



**Revision of  
Reorganization Plan  
Required by  
Iowa Code Chapter 275**

**August 8, 2001**

**Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9**  
**729 – 21<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**Bettendorf, Iowa 52722**

**Board of Directors**

**Members:**

Name	School Districts	Director District Number	Position
Jeanita Harris	Davenport	1	Member
Ann Hart	Muscatine, Louisa-Muscatine	8	Member
Jody Hawley	Davenport	3	Member
Richard Kissack	Clinton, Camanche, North Scott	6	Member
William Koellner	West Liberty, Muscatine, Bennett, Columbus, Durant, Wilton, Davenport	9	President
Brenda Kunau	Preston, East Central, Bellevue, Andrew, Maquoketa, Clinton, Northeast	7	Member
Tom Mielnik	Bettendorf, Davenport, Pleasant Valley	4	Vice President
Mary Rueter	Central Clinton, Delwood, Calamus-Wheatland, North Scott	5	Member
David Swim	Davenport	2	Member

**Secretary to the Board:**

Linda Perry

**Administrator:**

Glenn Pelecky

## Preface

**Iowa Code section 275.1, unnumbered paragraph 2, 1997**, states that, “. . . The area education agency boards shall develop detailed studies and surveys of the school districts within the area education agency and all adjacent territory for the purpose of providing for reorganization of school districts in order to effect more economical operation and the attainment of higher standards of education in the schools. The plans shall be revised periodically to reflect reorganizations which may have taken place in the area education agency and adjacent territory.” The purposes of this publication are to comply with those mandates relative to reorganization planning, to provide assistance to the officials and citizens of school districts contemplating school district reorganization, and to assist the area education agency board of directors in the event it is presented a reorganization petition.

The plan is intended to provide general guidance to the AEA board of directors as it acts upon reorganization petitions, and the provisions of the plan are not expected to be binding upon the AEA board. The board reserves the right to base its future actions upon conditions as they develop and upon new information as it becomes available.

<b>Public hearing on revision of plan</b>	<b>Bettendorf, Iowa</b>	<b>August 8, 2001</b>
<b>Revision of plan reviewed by AEA 9 board of directors</b>		<b>August 8, 2001</b>
<b>Revision of plan adopted by AEA 9 board of directors</b>		<b>August 8, 2001</b>
<b>Revision of plan transmitted to director of Department of Education</b>		<b>August 9, 2001</b>

Refer to Chapter 2 for dates of further surveys, hearings, elections, etc.

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## Chapter One

### Code Summary

The purpose of this chapter is to assist those who read and use this publication by summarizing the provisions of Chapter 275 of the Code of Iowa that relate to the mandated area education agency (AEA) reorganization plans. However, it is not intended for reading of this narrative to take the place of direct examination of the Code or consultation with an attorney. The first part of the chapter offers general background about the contents of Code Chapter 275, and the next three sections summarize portions of Code Chapter 275 that most specifically relate to the AEA reorganization plans. The fifth part lists the titles of the sections of Code Chapter 275 that most directly address the reorganization plan.

#### General Background

Chapter 275 of the Code of Iowa, along with a few minor references in other chapters of the Code, address the topic of school district reorganization. The terms reorganization, consolidation, and merger seem to be used interchangeably; although reorganization is in the Code chapter title and it is the most common. The word reorganization is used in this publication.

On July 1, 1975, the 15 area education agencies replaced the county boards of education, and they inherited the school district reorganization governance role. The AEA responsibilities can be placed into two broad categories. The first includes the area reorganization plan, and the second is the governance of the petition process. It is important to note that the AEAs have no responsibilities or capacities for initiating the reorganization process, or in any way causing a reorganization. The decision to start a reorganization effort through a petition is a decision of the local district residents. The eventual reorganization election decision is also within the realm of local district voters. The AEA's role in the reorganization process is to govern the activities that take place from the submission of the reorganization petition through the reorganization election. The AEA has some post-reorganization responsibilities, but they are more "housekeeping" in nature.

The Code contains three general methods for school districts to change their boundary lines. The first, and predominant method is the petition process in Code Chapter 275. The others are the dissolution method embodied in Code Sections 275.51 through 275.56, and the concurrent action method of changing boundaries as cited in Section 274.37. The AEA has no authority for dissolution, but concurrent action by two local school boards to change their boundaries may be disapproved by the respective AEA board or boards of directors.

Code Chapter 275 can be categorized into two broad areas, plus numerous lesser topics. The first is the AEA reorganization planning component, and the second is the reorganization petition process. Among the other topics in the chapter are the school dissolution process, school redistricting following decennial census, and changes in director district boundaries and numbers. This publication is limited to the AEA reorganization planning.

Three general concepts come together as the AEAs develop and use their reorganization plans:

- A. Code Chapter 275 begins with the mandate that area education agencies develop reorganization plans. Such plans must be developed whether or not any school districts expect to reorganize, or could potentially reorganize.
- B. School districts initiate the reorganization effort through the petition process. The petitions may be based upon the AEA reorganization plans, or they may be different than the plans. If they are different, the petitions must request the AEA to change its plans.
- C. When the AEA receives petitions, it must compare the petitions to the plans. If the petitions do not comply with the plans, the AEA board shall conduct further surveys.

The terms plans, surveys, and studies are used throughout Code Chapter 275. There seems to be little distinction among them. This publication uses the terms that are associated with the concepts being described.

### **Summary of Plan Development**

1. The AEA shall develop detailed studies and surveys.
2. The surveys and studies shall be of the school districts within the AEA and all adjacent territory.
3. The plans shall be revised periodically to reflect reorganizations which may have taken place.
4. The scope of the studies and surveys shall include:
  - a) the adequacy of the educational program
  - b) pupil enrollment
  - c) property valuation
  - d) existing buildings and equipment
  - e) natural community areas
  - f) road conditions
  - g) transportation
  - h) economic factors
  - i) individual attention given to the needs of students
  - j) opportunity of students to participate in a wide variety of activities
  - k) other matters that may bear on educational programs meeting minimum standards required by law.
5. The plans shall also include suggested alternate plans that incorporate the school districts in the area education agency into reorganized districts that meet the enrollment standards specified in Section 275.3. Section 275.3 lists 300 students as the minimum size for the formation of a new district. That 300 enrollment is incorporated into this planning provision, and it requires the AEA boards to suggest alternate plans for those districts under the 300 level.
6. The plan may include alternate plans proposed by school districts for sharing programs as an alternative to school reorganization.
7. In developing studies and surveys the AEA board:
  - a) shall consult with school officials and other citizens
  - b) from time to time hold public hearings
  - c) may employ research and other assistance to properly carry on its survey
  - d) shall consult with the director of the Department of Education
  - e) may request assistance from the director of the Department of Education

- f) shall adopt and transmit completed plans to the director of the Department of Education

### **Summary of Petition Conforming to Plans**

1. A reorganization petition shall contain a description of the area included in the proposed district.
2. The description shall conform to the AEA reorganization plan, or the petition shall request the plan to be changed.
3. It is also required that the provisions relating to studies, surveys, hearings and adoption of plans shall constitute a mandatory prerequisite to the effectuation of any proposal for district boundary change. It shall be the mandatory duty of the area education agency board to dismiss the petition if the above provisions are not complied with fully.

### **Summary of Changing Plans**

1. Following the receipt of a petition, the area education agency board shall review its plans and determine whether the petition complies with the plan.
2. If the plan does not comply with the petition, the board shall conduct further surveys.
3. If the petitions are being considered at a hearing conducted by a joint board of more than one area education agency, the joint board shall determine if the petition conforms to plans.
4. If the petition requests a change of plans, the joint board shall determine whether a change should be made in any or all of the plans of the AEAs affected by the petition.

### **Portions of Chapter 275 That Most Directly Relate to AEA Reorganization Plans.**

SEC 275.1	Declaration of policy – surveys – definitions (2 <sup>nd</sup> paragraph)
SEC 275.2	Scope of surveys
SEC 275.3	Minimum size
SEC 275.4	Studies, surveys, and plans
SEC 275.5	Proposals for merger or consolidation
SEC 275.7	Budget
SEC 275.8	Cooperation of state department – planning joint districts
SEC 275.9	Methods of effectuating reorganization plans
SEC 275.12	Petitions – methods of election (subsection 1)
SEC 275.16	Hearing when territory in different area education agencies (1 <sup>st</sup> paragraph)

## Chapter Two

### Records of AEA 9 Reorganization Plans and Activities

As noted in the preceding chapter, the development of area education agency reorganization plans, the revision of the plans, and the use of the plans during the reorganization petition process, all require certain actions to be taken by the AEAs and their boards of directors. The purpose of this chapter is to maintain a set of records that chronicles such actions by Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9.

The records are in the form of a set of tables, which may be revised as actions are taken and conditions change. Following is a list of tables:

Table 01	Adoption of Plans and Revisions of Plans
Table 02	Approval of Changes
Table 03	Transmittal of Plans to the Director of the Department of Education
Table 04	Further Surveys
Table 05	Assistance from the Director of the Department of Education
Table 06	Public Hearings
Table 07	Passed Reorganization Elections
Table 08	Dismissed Reorganization Petitions and Failed Reorganization Elections
Table 09	Certification of Dissolution Commissions
Table 10	Boundary Lines Changes by Concurrent Action
Table 11	Joint Board Actions

## Table 2-01

### Record of Adoption of Plans and Revisions of Plans Since July 1, 1975

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.1, unnumbered paragraph 2:** “. . . The area education agency boards shall develop detailed studies and surveys of the school districts within the area education agency and all adjacent territory for the purpose of providing for reorganization of school districts in order to effect more economical operation and the attainment of higher standards of education in the schools. The plans shall be revised periodically to reflect reorganizations which may have taken place in the area education agency and adjacent territory.”

**Record of Adoption:**

Dates	Notes
June 11, 1986	Original Plan
August 8, 2001	First Revision

## Table 2-02

### Record of Approval of Changes Since June 11, 1986

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.12(1):** “A petition describing the boundaries, or accurately describing the area included therein by legal descriptions, of the proposed district, which boundaries or area described shall conform to plans developed or the petitions shall request change of the plan, shall be filed with the area education agency administrator of the area education agency in which the greatest number of qualified electors reside . . .”

**Record of Changes:**

Dates	Notes
May 10, 1989	Calamus Wheatland New district – Calamus-Wheatland
March 30, 1992	Lost Nation (AEA 9) Midland (AEA 10) New district - Midland

**Table 2-03**

**Record of Transmittal of Plans to the  
Director of the Department of Education  
Since July 1, 1975**

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.4, unnumbered paragraph 3:** “Completed plans shall be transmitted by the area education agency board to the director of the Department of Education.”

**Record of Transmittal:**

Dates	Notes
June 11, 1986	Original Plan
August 9, 2001	First Revision

## Table 2-04

### Record of Further Surveys Since January 1, 1987

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.5:** “. . . Following receipt of a petition pursuant to section 275.12, the area education agency board shall review its plans and determine whether the petition complies with the plans which have been adopted by the board. If the petition does not comply with the plans which had been adopted by the board, the board shall conduct further surveys pursuant to section 275.4 prior to the date set for the hearing upon the petition. If further surveys have been conducted by the board, the board shall present the results of the further surveys at the hearing upon the petition.”

The further surveys are attached to the area education agency plan as parts of Appendix C. The attachment of such surveys does not automatically indicate approval by the area education agency board of directors. The further surveys record includes those that were conducted or commissioned by the AEA, and those conducted by or commissioned by the school districts affected. The record of further surveys contains those that were presented at the hearings upon petitions and those that were prepared in anticipation of petitions that did not materialize. Out of date further surveys and those conducted for established reorganized districts were deleted from the record and from Appendix C.

**Record of Further Surveys:**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>District Name</b>	<b>Surveys Conducted By</b>	<b>Study Type</b>
1987	Bennett	Department of Education	Consultation
1989	Bennett – Included Calamus, Durant, Wheatland, Wilton	Department of Education	Full Study
1989	Bennett	Department of Education	Consultation
1992	Bennett	Department of Education	Full Study
1992	Calamus-Wheatland and Central Clinton	Department of Education	Full Study
1992	Lost Nation	Department of Education	Financial Study
2000	Preston and East Central	Department of Education	Full Study

**Table 2-05**

**Record of Assistance from the Director  
Of the Department of Education  
Since January 1, 1987**

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.4, unnumbered paragraph 2:** “In addition, the area education agency board shall consult with the director of the Department of Education in the development of surveys and plans. The director of the Department of Education shall provide assistance to the area education agency boards as requested and shall advise the area education agency boards concerning plans of contiguous area education agencies and the reorganization policies adopted by the state board of education.”

**Record of Assistance and Consultation:**

Dates of Consultations	Notes
NONE	

## Table 2-06

### Record of Public Hearings Since July 1, 1987

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.4, unnumbered paragraph 1:** “In developing studies and surveys the area education agency board shall consult with the officials of school districts in the area and other citizens, and shall from time to time hold public hearings, and may employ such research and other assistance as it may determine reasonably necessary in order to properly carry on its survey and prepare definite plans of reorganization.”

**Section 275.5:** “. . . Following receipt of a petition pursuant to section 275.12, the area education agency board shall review its plans and determine whether the petition complies with the plans which had been adopted by the board. If the petition does not comply with the plans which had been adopted by the board, the board shall conduct further surveys pursuant to section 275.4 prior to the date set for the hearing upon the petition. If further surveys have been conducted by the board, the board shall present the results of the further surveys at the hearing upon the petition.”

**Record of Hearings:**

Dates	Locations	Notes
June 11, 1986	Bettendorf, Iowa	Adoption of AEA 9 Reorganization Plan
August 8, 2001	Bettendorf, Iowa	Revision of AEA 9 Reorganization Plan

## Table 2-07

### Record of Passed Reorganization Elections Since July 1, 1975

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.18, unnumbered paragraph 1:** “When the boundaries of the territory to be included in a proposed school corporation and the number and method of the election of the school directors of the proposed school corporation have been determined as provided in this chapter, the area education agency administrator with whom the petition is filed shall give written notice of the proposed date of the election to the county commissioner of elections of the county in the proposed school corporation which has the greatest taxable base. The proposed date shall be as soon as possible pursuant to sections 39.2, subsections 1 and 2, and 47.6, subsections 1 and 2, but not later than November 30 of the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the reorganization will take effect.”

**Section 275.20:** “The voters shall vote separately in each existing school district affected and voters residing in the entire existing district are eligible to vote upon the proposition to create a new school corporation and the proposition to levy the voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy under section 298.2, if the petition included a provision for a vote to authorize the levy. If a proposition receives a majority of the votes cast in each of at least seventy-five percent of the districts, and also a majority of the total number of votes cast in all of the districts, the proposition is carried.”

**Section 275.24:** “When a school district is enlarged, reorganized, or changes its boundaries pursuant to sections 275.12 to 275.22, the change shall take effect on July 1 following the date of the reorganization election held pursuant to section 275.18 if the election was held by the prior November 30. Otherwise the change shall take effect on July 1 one year later.”

**Section 275.27:** “School districts created or enlarged under this chapter are community school districts and are part of the area education agency in which the greatest number of qualified electors of the district reside at the time of the special election . . .”

**Record of Passed Reorganization Elections:**

Effective Date	Original Districts & AEA Nos.	New District & AEA No.
June 20, 1989	Calamus (9) Wheatland (9)	Calamus-Wheatland (9)
July 1, 1993	Lost Nation (9) Midland (10)	Midland (10)

## Table 2-08

### Record of Dismissed Reorganization Petitions And Failed Reorganization Elections Since July 1, 1975

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.15, unnumbered paragraph 1:** “At the hearing, which shall be held within ten days of the final date set for filing objections, interested parties, both petitioners and objectors, may present evidence and arguments, and the area education agency board shall review the matter on its merits and within ten days after the conclusion of any hearing, shall rule on the objections and shall enter an order fixing the boundaries for the proposed school corporation as will in its judgment be for the best interests of all parties concerned, having due regard for the welfare of adjoining districts, or dismiss the petition.”

**Section 275.17:** “If an area education agency board does not approve the change in boundaries of school districts in accordance with a petition, a petition describing the identical or similar boundaries shall not be filed for a period of six months following the date of the hearing or the vote of the board, whichever is later.”

**Section 275.22:** “. . . If the majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors is in favor of the proposition, as provided in section 275.20, a new school corporation shall be organized. If the majority of votes cast is opposed to the proposition, a new petition describing the identical or similar boundaries shall not be filed for at least six months from the date of the election . . .”

**Record of Dismissed Petitions:**

Hearing Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
None		

**Record of Failed Elections:**

Election Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
None		

## Table 2-09

### Record of Certification of Dissolution Commissions Since July 1, 1975

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.51, unnumbered paragraph 4:** “The board of the school district shall certify to the area education agency board that a commission has been formed, the names and addresses of commission members, and that the commission members represent the various geographic areas and socioeconomic factors present in the district.”

**Section 275.53, unnumbered paragraph 1:** “The commission shall send a copy of its dissolution proposal or shall inform the board that it cannot agree upon a dissolution proposal not later than one year following the date of the organizational meeting of the commission . . .”

**Section 275.55, unnumbered paragraph 3:** “The proposition shall be adopted if a majority of the electors voting on the proposition approve its adoption.”

**Certification of Commission:**

Date	District
None	

**Failure of Commission to Agree:**

Date	District
None	

**Approval by Electors:**

Date	District
None	

**Failure of Electors to Approve:**

Date	District
None	

Table 2-10

**Record of Boundary Line Changes by Concurrent Action  
Since July 1, 1975**

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.37, unnumbered paragraph 1:** “The boundary lines of contiguous school corporations may be changed by the concurrent action of the respective boards of directors at their regular meetings in July, or at special meetings called for that purpose. Such concurrent action shall be subject to the approval of the area education agency board but such concurrent action shall stand approved if the said board does not disapprove such concurrent action within thirty days following receipt of notice thereof. The corporation from which territory is detached shall, after the change, contain not less than four government sections of land.”

**Section 275.22:** “. . . If territory is excluded from the reorganized district, action pursuant to section 274.37 shall be taken prior to the effective date of reorganization. . .”

**Territory Exclusion/Inclusion:**

Effective Date	Excluded From	Included In
August 1981	Tipton	Bennett
August 1983	Dubuque	Bellevue
July 1, 1987	Wilton	Tipton

**Other Concurrent Action:**

Effective Dates	Districts	Districts
July 1, 1984	Delwood	Central Clinton
July 1, 1991	Pleasant Valley	Bettendorf
July 1, 1997	Pleasant Valley	Bettendorf

## Table 2-11

### Record of Joint Board Actions Since July 1, 1975

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.8, unnumbered paragraph 1:** “Planning of joint districts shall be conducted in the same manner as planning for single districts, except as provided in this section. Studies and surveys relating to the planning of joint districts shall be filed with the area education agency in which one of the districts is located which has the greatest taxable property base. In the case of controversy over the planning of joint districts, the matter shall be submitted to the director of the Department of Education. Judicial review of the director’s decision may be sought in accordance with the terms of the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 17A.

Notwithstanding the terms of that Act, petitions for judicial review must be filed within thirty days after the decision of the director. “Joint districts” means districts that lie in two or more adjacent area education agencies.”

**Section 275.16, unnumbered paragraph 1:** “If the territory described in the petition for the proposed corporation lies in more than one area education agency, the agency administrator with whom the petition is filed shall fix the time and place for a hearing and call a joint meeting of the members of all the agency boards in which territory of the proposed school corporation lies, to act as a single board for the hearing of the objections, and a majority of members of each of the agency boards of the different agencies in which any part of the proposed corporation lies, constitutes a quorum. The president of the board of directors of the area education agency in which the petition has been filed, or a member of the board designated by the president shall preside at the joint meeting. The joint boards acting as a single board shall determine whether the petition conforms to plans or, if the petition requests a change in plans, whether a change should be made, and may change the plans of any or all the area education agency boards affected by the petition. The joint board shall determine and fix boundaries for the proposed corporation as provided in section 275.15 or dismiss the petition. The joint board may continue the hearing as provided in section 275.15.”

**Actions of Joint Boards:**

Effective Dates Or Action Dates	AEA Nos.	Districts	Joint Board Actions
July 1, 1993	9 10	Lost Nation Midland	Joint board approved petition – election passed

## Chapter Three

### Suggested Alternate Plans

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.2:** “. . . The plans shall also include suggested alternate plans that incorporate the school districts in the area education agency into reorganized districts that meet the enrollment standards specified in section 275.3 and may include alternate plans proposed by school districts for sharing programs under section 28E.9, 256.13, 280.15, 282.7, or 282.10 as an alternative to school reorganization.”

**Section 275.3:** “No new school district shall be planned by an area education agency board nor shall any proposal for creation or enlargement of any school district be approved by an area education agency board or submitted to electors unless there reside within the proposed limits of such district at least three hundred persons of school age who were enrolled in public schools in the preceding school year. Provided, however, that the director of the Department of Education shall have authority to grant permission to an area education agency board to approve the formation or enlargement of a school district containing a lower school enrollment than required in this section on the written request of such area education agency board if such request is accompanied by evidence tending to show that sparsity of population, natural barriers or other good reason makes it impracticable to meet the schools enrollment requirement.”

Table 01	List of Districts in Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9
Table 02	List of Alternate Whole-Grade Plans
Table 03	Overview of Plans

### Insert 3-01 -- Size

## List of Districts in Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 July 1, 2000

#### List According to Enrollment Size:

#	AEA #	Co. #	Dist. #	District Name	Certified Enrollment July 00	Statewide Rank from Smallest	Operates High School
1	9	16	603	Bennett Community School	270	30	Yes
2	9	23	1675	Delwood Community School	293	36	No
3	9	49	5337	Preston Community School	342	57	Yes
4	9	49	243	Andrew Community School	360	65	Yes
5	9	49	1965	East Central Comm. School	458	97	Yes
6	9	23	918	Calamus-Wheatland Comm.	553	136	Yes
7	9	16	1926	Durant Community School	625	164	Yes
8	9	23	4773	Northeast Community School	688	186	Yes
9	9	49	585	Bellevue Community School	697	190	Yes
10	9	58	3841	Louisa-Muscatine Community	900	246	Yes
11	9	23	936	Camanche Community School	920	250	Yes
12	9	70	7038	Wilton Community School	920	251	Yes
13	9	58	1368	Columbus Community School	1,108	271	Yes
14	9	70	6975	West Liberty Community	1,198	279	Yes
15	9	49	4041	Maquoketa Community School	1,580	307	Yes
16	9	23	1082	Central Clinton Comm. School	1,684	316	Yes
17	9	82	4784	North Scott Comm. School	2,936	349	Yes
18	9	82	5250	Pleasant Valley Community	3,106	350	Yes
19	9	82	621	Bettendorf Community School	4,240	356	Yes
20	9	23	1278	Clinton Community School	4,677	361	Yes
21	9	70	4581	Muscatine Community School	5,580	367	Yes
22	9	82	1611	Davenport Community School	17,377	375	Yes
<b>Totals</b>					<b>50,516</b>		
<b>Average</b>					<b>2,296</b>		
<b>Number of Districts</b>					<b>22</b>		

**Table 3-01 -- Size**

**List of Districts in Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9  
July 1, 2000**

**List According to Alphabet:**

#	AEA #	Co. #	Dist. #	District Name	Certified Enrollment July 00	Statewide Rank from Smallest	Operates High School
1	9	49	243	Andrew Community School	360	65	Yes
2	9	49	585	Bellevue Community School	697	190	Yes
3	9	16	603	Bennett Community School	270	30	Yes
4	9	82	621	Bettendorf Community School	4,240	356	Yes
5	9	23	918	Calamus-Wheatland Comm.	553	136	Yes
6	9	23	936	Camanche Community School	920	250	Yes
7	9	23	1082	Central Clinton Comm. School	1,684	316	Yes
8	9	23	1278	Clinton Community School	4,677	361	Yes
9	9	58	1368	Columbus Community School	1,108	271	Yes
10	9	82	1611	Davenport Community School	17,377	375	Yes
11	9	23	1675	Delwood Community School	293	36	No
12	9	16	1926	Durant Community School	625	164	Yes
13	9	49	1965	East Central Comm. School	458	97	Yes
14	9	58	3841	Louisa-Muscatine Community	900	246	Yes
15	9	49	4041	Maquoketa Community School	1,580	307	Yes
16	9	70	4581	Muscatine Community School	5,580	367	Yes
17	9	82	4784	North Scott Comm. School	2,936	349	Yes
18	9	23	4773	Northeast Community School	688	186	Yes
19	9	82	5250	Pleasant Valley Community	3,106	350	Yes
20	9	49	5337	Preston Community School	342	57	Yes
21	9	70	6975	West Liberty Community	1,198	279	Yes
22	9	70	7038	Wilton Community School	920	251	Yes
<b>Totals</b>					<b>50,516</b>		
<b>Average</b>					<b>2,296</b>		
<b>Number of Districts</b>					<b>22</b>		

**Table 3-02****List of Alternate Whole-Grade Plans  
2000-2001**

<b>#</b>	<b>AEA #</b>	<b>School District</b>	<b>First Year</b>	<b>Grade Levels Receiving</b>	<b>Grade Levels Sending</b>	<b>Operates High School</b>	<b>Partner School Districts</b>
1	9	Delwood	1988-89		7-12	No	Maquoketa

### Table 3-03

#### Overview of Plans

Iowa Code section 275.2, 1997, in part, requires that, “The plans shall also include suggested alternate plans that incorporate the school districts in the area education agency into reorganized districts that meet the enrollment standards specified in section 275.3 and may include alternate plans proposed by school districts for sharing programs under section 28E.9, 256.13, 280.15, 282.7, or 282.10 as an alternative to school reorganization.” The minimum number listed in Section 275.3 is 300. Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 (AEA 9) currently has two districts below an enrollment of 300, as noted in the following table:

**Districts with Less than 300 Enrollment**

<b>District</b>	<b>September 2000 Enrollment*</b>
Bennett Community School District	270
Delwood Community School District	293

\*Most current enrollment as of date revision of plan is being written.

The purposes of the overview section of this plan are to comply with the mandate relative to enrollment size as stated in Iowa Code section 275.2, 1997, to provide assistance to the officials and citizens of school districts contemplating school district reorganization, and to assist the area education agency board of directors in the event it is presented a reorganization petition. Alternate reorganization proposals have been prepared for the districts that have less than 300 students.

This section of the plan lists principles that the AEA board of directors will consider as it acts upon reorganization petitions presented to it and as it enters the order “fixing boundary lines.” These principles will apply to petitions presented by districts with less than 300 students, and they will apply to districts with more than 300 students that may be included in a reorganization petition.

#### **A. Overriding reorganization principles.**

As the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 board of directors works with the reorganization process it embraces three overriding principles:

1. School district reorganization is a local issue. The decision to begin the process by circulating a petition is the sole responsibility of the district’s citizens and elected officials. The ultimate decision to vote for or against a reorganization proposal is within the realm of the registered voters of the districts involved.
2. The Code of Iowa, specifically Chapter 275, requires the area education agency and its board of directors to assume stated responsibilities and authorities. In general terms, those mandates relate to the development of the area education agency reorganization plan; relate to the governance of the petition process from the time the administrator is presented with such petition, to the AEA board of directors’ order to approve or disapprove an election; and

relate to several other narrower responsibilities, such as the acceptance of a certification that a dissolution commission has been formed. The area education agency and its board of directors will be limited to those actions required by the Code, and to assistance that is specifically requested by the local districts which will not be in potential conflict with the mandates of the petition process.

3. The board of directors views the merger of school districts as the union of public business entities. The AEA encourages the local residents and boards of directors to determine if reorganization will result in improved services and programs, an enhancement in the efficiency and economical operations of the district or districts, and an increase in the value of the district or districts as assets to the residents of the communities and territories they serve. As required by Chapter 275 of the Code of Iowa, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 “shall, insofar as possible, authorize submission of proposals to the electors as they are developed and approved.”

### **B. Petition and boundary line principles.**

When acting upon reorganization petitions that may be presented to it, the area education agency board shall consider the following principles. These tenets are not stated in order of importance, and other factors may be considered.

1. The Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency board encourages the local boards of directors to:
  - Thoroughly study the reorganization conditions before submitting a proposal to the AEA;
  - Involve the community in the study and decision making process through the formation of citizens committees, open forums for the purpose of disseminating information, and group and personal contacts for obtaining citizen input; and
  - Explore all options connected with the possible reorganization.
2. Reorganization studies and surveys shall be comprehensive, and they shall help determine whether the proposed district:
  - Will have reasonable long-term stability;
  - Will be able to comfortably meet the minimum educational standards required by the State of Iowa;
  - Will be able to operate in an economical and efficient manner;
  - Will have adequate facilities for the combined student body or have a plan for the development of adequate facilities;
  - Will form a reasonable geographic entity considering the outline of the territory, and the locations of the students, the municipalities, and the school structures;
  - Has demonstrated the compatibility of the existing individual units through sharing agreements and other forms of cooperation; and
  - Will satisfy the “matters” expressed in Iowa Code section 275.2, 1997.
3. When acting upon objections that request property to be removed from a proposed reorganization, the area education agency board will adhere to the mandates of Iowa Code section 275.15, unnumbered paragraph 2, 1997. As it rules upon the exclusion of territory,

the decisions of the board, “shall represent a balance between the rights of the objectors and the welfare of the reorganized district.”

The Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 board of directors recognizes that each reorganization petition situation is unique. At the deliberation upon the petition, the board will first examine the petition according to the principles established in this plan. However, the board reserves the right to add to those principles or detract from them as is warranted by each circumstance.

**C. Suggested alternate plans.**

As of the date of the approval of this plan, there is one district in Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 that sends its secondary students to another district and one district that has a certified enrollment of less than 300. The suggested alternate plans for these districts are:

1. Delwood Community School currently sends its 7-12 students to Maquoketa. If Delwood were to consider reorganizing, Mississippi Bend AEA suggests that Delwood consider reorganizing with the Maquoketa Community School District, Northeast (Goose Lake) Community School District, or Central Clinton Community School District.
2. If Bennett Community School District were to consider reorganizing, Mississippi Bend AEA suggests that the Bennett Community School District consider reorganizing with Calamus-Wheatland Community School District, Durant Community School District, North Scott Community School District, or Wilton Community School District.

Petitions filed by any of the above listed districts, by other districts in AEA 9, or by a district in AEA 9 jointly with a district in a contiguous area education agency, shall be presented and written in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Iowa. If necessary, such petition shall request a change in the AEA’s reorganization plan, and the request will be considered at the hearing on the petition.

## **Appendix A**

### **Supporting Data For Districts In AEA 9**

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.2, 1997:** “The scope of the studies and surveys shall include the following matters in the various districts in the area education agency and all districts adjacent to the area education agency: the adequacy of the educational program, pupil enrollment, property valuations, existing buildings and equipment, natural community areas, road conditions, transportation, economic factors, individual attention given to the needs of students, the opportunity of students to participate in a wide variety of activities related to the total development of the student, and other matters that may bear on educational programs meeting minimum standards required by law . . .”

Supporting data for the school districts in Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 are contained in Appendix A. This appendix consists of detailed tables listing data for the districts in the AEA.

## **Appendix B**

### **Supporting Data for Adjacent Districts**

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.1, unnumbered paragraph 2:** “. . . The area education agency boards shall develop detailed studies and surveys of the school districts within the area education agency and all adjacent territory . . .”

The data for adjacent districts are attached to the area education agency plan as parts of Appendix B. The attachments of such data do not automatically indicate approval by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency 9 board of directors.

**Table B-01 – Clockwise**

**List of Adjacent Districts  
July 1, 2000**

**Listed Counter-Clockwise – From North:**

<b>No. Districts</b>	<b>AEA No.</b>	<b>County No.</b>	<b>District No.</b>	<b>District Name</b>
1	1	31	1863	Dubuque Community School District
2	1	31	6961	Western Dubuque Community School District
3	10	53	4269	Midland Community School District
4	10	16	3691	North Cedar Community School District
5	10	16	4608	Tipton Community School District
6	10	16	6930	West Branch Community School District
7	10	52	3816	Lone Tree Community School District
8	10	92	2977	Highland Community School District
9	16	44	6700	Waco Community School District
10	16	44	7047	Winfield-Mt. Union Community School District
11	16	58	6759	Wapello Community School District

**Table B-01 – Alphabetical**

**List of Adjacent Districts  
July 1, 2000**

**Listed Alphabetically:**

<b>No. Districts</b>	<b>AEA No.</b>	<b>County No.</b>	<b>District No.</b>	<b>District Name</b>
1	1	31	1863	Dubuque Community School District
2	10	92	2977	Highland Community School District
3	10	52	3816	Lone Tree Community School District
4	10	53	4269	Midland Community School District
5	10	16	3691	North Cedar Community School District
6	10	16	4608	Tipton Community School District
7	16	44	6700	Waco Community School District
8	16	58	6759	Wapello Community School District
9	10	16	6930	West Branch Community School District
10	1	31	6961	Western Dubuque Community School District
11	16	44	7047	Winfield-Mt. Union Community School District

## Appendix C

### Further Surveys and Assistance

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.5, 1997:** “. . . Following receipt of a petition pursuant to section 275.12, the area education agency board shall review its plans and determine whether the petition complies with the plans that had been adopted by the board. If the petition does not comply with the plans that had been adopted by the board, the board shall conduct further surveys pursuant to section 275.4 prior to the date set for the hearing upon the petition. If the board has conducted further surveys, the board shall present the results of the further surveys at the hearing upon the petition.

**Section 275.16 unnumbered paragraph 1:** “. . . The joint boards acting as a single board shall determine whether the petition conforms to plans or, if the petition requests a change in plans, whether a change should be made, and may change the plans of any or all the area education agency boards affected by the petition . . .”

**Table C-01**

**Reorganization Studies Conducted by  
Department of Education  
Since July 1, 1986x**

**Sorted by Year and Report Number:**

<b>District Name</b>	<b>AEA No.</b>	<b>Year and Study Number</b>	<b>Study Type</b>
Bennett Community School District	9	1987	Consultation
Bennett Community School District	9	1989	Full Study
Bennett Community School District	9	1989	Consultation
Bennett Community School District	9	1992	Full Study
Calamus-Wheatland Community School District and Central Clinton Community School District	9	1992	Full Study
Lost Nation Community School District	9	1992	Financial Study
Preston Community School District and East Central Community School District	9	2000	Full Study

**Appendix D**  
**Supporting Records**  
**Development of Plan Revision**

Appendix D includes the written correspondence that supports the process used to develop the revision of the AEA reorganization plan.

Attachment D-01

## **Appendix E**

### **Supporting Records**

### **Approval and Maintenance of Plan**

This appendix contains documentation for the administrative set-up of the plan, for board approval of the plan, and for maintenance of the plan. As reorganization petitions are presented to the area education agency, and as other reorganization related activities take place, additional correspondence and records will be generated. The area education agency board of directors is designating this appendix to be a gathering location for such documentation or for the purpose of noting the existence of such information.

Attachment E-01	Preparation for Approval
Attachment E-02	Approval by Board of Directors
Attachment E-3	Maintaining the Plan

## **Attachment E-01**

### **Administrative Preparation for Approval**

The following steps were taken to process the plan for board approval:

1. Set dates for public hearing, for review of the plan by the board, for board approval, and for transmittal to the Department of Education. These dates were inserted in the Preface.
2. Followed the same procedures used for other important board of director activities.
3. Recorded date of approval on cover and in Table 2-01.
4. Recorded date of transmittal in Table 2-03.
5. Recorded date of hearing in Table 2-06.

After the approval process is completed, the plan will be filed for future use as reorganization petitions are presented to the AEA. Following are suggestions that may make the plan more useful in the event reorganization petitions are filed with the administrator:

1. File the plan, including the supporting data in Appendix A, where it is secure, but ready for use if necessary.
2. Contact the neighboring AEAs for copies of their plans. Include this material with the plan, and file it as Appendix B.
3. Gather the “further surveys” that are on file at the AEA, and file them as Appendix C. This may include a large collection of documents. The AEA may wish to cull-out the old and /or irrelevant material at this time. Regarding studies and surveys conducted for districts that subsequently reorganized, the AEA may decide to keep the reports until after the initial board of the newly formed district is phased-out. This is usually three to four years. Studies and surveys for districts that did not reorganize may be kept on file for a longer period of time – until it is decided the reports have become too out-of-date for any use. The further surveys kept on file are to be recorded in Table 2-04.
4. Distribute the plan, or portions thereof, as has been done with previous versions of the plan. It is suggested that a copy be filed with the AEA attorney.
5. Table E-03, in Appendix E, is included in order to help the AEA maintain the plan and to use it if reorganization petitions are presented.

**Attachment E-02**

**Approval by Board of Directors**

**Attachment E-03**  
**Maintaining the Plan**