|---|
| November 7 | 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon | Loess Hill AEA 13 Dr. Jim Blietz Conference Room 24997 Highway 92 Council Bluffs, IA |

There is a maximum of 15 participants for each session, and reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Only one person from each district is allowed to register and attend. If you have not made a reservation yet, please contact Jim Addy at jim.addy@iowa.gov. To complete a survey, go to:

<http://dev.edsis.org/survey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=I8KLmo6> from November 1 through November 16.

Look for more information via email and here at the *School Leader Update*.

CALENDAR

Deadlines and Dates to Remember

November 16 Iowa Quality Preschool Standards ICN session

You can view a complete Iowa Department of Education calendar of events at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/calendar/calendar.html>.

SCHOOL LEADER UPDATE is produced monthly by the Iowa Department of Education for school leaders of Iowa. Comments and submissions should be sent to Elaine Watkins-Miller at elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov or 515/281-5295.

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, the Equal Pay Act of 1973, Title IX, Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973), and the Americans with Disabilities Act. 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, 111 N. Canal Street, Suite 1053, Chicago, IL 60606-7204.

Workshop: Instruction at the Core of Improved Student Learning in Middle and High School Mathematics

November 6 at the West Des Moines Sheraton
Or November 8 in Cedar Rapids at the Crowne Plaza

"Instruction at the Core of Improved Student Learning in Middle and High School Mathematics" is a workshop that will emphasize effective practices in mathematics instruction and in leading instructional change at the middle and high school levels. This session is an extension of the learning from the April 4th session with Richard Elmore and the June 7th and August School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) break-out sessions on instruction, but attendance at the prior events is not required for participation.

Presenters will connect the core characteristics of effective instruction to Iowa's state initiatives in secondary mathematics - Every Student Counts and the Iowa Core Curriculum. Additionally, during this interactive session, participants will examine classroom video vignettes, engage in a problem-based instructional task, highlight supporting research, and hear first-hand experiences of practitioners.

The target audience for this workshop is secondary level administrators, teachers, central office personnel, and area educational agency (AEA) consultants. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm on November 6 at the West Des Moines Sheraton, and November 8 in Cedar Rapids at the Crowne Plaza. There is no fee, but you do need to register. To register go to the following site and choose the date you choose to attend: <http://www.trumba.com/calendars/de-sponsored-professional-development?eventid=69511241&view=event>

