



School Leader Update

Iowa Department of Education

September 2008

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Iowa First in Nation for SAT Scores, Second ACT Scores

Let's take time to celebrate the accomplishment of Iowa students.

Our students earned the second highest average ACT score in the nation in 2008, according to results recently released, and the highest SAT mean composite scores in the nation for reading and math.

The average ACT score for Iowa students rose slightly by a 0.1 percentage point this year, for an average composite score of 22.4. Iowa has the second highest average composite score for states testing the majority of their graduating seniors. Last year, both Iowa and Wisconsin were second in the nation. Minnesota is again first with a score this year of 22.6. The national average score for the college admission and placement exam is 21.1 out of a possible 36.

This year, 22,950 students took the test, which is 60 percent of the 2008 graduating class. This is slightly less than last year when 23,016 students took the test.

Results also indicate that students who report taking at least three years each of math, science and social studies and four years of English in high school perform better on the test. In Iowa, those who reported taking core courses achieved an average composite score of 23.1. Those that reported taking lighter loads in core areas had an average composite score of 20.6. This compares to the nationwide score of 22.0 and 19.5, respectively.

In addition to the ACT, Iowa students continue to perform well on the SAT, the college entrance exam administered by the College Board. With 3 percent of 2008 graduating seniors taking the exam, the SAT is less predominant in Iowa than the ACT test. Iowa students who take the SAT perform well, however, with the highest composite scores in the nation for reading and math.

Iowa students posted SAT mean scores of:

- 603 in critical reading, compared to a national mean score of 502;
- 612 in math, compared to a national mean score of 515;
- 582 in writing, compared to a national mean score of 494.

Of the 2008 graduating class, 1,330 Iowa students took the SAT, which is an increase of 1.9 percent.

NEWS FROM THE DE

State Board To Meet September 11

The State Board of Education will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, September 11 in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. The meeting is tentatively set to begin at 9 a.m. Please check the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1004/1542/> for updates.

Iowa School Microsoft Settlement FAQs

The following are answers to frequently asked questions about the Iowa School Microsoft Settlement program.

The Iowa School Microsoft Settlement program is the result of the 2007 settlement of a class-action lawsuit brought by Iowa consumers and businesses concerning certain Microsoft software. According to the settlement, Iowa schools would receive a portion of the funds not claimed by consumers. The value of the funds will be distributed through vouchers for software and hardware products to eligible attendance centers. Based on free/reduced lunch rates, approximately 75 percent of Iowa's public school buildings will be eligible to participate in the program.

What is the purpose of the Pre-Application Letter of Intent?

The Letter of Intent will provide program administrators including the Iowa Department of Education, Claims Administrator and Settlement Parties information that will be used for planning purposes.

Do all districts need to submit an electronic Letter of Intent for the Iowa School Microsoft Settlement?
Although completion of the Letter of Intent is not required, participation is highly encouraged.

How does my district submit a Letter of Intent?

The Letter of Intent is an electronic form and will be located on the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.edinfo.state.ia.us> starting on September 20, 2008.

What is the deadline for submitting the Letter of Intent?

The Letter of Intent may be submitted between September 20, 2008 and October 1, 2008.

United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Open to Iowa Students

Two Iowa students will have the opportunity to spend the week of March 7 in Washington, D.C. through the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP).

The State of Iowa has again accepted an invitation to participate in the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The program is designed to give young Americans a working knowledge of American political life. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses.

In addition, the two Iowa high school representatives will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship, subject to scholarship conditions and requirements. Selection of the representatives will be based solely on the outstanding ability and demonstrated leadership qualities of elected junior or senior high school student officers for the 2007-2008 school year.

Please refer to the attached letter and the Iowa Department of Education website (<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/blogcategory/671/989/>) for details. For more information, contact Cheryl Mullenbach at cheryl.mullenbach@iowa.gov or call 515-494-5610.

Free Multi-lingual Parent Notifications Available to Iowa Districts, Non-Public Schools, and AEAs

The Iowa Department of Education has renewed its subscription to the TransACT website, which provides multi-lingual parent notification documents to school districts nationwide.

This site is available free of charge to all area education agencies (AEAs), districts, and accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa.

It provides two collections of documents, one of which is a collection of 58 documents in English that align with the requirements for No Child Left Behind. The second is a set of 75 General Education Parent Notifications in English and 22 other languages. The notifications cover the areas of health and medical, school administration, free and reduced-price meals, and special services.

The TransACT website also stores 12 special education documents specific to Iowa, these are available in English, Spanish, Bosnian, Serbo-Croatian, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Laotian. Please see the attached document for more specific information on how the TransACT website can be accessed.

In order to better serve each district, AEA, and accredited nonpublic school in Iowa that is a registered user of TransACT is being asked to update the staff member who is the registered as the contact for TransACT. An email will be sent to each agency from Sherri Evangelisto, the TransACT customer service. This can be done by emailing sherri@transact.com.

For more information, contact Sharon Hawthorne at 515-281-5461 or sharon.hawthorne@iowa.gov.

New Portal for Iowa Choices

The state-designated career information and decision-making system, Iowa Choices, has a new electronic portal. The new portal is located at: <http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>.

As a career information system, Iowa Choices provides students and educators the tools necessary to explore careers and education while connecting career information to all subject areas. Iowa Choices also aids schools and students in meeting the legislative mandate requiring all 8th grade students to create 8th Grade or Student Core Curriculum Plans.

The system is provided free of charge to all middle and high schools in Iowa through a partnership created by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) and the Iowa Department of Education. Choices Explorer is provided to all middle schools and Choices Planner is provided to all high schools. All Iowa

area education agencies (AEAs) personnel and post-secondary institutions may also receive free access to Iowa Choices.

The new portal provides access for students, parents, adults, and educators. Training opportunities that are available can be viewed from the online calendar posted on the website. For regional staff training, contact Nancy Ankeny, Administrator, Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456 or nancy.ankeney@iowa.gov.

For further assistance with Iowa Choices and career information, please contact Linda Berg at 515-242-5032 or linda.berg@iowa.gov.

Iowa Department of Education to Sponsor 4th Annual PBS Conference

Iowa's 4th Annual School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports Conference will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2008 at the Scheman Building in Ames Iowa.

The conference is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education and features nationally recognized researchers in school-wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) and Interventions and Early Childhood. Keynote speakers include Tim Lewis and Don Kincaid. Please see the attached brochure for more information.

Thirty-two workshop presentations will address key issues in PBS from early childhood through high school. Topics for families and community stakeholders are included.

Keynote addresses and workshop presenters will address issues in the following areas:

- Leadership and Innovative Practices: Expanding and Sustaining Positive Behavior Supports
- Innovative Practices in Early Childhood Positive Behavior Supports
- Innovative Practices in Data-based Decision Making
- Skill Building for Coaches and Families

Send registration with check payment by September 15th to: Beth Buehler, Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Student and Family Support Services, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146. For more information, contact Beth Buehler at 515-281-7143.

Updated Information on IDEA Requirements for Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)

The 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) included a requirement that students with visual impairments and students with print disabilities receive their textbooks and core related instructional materials at the same time as their non-disabled peers.

This requirement was not new, but required the Iowa Department of Education to define "timely manner" and set up processes which local school districts are to follow in getting AIM in specialized formats (Braille, large print, audio, digital text) to students with print disabilities in a timely manner. Please see attached memo for complete information.

DISASTER RECOVERY

Tips for Teachers of Destroyed Iowa Schools: It's About Community and Shared Traditions

Dr. Ann Porter was principal of Lincoln Elementary School when it was destroyed by the Red River flood that inundated Grand Forks, S.D. and neighboring towns in 1997, forcing more than 60,000 people from their homes, including her family.

She offers a few tips on how to deal with school displacement.

She recommends that children be allowed to grieve. The new school year did not start before students and staff said goodbye to Lincoln. For one day they gathered at the old school building for a remembrance ceremony. Food was served and pictures were taken in front of the flood-damaged building. "There was closure," said Porter. It was an important part of a grieving process because children were dealing with losses – loss of homes, familiar surroundings, and memories.

About 120 students out of the 200 that once attended Lincoln began school the following fall at Calvary Lutheran Church. "We moved our place," said Porter. "But we were the same school." The governor visited to show his support, but more important, the school continued the same traditions they held at the old place.

They continued with their pot luck dinner tradition, inviting families and students. They also revived a tradition of creating a mural with a resident artist. They lost the Lincoln mural to the flood, but went on to create a new one. The artist returned and directed them in painting one that featured the past, present, and a journey to the future.

"I can't stress enough the importance of using the fine arts — painting, music, writing — to help children work through these situations," said Porter. Students wrote poetry with the guidance of an area children's book author and a former Lincoln parent Jane Kurtz. Porter also suggested encouraging children to keep a journal.

"It's a very helpful way to deal with emotions." Many of the activities, including an all-school field trip to a pumpkin patch, were paid for with grants or donations from civic groups, other schools, and individuals.

Porter and the teachers also initiated the Lincoln History Project to celebrate the nearly 50-year history of the school. Through interviewing for and writing about its past, children broadened their sense of community and developed an appreciation for Lincoln Elementary School's past.

Porter wants teachers in Iowa to understand that it is critical to let parents know that their children are comfortable and safe. It eases the anxiety parents already have about their situations.

Porter's approach paid off. Anxieties among the students and staff were little more than a mild undercurrent and discipline problems were minimal.

A new elementary school, named Phoenix to mark the city's rebirth, was opened the following fall, about a year and a half after the flood. It replaced two elementary schools with a long history – Belmont and Lincoln. Phoenix represented a new start with the comfort of past traditions and the hopes for a better future.

More information about the Iowa disaster is available online at www.fema.gov or www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. Dr Ann Porter may be contacted at 701-772-5295 or by email: mgporter@gra.midco.net. Jane Kurtz wrote *River Friendly, River Wild* (Simon & Schuster, 2000) and a number of books for young readers (www.janekurtz.com).

IOWA CORE CURRICULUM

More Frequently Asked Questions about the Iowa Core Curriculum

In order to keep school districts informed about the Iowa Core Curriculum, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) continues to provide information in the *School Leader Update*. School leaders may also post questions to our online Help Desk online at www.iowa.gov/educate/support/index.php. Please place "Iowa Core Curriculum" in your question and it will be forwarded directly to the Department's Iowa Core Curriculum teams.

Why Iowa Core Curriculum? Why not just duplicate another state's standards?

The development of the Model Core Curriculum for high schools was mandated by SF 245, passed in 2005. At that time, it was determined that we would articulate the essential skill sets in literacy, mathematics, and science. Extending it to include social studies and 21st century skills and expanding it to include grades K-8 came about when SF 588 passed in 2007. Now with the passage of SF 2216, full implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum is mandated for all public schools and accredited non-public schools.

Other state's standards and benchmarks, along with international information, were examined by the Work Teams, which articulated the essential concepts and skill sets. Work Teams quickly determined that no one state system was without limitations or met all of Iowa's needs.

Where is the latest version of the Iowa Core Curriculum?

The most recent version of the essential concepts and skill sets of the Iowa Core Curriculum can be found at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/674/1023/>. Later this fall resources will be made available through the Iowa Core Curriculum Network and ongoing technical assistance will be provided as schools embark on this work.

Will there be a fine arts piece and other areas in the Iowa Core Curriculum? Where does guidance fit?

We are including strong connections to the fine arts through K-8 Model Units that are currently being developed.

What are the formative assessments tied into the Core Curriculum?

Part of the technical assistance developed to support districts as they work to fully implement the Iowa Core Curriculum will include professional development for teachers to understand the important role of "assessment for learning" and improve assessment practices and inform instruction, as well as increase students' access to useful information about their educational progress. Based upon tentative timelines, we plan to deliver that technical assistance during the 2009-2010 school year.

Does roll out of the Iowa Core Curriculum matter based on the size of the school district?

Network members and area education agency (AEA) consultants will work to individualize a plan for every school in Iowa based upon local district and AEA context. DE and AEA leadership recognize the need for multiple points of entry and a variable timeline, but ultimately every public high school and accredited nonpublic

high school must develop an implementation plan by July 1, 2010 and every K-8 school by July 1, 2012. Full implementation for high schools is required by July 1, 2012 and for K-8s by 2014-2015.

Is community college coursework included in the Iowa Core Curriculum requirement?

An amendment to HF2679, H-8289, states the following: "A school district shall ensure that any course made available to a student through any sharing agreement between the school district and a community college or any other entity providing course programming pursuant to this section to students enrolled in the school district meets the expectations contained in the core curriculum..." So if a district identifies a specific concurrent credit course as one a student may take to meet the requirements of the core curriculum, it is the district's responsibility to ensure that the course contains the appropriate essential concepts and skills sets of the Iowa Core Curriculum.

How will alternative high schools be impacted by the core curriculum?

Alternative high schools are required to meet the requirements of SF 2216 — development of an implementation plan by July 1, 2010 and full implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum by July 1, 2012.

Choices vs. Kuder...has a final decision been made on what districts must use?

SF 2216 mandates that every student, prior to graduation, will complete components of the state-designated career information and decision-making system, which is currently the Choices program and is provided free of charge. If a district chooses a different system then all components of the state-designated system must provide the same type of data for reporting purposes. A separate letter of guidance will be provided in the near future.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Contact Jeff Berger at jeff.berger@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399 for questions regarding legislation or the legislative process.

Current Legislation Implementation and 2009 State Board Advocacy Platform

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is still in the process of implementing new legislation from the spring of 2008. Summaries of legislation and the Letter to the Field for both K-12 districts and community colleges can be found at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/blogcategory/412/890/>. Several areas of legislation are still being organized. These areas include: 1) Working groups related to the Healthy Kids Act of 2008; 2) Working groups related to portions of the Senior Year Plus Statute; 3) Additional detail related to Iowa Core Curriculum implementation and support; and 4) resources related to the 2007 HF 611 — Sexual Health Literacy. More information will be provided as quickly as it is ready.

The DE has already begun the process of budget submissions for FY10 as well as working with the State Board of Education on a legislative advocacy platform. For questions related to any of the above items, feel free to contact Jeff Berger at 515-281-3399 or jeff.berger@iowa.gov.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

2007-2008 CSIP Due September 15th

All districts/schools are required to certify their 2007-2008 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) by September 15th, 2008 due to additional assurances added to the assurance form. Special Education assurances have been added this year.

This year and in the future districts' CSIPs will be moved forward from year to year or "ported" for them. Districts no longer need to do this step. If districts wish to "start from scratch" please contact the consultants listed below. Adjustments may be made to the CSIP throughout the year.

The 2007-2008 CSIP will not allow districts to certify until September 1st of 2008, in order to add all of the required assurances. The CSIP must be certified by the district/school by September 15th, 2008.

For assistance, please contact the School Improvement Consultant assigned to your area education agency first. For further assistance, contact Brandie Gean at 515-281-4726 or Holly Barnes at 515-242-6173.

Districts Must Notify Competent Private Instruction Parents of Test Dates/Times

For Competent Private Instruction, school districts in Iowa must provide notification to parents of Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)/Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) testing times and sites by October 1st if the child is between the ages of 7 and 15, inclusive, of the current school year and is not working with an Iowa licensed teacher. Please know that students who are not working with an Iowa licensed teacher must take either the ITBS or ITED.

A sample notification form is available in the handbook located at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/301/504/>

For more information contact Elizabeth Calhoun at elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov or 515-281-8170.

Competent Instruction Handbook Updated

With the changes in legislation this year, the Iowa Department of Education's Competent Instruction Handbook has been recently updated. All administrators should make sure they are using the most current copy. For more information contact Elizabeth Calhoun at elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov or 515-281-8170.

Sample Competent Private Instruction Letter available for Districts

There is a sample letter located at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/301/504/> compliments of Kathleen Stine, Home School Coordinator, for the Winterset CSD. Districts may use the document as a guide for communication with their families that home school. For more information contact Elizabeth Calhoun at elizabeth.calhoun@iowa.gov or 515-281-8170.

Open Enrollment Updates

Open enrollment "receiving" districts will bill resident districts at a rate of \$5,333 for the 2008-2009 school year. The tuition payments shall be paid to the receiving district on a quarterly basis. Billing for special education students is actual cost calculated at a per diem rate. The following is further information:

Partial-year billing: In the event that the pupil who is under open enrollment withdraws from school, moves into the district of attendance, moves out of state, moves to another district in the state of Iowa and elects to attend that district, graduates at midyear, is allowed to return to the district of residence during the school year, or other similar set of circumstances that result in the pupil no longer attending in the receiving district, payment of cost per pupil will be prorated based on the number of quarters of school enrollment.

Resident districts cannot be billed for tuition, special education, or transportation assistance for students that open enroll after count date.

Transportation Assistance: The rate for transportation assistance will be available in December. Students that open enroll from one district to another may be eligible for transportation assistance if they qualify under the federal income guidelines see *Open Enrollment Handbook* on the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/649/636/>. These guidelines are NOT the same as the guidelines for Free and Reduced Fees.

If a student qualifies, the resident district may discharge this obligation in one of three ways:

1. The resident district may actually provide transportation for the pupil(s) to a stop on the bus line of the receiving district.
2. The resident district may allow the receiving district to enter the resident district to pick up the pupil(s) if the receiving district wishes to. (Failure of the receiving district to decide to do this will not discharge the resident district's obligation for transportation assistance.)
3. The resident district may provide a parent/guardian reimbursement a stipend. The amount for 2007-2008 was \$376.

Tuition Rates 2008-2009

- a. Regular Education Student = \$5,333
- b. Special Education Student = Actual cost per quarter
- c. Limited English Proficiency = \$.22 per pupil (eligible for 4 years)

For more information, please contact Lois Irwin at 515-281-8582 or lois.irwin@iowa.gov.

Site Visit Training for the 2008-2009 School Year

Numerous site visit training sessions for schools and team members will be held in September and October. These sessions will provide pertinent information for schools receiving a site visit during the 2008-2009 school year and for individuals who will be serving as team members. Two sessions will be offered via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) in September: September 9 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; and September 25 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Current sites include the following:

- Bettendorf AEA

- Cedar Falls area education agency (AEA)
- Cedar Rapids CC6
- Council Bluffs area education agency (AEA)
- Creston High School
- Des Moines — Iowa Department of Education
- Elkader area education agency (AEA)
- Mason City-Newman Catholic High School
- Ottumwa area education agency (AEA) 1
- Pocahontas area education agency (AEA)
- Sioux City area education agency (AEA)
- Urbandale High School

To arrange additional sites, please contact Barb Byrd at barb.byrd@iowa.gov. In addition, school improvement consultants will also offer site visit trainings in person in each AEA early in September and October. Check the DE calendar or contact your school improvement consultant or Barb Byrd for the complete listing. <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/calendar/calendar.html>

LEGAL LESSONS

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

Updated Guidance on Education of Foster Children

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) and the Department of Human Services have collaborated to update a document regarding the education of foster children. Here is the link: <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/images/stories/educationoffosterchildreniowa.pdf>.

Mandatory Blood Lead Testing

The Iowa Department of Public Health now has posted information about mandatory blood lead testing on its website at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp#testing.

Level I Investigator Training

Administrators, please let your chapter 102 Level I investigators know that this year's training will take place Monday, October 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

As in the past, the training will originate at Heartland Area Education Agency's main office in Johnson, and will be narrowcast live over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). A Level I investigator should contact his/her own area education agency (AEA) to find out the closest ICN site. And, as in the past, if an investigator cannot attend the training on October 6, all AEAs will be provided copies of the training to be checked out locally.

Implementation of Constitution Day on or about September 17

United States Constitution Day is September 17 of each year. Congress enacted legislation requiring all public schools to set aside one day during the week of September 17 (which is a Wednesday this year) to teach all students about the U.S. Constitution and about citizenship.

Iowa districts are already in compliance with the spirit and letter of this law as to secondary students taking U.S. government. [Iowa Code section 256.11(5)(b) requires that the government course cover the federal Constitution.] Many, if not most, districts probably already incorporate such instruction at the elementary level.

The U.S. Department of Education's website acknowledges that curriculum and course decisions fall outside federal authority. This agency has no information about whether or how the federal government plans to enforce the law.

The intent behind the law is a good one. There is a website with more information about this, including material useful in planning Constitution day activities, at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html>.

Election-time Reminders

With school board elections just around the corner and other statewide races heating up, here is a summary of issues that are likely to come up:

1. *Public resources*

Public moneys cannot be expended for political purposes (Iowa Code section 56.12A) and public resources may not be used for political purposes. This means public email addresses may not be used to endorse a candidate or issue. Whether a district employee may use their public email to remind colleagues of election day or just to get the vote out (without advocating) is up to local district rules.

2. *Candidate forum held in public school building*

This is fine IF all candidates have been invited, at least two participate, and the forum is not set up to benefit one candidate over the others. If the forum complies with these conditions, campaign materials may even be distributed at the forum.

3. *Candidates speaking just to students in classrooms*

Candidates may “come in and speak about their campaigns, their positions, and other issues so long as the candidates do not use words of ‘express advocacy’... such as ‘vote for,’ ‘elect,’ ‘defeat,’” etc.

4. *Posting campaign literature in classrooms*

When such materials are posted as part of the curriculum on government, elections, and campaigning, this is allowable IF literature from all major candidates in the election is posted upon request.

When in doubt, questions should be referred to the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board (<http://www.state.ia.us/government/iecdb/>), which is the state entity that regulates election laws and public officer ethics in Iowa.

FERPA, PPRA Links

The U.S. Department of Education has just sent to the Iowa Department of Education the hyperlinks to the annual notices of local education agency responsibilities under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).

We hope that you will find this information helpful in protecting parents' and students' privacy rights under FERPA and PPRA.

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/doc/pprasuper.doc>
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/doc/ferparights.doc>
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/doc/ppraconsent.doc>
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/doc/ppranotice.doc>
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/doc/directoryinfo.doc>

DATA AND REPORTING

Annual Progress Report Due September 15

The deadline for submitting the Annual Progress Report (APR) is September 15, 2008.

The secure website is currently available for updating all APRs for both public districts and nonpublic schools. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills/Iowa Test of Educational Development test data for public and nonpublic accredited districts/schools will be prepopulated on or about August 29, 2008.

For more information regarding the APR, please contact Holly Barnes at 515-242-6173 or holly.barnes@iowa.gov.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds Update

Year 2 (2008-2009) newly awarded districts: Submit Preliminary Enrollment Count data to Tim.Glenn@iowa.gov no later than September 5, 2008. All required information is available on the Iowa Department of Education (DE) website: <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/940/1103/>.

Year 1 (2007-2008) awarded districts do not need to submit Preliminary Enrollment Count data September 5, 2008.

Both Year 1 (2007-2008) and Year 2 (2008-2009) districts awarded Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Olds grant funds must submit October Certified Enrollment Count information to generate their preschool funding for the 2009-2010.

The DE is providing regional Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS) Verification Training for administrators/directors of district awarded preschool programs. Content to be covered will include an overview of the QPPS with a focus on the Health, Physical Environment, and Leadership and Management Standards, as well as how to prepare and what to expect regarding the Verification Visit Process. Locations and registration information will be posted on the Department website. Trainings are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for the following dates:

- Western Iowa — September 25
- Central Iowa — September 30
- Eastern Iowa — October 7

CALENDAR

Deadlines and Dates to Remember

September 8	School Budget Review Committee Meeting, Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0146
September 9	Site Visit Training via ICN — 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
September 11	State Board of Education Meeting, State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines.
September 15	Deadline: Annual Progress Report Due
September 15	Deadline: 2007-2008 CSIP Due
September 17	Implementation of Constitution Day on or about September 17
September 25	Site Visit Training via ICN — 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
September 30-October 1	Iowa's 4th Annual School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports Conference, Scheman Building, Ames
October 1	Deadline: School districts notification to Competent Private Instruction parents of testing times and sites
October 6	Chapter 102 Level I Investigators Training
October 9	Equity Site Visit Training — 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. via ICN

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 (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, email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov.

September 1, 2008

Dear Superintendent and Principal,

Please join us in identifying candidates for the 47th Annual United States Senate Youth Program sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

The program consists of two parts. The first component brings two students from each state to Washington, D.C. March 7 – March 14, 2009. Delegates visit national monuments and museums and hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members and officials of various executive departments. The Hearst Foundation pays all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel and meals.

The second component consists of the awarding of two \$5,000 college scholarships to the two delegates from each state. The foundation requires that “to obtain scholarship funds, a student must, within two years after high school graduation, enroll at an accredited U.S. college or university, pledging to include courses in government or related subjects to his or her undergraduate program.”

Selection of the two delegates is based on the students’ abilities and qualities of leadership. Candidates are required to be serving in an elected or appointed capacity in student government, civic or educational organization. They will be required to take a public affairs exam as part of the selection process.

Detailed information about the United States Senate Youth Program and application forms for the student you plan to nominate from your school can be found at the Department of Education Web site <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/blogcategory/671/989/> or at your AEA. **Please note that each high school can nominate only one student and that the application papers are due to your AEA by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 2008.**

In October nominees will be required to take the qualifying examination at the Area Education Agency. If you have additional questions, please contact Cheryl Mullenbach at 515-494-5610 or by email Cheryl.Mullenbach@iowa.gov.

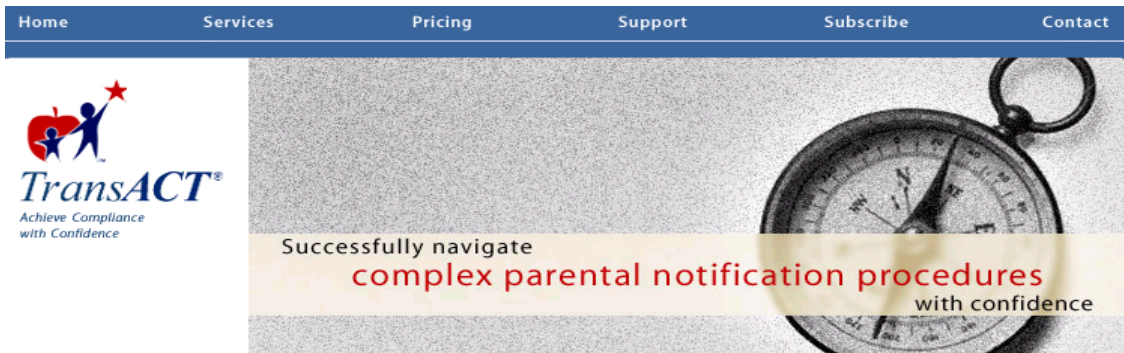
Sincerely,

Cheryl Mullenbach
Social Studies Consultant

To enroll on the TransACT website, do the following:

Go to www.transact.com

Click on Subscriber (see arrow)



Click on SUBSCRIBE NOW as a New Visitor



Follow the steps to Create a New Account:

A screenshot of the 'Create a New Account' form on the TransACT website. The header features the TransACT logo and the text 'COMPLIANCE & COMMUNICATION CENTER™'. Below the header is a navigation bar with '★ Your Account' and a red plus icon. The main content area has a heading '★ NEW CUSTOMER: Create a New Account for Your District' followed by the text: 'To create a new customer account, we first need to identify your school district. Please select your state from the drop-down list to begin.' Below this is a dark gray bar with the text 'Create A New Account'. Underneath is a form with 'Select Your State:' followed by a dropdown menu showing 'Iowa'. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Next >' and 'Already Registered'.

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

Zip code _____ Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

- Individual Registration (\$25/person)
- Team Member Registration (5 or more at \$20/person)
Teams must register together and attach all registration documents with submission of payment.
- Accommodations needed – Please specify below---

Registration and payment will be accepted up to September 5th – if registration is later than this date, NO MEALS will be provided.

Registration Deadline is extended to 9-19-08.

Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to September 30th for full refund.

Send registration with **CHECK** payment by **SEPTEMBER 5TH** to: Beth Buehler, Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Student and Family Support Services, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146, if you have questions please telephone Beth at 515-281-7143.

Credit cards/purchase orders will not be accepted.

A block of rooms is available at the Gateway Hotel & Conference Center for the September 29th and 30th at \$84 for a single and \$94 for a double. The cut-off date for the block is Tuesday, September 9, 2008. Call 888-497-1273 for a reservation, and reference the PBS Conference to access the group rates.

IOWA'S FOURTH ANNUAL

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education

Leadership + Science + Skill = Success for Students

SEPTEMBER 30—OCTOBER 1, 2008

Iowa State Center, Scheman Building

Ames, Iowa

The conference features nationally recognized researchers in school-wide Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions and Early Childhood. Thirty-two workshop presentations will address key issues in PBS from early childhood through high school. Topics for families and community stakeholders are included.

Keynote addresses and workshop presenters will address issues in the following areas:

- Strand A** Leadership and Innovative Practices: Expanding and Sustaining Positive Behavior Supports
- Strand B** Innovative Practices in Early Childhood Positive Behavior Supports
- Strand C** Innovative Practices in Data-based Decision Making
- Strand D** Skill Building for Coaches and Families

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Don Kincaid, Ed.D., University of South Florida

Dr. Kincaid is the Director of the Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports at the University of South Florida. This center is funded by the Office of Special Education to identify and enhance knowledge about school-wide PBS practices, systems and outcomes along the three-tiered continuum. *Keynote – September 30th, 9:15 a.m. Dr. Kincaid will present an additional workshop on Day 1, and meet with coaches for a facilitated discussion about sustainability.*

Timothy Lewis, Ph.D., University of Missouri

Dr. Lewis is the Director of the Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports at the University of Missouri. This center is funded by the Office of Special Education to identify and enhance knowledge about school-wide PBS practices, systems and outcomes along the three-tiered continuum. *Keynote – October 1, 8:15 a.m and Closing Remarks – 11:15 a.m.. Dr. Lewis will present an additional workshop on Day 2.*

NEW! Featured Speaker:

Michaelene Ostrosky, Ph.d. University of Illinois

Dr. Ostrosky is a Principal investigator at the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at Vanderbilt University. *Dr. Ostrosky will present breakout sessions on both Day 1 and Day 2.*

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

- 7:45 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome, Susan Bruce and Barbara Ohlund
PBS-Iowa Department of Education
- 9:15 a.m. Keynote: **Don Kincaid, University of South Florida**
Data-Based Decision Making Across the Continuum: the School, the District and the State.
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Break-out Sessions Across Strands
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Break-out Sessions Across Strands
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. Break-out Sessions Across Strands

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

- 7:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 a.m. Welcome, Susan Bruce and Barbara Ohlund
PBS-Iowa Department of Education
- 8:15 a.m. Keynote: **Timothy Lewis, University of Missouri**
Building School-Based Systems to Support Small Group/ Targeted Interventions
- 9:30 a.m. Break
- 9:45 a.m. Break-out Sessions
- 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Closing Keynote Address: Timothy Lewis
- 12:00 p.m. Conference Ends



DATE: September 9, 2008

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Lana Michelson

RE: Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)

The 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) included a requirement that students with visual impairments and students with print disabilities receive their textbooks and core related instructional materials at the same time as their non-disabled peers. This requirement was not new but required the State Department of Education to define “timely manner” and set up processes which local school districts are to follow in getting AIM in specialized formats (Braille, large print, audio, digital text) to students with print disabilities in a timely manner. Local school districts are required by these regulations to assure the State Department of Education that AIM would be made available in a timely manner to all students who require these materials.

A statewide committee representing a variety of stakeholders worked during the 2007-08 school year to meet these requirements. Timely manner was defined in our recently revised rules of Special Education. The team developed the following guidance materials for AEA and local district personnel to use:

- Student eligibility
- Textbook purchase guidance around specialized formats
- Copyright guidance
- IEP team guidance

This fall the Department will be developing unique media products to communicate this guidance to AEA and LEA personnel. We have developed a communication plan and will be rolling out these materials in a systemic fashion. We are ready to assist you and your staffs in meeting the intent of this legislation by helping you assist students with print disabilities to receive AIM in a timely manner.

We wanted you to be aware of our activities in this area and let you know that AEA/LEA staff will be receiving information about this guidance in the near future.

If you need further information, please contact Steve Maurer at 515-281-3576 or steve.maurer@iowa.gov