



A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

August 2009

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NEW LOOK

Welcome to the refreshed *School Leader Update*.

This publication has served as a primary vehicle for the Iowa Department of Education to communicate education policy to Iowa school administrators.

We continue to offer pertinent information, just with a new look.

Please note that the newsletter's sections — such as Grants & Funding, Student Health & Nutrition — remain. As does our monthly columns, such as Legal Lessons.

Please send any feedback to elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov.



Race to the Top, standards, and Iowa Core

Summer vacation for Iowa students is nearing an end, but changes on the horizon signal new beginnings in many areas of education.

Significant federal funds continue to be released to schools across America. New reporting is required for federal dollars part of the America Recovery and Rebuilding Act (ARRA) and entities receiving funds will be provided reporting formats and requirements in the next few weeks.

Last Friday, the President and the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan released draft guidance for Race to the Top funds. There are many requirements in the initial draft for which public comment is being solicited within the next 30 days. You may find this draft at www.ed.gov. The competition is open to an application from each

state. It is expected that only a few states will receive Race to the Top funds. The Iowa Department of Education is researching opportunities that align to the Iowa Core Curriculum to bring resources to our state.

Initial drafts of the national common core standards in English language arts and mathematics are complete. Iowa was one of 47 states to join the common core standards initiative led by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Each state department was able to review the drafts and additional feedback will be sought from other groups during August. The standards are expected to be released for public review by early September. These are only the exit standards. Additional detail, such as learning progressions or grade spans, will be released in December. A full examination of the final draft is not possible at this time. However, I believe Iowa will be able to incorporate the national standards because the research and data reviewed in the development of both the national standards and the Iowa Core Curriculum is similar. Your work at the district level to implement the core should absolutely continue as the expectations for our students cannot be put on hold. —Judy Jeffrey, Director



Judy Jeffrey, Director



USSYP Youth and politics

Iowa is participating in the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The program is designed to give young people a working knowledge of American political life.

Two Iowa students will have the opportunity to spend March 6 through March 13, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Selection of the two Iowa high school representatives will be based on the outstanding ability and demonstrated leadership qualities of elected junior or senior high school student officers for 2009-2010.

The foundation will pay all expenses. The student representatives will also receive a \$5,000 scholarship, subject to scholarship conditions and requirements.

For more information, visit www.iowa.gov/educate/ or contact Cheryl Mullenbach at 515-494-5610 or cheryl.mullenbach@iowa.gov.

Harvard faculty member to be keynote

Dr. Robert Brooks will be the keynote speaker for the Iowa Learning Support Kick-Off event to be held at Scheman Center in Ames on September 9, 2009.

Brooks is on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and an international speaker to educators, parents, and mental health professionals.

His address, entitled "The Power of Mindsets," will focus on creating positive school climate that develops personal motivation, discipline, and resilience in youth.

Brooks will target the secondary experience, as well as supports needed for students with learning, behavior and/or mental health needs.

More information about Brooks is available at <http://drrobertbrooks.com>.

The agenda also includes:

- An overview of Iowa Learning Supports;
- An introduction to strategies for connecting initiatives using a continuous improvement process; and
- Presentations by schools that have created safe, healthy, and caring learning environments.

For more information about the Learning Supports Kick-Off Event and to register, go to http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=498&Itemid=1296 or contact Cyndy Erickson at 515-281-8514 or cyndy.erickson@iowa.gov.



Dr. Robert Brooks

[Iowa Learning Supports
Kick-Off Conference](#)
September 9, 2009
Scheman Center

Ensure 'exempt' school status reporting

Administrators are requested to ensure "exempt" schools in districts have filed the necessary paperwork with the Iowa Department of Education (DE). Iowa Code section 299.24 provides for an exemption from the compulsory education law and the educational standards law for members of established religious denominations that profess tenets that differ substantially from these laws.

The initial exemption is for two years. A one-year renewal may be requested by each religious group desiring to do so.

If administrators are aware of schools that may meet the definition of an exempt school and may not have filed for an exemption, please contact Wilma Gajdel at 515-281-5332 or wilma.gajdel@iowa.gov.

'Exempt' school status
Iowa Code Section 299.24

Contact:

Wilma Gajdel

515-281-5332

ARRA Update: Waivers related to Title I

The Iowa Department of Education will be applying to the federal government for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Title I, Part A funding waivers on behalf of Iowa's local school districts.



Once these waivers have been approved for the state of Iowa, local school districts will then apply for the district waivers directly from the Iowa Department of Education (DE). When approval has been received from the U.S. Department of Education, information regarding the district waiver application process will be available on the DE Website under Title I, Part A.

Districts may comment on these waivers by forwarding written statements to ruth.jones@iowa.gov by August 14, 2009. The DE Website Notice on Waivers, including the full text of each waiver request related to Title I, Part A and ARRA Funding, can be found at www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1731&Itemid=2552#waivers.

Following are the waivers for which the DE will be applying:

Waiver of Title I, Part A Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Related to Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Public School Choice: Approval of identified local education agencies (LEAs) and schools as SES providers. This provision prohibits a state education agency (SEA) from approving as a provider of SES a school identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring or an LEA identified for improvement or corrective action. (34 C.F.R. § 200.47(b)(1)(iv)(A),(B). *Status: Waiver Request in Progress*

Waivers Related to Title I, Part A ARRA Funds: An LEA's obligation to spend an amount equal to at least 20 percent of its fiscal year (FY) 2009 Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 allocation on transportation for public school choice and on SES (20 percent obligation) (ESEA section 1116(b)(10); 34 C.F.R. § 200.48). *Status: Waiver Request in Progress*

Waivers Related to Title I, Part A ARRA Funds: The responsibility of a school in improvement to spend 10 percent of its Title I, Part A funds on professional development. (ESEA section 1116(b)(3)(A)(iii); 34 C.F.R. § 200.41.(c)(5). *Status: Waiver Request in Progress*

Waivers Related to Title I, Part A ARRA Funds: The responsibility of an LEA in improvement to spend 10 percent of its FY 2009 Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 allocation on professional development. (ESEA section 1116(c)(7)(A)(iii); 34 C.F.R. § 200.52(a)(3)(iii). *Status: Waiver Request in Progress*

Waivers Related to Title I, Part A ARRA Funds: The responsibility of an LEA to calculate the per-pupil amount for SES based on its FY 2009 Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 allocation (per-pupil amount for SES). (ESEA section 1116(e)(6); 34 C.F.R. § 200.48(c). *Status: Waiver Request in Progress*

Waivers Related to Title I, Part A ARRA Funds: The prohibition on an SEA's ability to grant to its LEAs waivers of the carryover limitation more than once every three years. (ESEA section 1127(b). *Status: Waiver Request in Progress*

MEDICAID Cost rates & training

School administrators seeking Medicaid reimbursement for Individualized Education Plan (IEP) services must use the new Medicaid cost rates for fiscal year 2009-2010 for Medicaid claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2009.

The rates are expected to be posted in August and will be available online at the Iowa Department of Education Website.

Fall 2009 Iowa Communications Network (ICN) training is being scheduled and the date and time will be announced through email to the local education agency business managers and through announcement to the Iowa School Nurses listserve.

For more information, contact Jim Donoghue at jim.donoghue@iowa.gov or 515-281-8505.



Iowa begins transition to new NGA cohort graduation rate



National Governors Association (NGA) Cohort Rate

The four-year NGA rate is calculated by dividing the number of on-time graduates in 2008 by the number of 9th graders in the fall of 2004 minus number transferred out plus total transferred in students.

The formula allows an adjustment for special education students who take longer to graduate and early graduates who are in and out the cohort.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Leaver Rate

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Leaver rate is calculated by dividing the number of high school regular diploma recipients in a given year by the estimate number of 9th graders four years previous.

The estimated 9th grade enrollment is the sum of the number of high school regular diploma recipients in that year and dropouts over the four previous years.

More specifically, the total dropouts include the number of dropouts in grade 9 in year 1, the number of dropouts in grade 10 in year 2, the number of dropout in grade 11 in year 3, and the number of dropouts in year 4.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is beginning to transition to a new method for calculating the state's high school graduation rate.

The 2008 graduating class is the first group of Iowa students to have a statewide identification number for all four years. With this information, Iowa can now implement a "cohort" rate, which follows the same group of students over several years.

Iowa will use the National Governors Association (NGA) Cohort Rate to report graduation rates to the public, school districts, and the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). In 2005, governors of all 50 states signed the Graduation Counts Compact to create a common method of calculating graduation rates.

The DE will report both a four-year and three-year NGA cohort rates. Each rate uses the same basic calculation, except the three-year rate starts with sophomore students and the four-year rate counts first-year high school students. The three- and four-year rates are both required by the USDE.

The four-year NGA rate is calculated by dividing the number of on-time graduates in 2008 by the number of 9th graders in the fall of 2004 minus number transferred out plus total transferred in students. The formula allows an adjustment for special education students who take longer to graduate and early graduates who are in and out the cohort.

Iowa will begin using the National Governors Association (NGA) Cohort Rate to report graduation rates to the public, school districts, and the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).

The DE will also report a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Leaver Rate formula, which it has used since 2003. Twenty seven states report graduation rates using the Leaver formula. A copy of the most recent graduation rates, which is based on the Leaver rate, can be found at www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=530&Itemid=55.

The purpose of continuing to report this rate is to provide a consistent baseline calculation as the DE transitions to a single cohort rate. The Leaver Rate is not used in computing annual year progress.

The Leaver rate is calculated by dividing the number of high school regular diploma recipients in a given year by the estimate number of 9th graders four years previous. The estimated 9th grade enrollment is the sum of the number of high school regular diploma recipients in that year and dropouts over the four previous years. More specifically, the total dropouts include the number of dropouts in ninth grade in year 1, the number of dropouts in tenth grade in year 2, the number of dropout in eleventh grade in year 3, and the number of dropouts in year 4.

Multiple graduation rates will be reported by the DE, beginning with the graduating class of 2008, as it transitions to a single cohort rate for the Class of 2010 graduates.

Iowa Department of Education offers waivers, exemptions

Five waivers or exemptions that are available from the Iowa Department of Education (DE) include:

- Chapter 12 Exemption for 2010-2011: Due January 1, 2010
- New Innovative Calendar for 2010-2011: Due November 1
- Continued Innovative Calendar for 2010-2011: Due November 1
- Early Start Date for 2010-2011 (completed on the District's 2010 Spring BEDS Report)
- Foreign Language for 2009-2010

The requirements vary slightly for each waiver (please see chart below).

Common requirements for a public hearing include:

- Prior publication of date, time, and place of hearing.
- Purpose(s) of the hearing shall be included in the notice.

The specifics of the notice vary. See authoring statutes at www.legis.state.ia.us/IACODE/2003SUPPLEMENT/tablesandindex/ by entering the appropriate chapter and sections.

The public hearing is designed to provide an opportunity for the public to have input on the proposed issue. It can be part of the regular board meeting, or it may be a special board meeting. In either case, the minutes of the meeting shall document that the public was given an opportunity to comment regardless of whether anyone in fact attended or provided input.

Waiver/exemption requests that fail to document the opportunity for public input will be denied. Waiver requests that have a deadline defined by Iowa Code are strictly adhered to and the DE does not have the authority to waive deadlines set in Code.

For more information please contact Del Hoover at 515-281-3170 or del.hoover@iowa.gov.

Waivers and Exemptions			
Waiver/Exemption	Form	Board Approval Hearing	Deadline
Chapter 12 – General Accreditation Standards 281-IAC 12.9	Paper document located at: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=483&Itemid=1219	Board minutes that demonstrate that the local school board has approved the request.	January 1 preceding the school year for which the waiver is requested.
New Innovative Calendar and Continued Innovative Calendar 279.10	Paper document located at: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=483&Itemid=1219	Documentation of public hearing.	November 1 preceding the school year for which the waiver is requested. Defined in the Code of Iowa.
Early Start 279.10(4)	Web-Based document located on the Spring BEDS Report located at: https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/secure/login.asp	Assurances that the school district has held a public hearing and that starting school on the earliest starting date specified in Iowa Code section 279.10 subsection 1 will have a significant negative educational impact.	June 15 preceding the school year for which the waiver is requested. Defined in the Code of Iowa.
Foreign Language 256.11(5)(f)	Paper document located at: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=483&Itemid=1219	Minutes that demonstrate that the local school board has approved the request to be waived from the third and fourth sequential units of foreign language.	

Career information system expanding to new web portal

Iowa College Aid and state agency partners, including the Iowa Department of Education (DE), are pleased to announce the launch of a new community center web portal.

The portal will serve as a one-stop shop for career and college planning, financial aid resources, college admission applications, financial literacy tools, and Iowa employment opportunities.

The web-based system will include many of the same career planning resources currently offered through Iowa Choices® along with many enhancements.

The career information component of the web portal is the state-designated career information and decision-making system.

The enhanced system is available at no cost to Iowa school districts, community colleges, and other entities.

Go to www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov to access the web portal.

Students and educators will have the option to import their current Choices portfolio into the new system.

New features are listed to the right. Features of Iowa Choices® that will continue with the community center web portal include:

- Free access to career information and assessments for Iowa students.
- Free training and support from Iowa College Aid.
- Lesson plans and activities for use in the classroom.
- Online portfolio to store education and career plans, documents, assessment results, and other related materials.

The new portal provides expanded, unlimited access to include all Iowa citizens.

New web portal features

- Choices Planner® and Choices Explorer® integrated into a single product with personalized content based on user age.
- Customized “Guideways,” providing a step-by-step process for grades 9-12 that meets state reporting requirements.
- Unlimited free access to online ACT/SAT/GRE test preparation.
- Online application for state administered financial aid programs.
- Ability to search for local, state, and national scholarships.
- Online admission applications to Iowa colleges and universities.
- District-wide reporting capabilities.
- Connection to Iowa internship and employment opportunities.

School Improvement

Training available for 2009-2010 district accreditation visits

Training sessions will be held by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) in September and October for districts and schools having a state accreditation site visit during 2009-2010. These sessions will provide pertinent information and help guide preparation for the visits.

Two sessions will be offered via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) with one session focusing on combined school improvement/equity visits. As soon as training session locations are verified, the specific dates will be sent to districts and schools and published in the September *School Leader Update*. To schedule a location to receive the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) training, please contact Barb Byrd at 515-281-5001 or barb.byrd@iowa.gov.

Districts receiving an equity visit will also have a training opportunity at the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines in the State Board Room on Tuesday, September 22 from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Questions about equity visits and training may be sent to Tom Andersen at 515-281-3769 or tom.andersen@iowa.gov.

School improvement consultants will also offer in-person site visit trainings for each area education agency in early September and October.

Check the [DE calendar](#) or contact a school improvement consultant or Barb Byrd at 515-281-5001 or barb.byrd@iowa.gov for the complete listing.

Student Health & Nutrition

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus update

Cases of the new novel influenza A virus continue throughout the United States and other countries. A vaccine for the virus is reported to be in development. It is too early to determine who will be targeted for vaccination should a safe, effective vaccine be developed and available.

Coordinated planning is important and partnerships between the government, the private sector, and the public will be the focus. Communities, local public health, schools, and families are also encouraged to think ahead about how they can partner to prepare to cope with this virus should increased illness and community outbreaks occur. Review reliable resources frequently by going to www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/ and www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Take everyday actions to stay healthy:

- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water after coughing or sneezing and use alcohol-based hand cleaners if unable to wash.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth to prevent the spread of germs.
- Stay home from work or school if sick and limit contact with others to keep from infecting others.
- Eat nutritional meals, exercise, and get appropriate sleep.
- Find healthy ways to deal with stress and anxiety.
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds, and other social distancing measures.

For more information, contact Charlotte Burt at charlotte.burt@iowa.gov.

Transportation

WORKSHOP SET

The Iowa Department of Education School Transportation Office is hosting a Transportation Workshop on Monday, September 21 in the Hoover Building, 440 E. 14th St., Des Moines.

The workshop will benefit all transportation directors/supervisors, but it will be most helpful for newer directors/supervisors.

The workshop will be held 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Space is limited to 40 attendees. Preference will be given to new and recent directors/supervisors and then on a first come, first served basis. More workshops may be scheduled depending on interest.

To register, contact Max Christensen at max.christensen@iowa.gov.

Nutrition staff work to improve school health environment

Thirty school nutrition staff from 16 districts representing over 68,000 Iowa students participated in a Team Nutrition Workshop at Iowa State University (ISU), June 11-12, 2009. "The Role of Nutrition Programs in a Healthy School Environment" was sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services and ISU Extension through a U.S. Department of Agriculture Team Nutrition Grant. ISU Extension Nutrition and Health field specialists strategized with districts about ways to improve the school health environment.

Chef Cyndie Story, PhD, RD demonstrated ways to reduce sodium and fats and increase fruit, vegetable, and whole grain use in school meals.

Break-out sessions included: Hands-on production experience; Merchandising healthy menu options; and Communication to school district stakeholders. Donna Becker, RD, School Foodservice Director in the Perry School District shared her success with the HealthierUS School Challenge. Jane Heikenen, Bureau Consultant, presented ways to incorporate USDA Commodity foods into healthy school menus.

More information, recipes and other resources can be found at www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=373&Itemid=1332 or contact Team Nutrition Project Directors Patti Delger (281-5676 or patti.delger@iowa.gov) or Carrie Scheidel (281-4758 or carrie.scheidel@iowa.gov).



E-Rate Update

Program provides discounts for telecommunications services to schools and libraries.

Public school districts, nonpublic schools, area education agencies, and public libraries are eligible to apply for funding under the Universal Service Administrative Company "E-Rate" program.

E-Rate provides discounts on telecommunications services (such as telephone service), Internet, and internal connections.

The rules of the E-rate program state that prior to filing Form 470, E-rate applicants must have a completed technology plan on file for the year in which they are filing. This is required even when a district receives E-rate discounts (like Internet service) or someone else files for them.

The major components of the technology plan are included in the district/school Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) filed in 2004 and are revised regularly as part of the accreditation process. However, each year districts/schools must complete the E-rate Technology Plan Addendum & Certification to ensure the technology plan is current.

A technology plan designed to improve education or library services should cover the entire funding year (July 1-June 30).

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has been requesting evidence that tech plans are actually completed prior to filing Form 470. Therefore, districts must complete these steps to ensure full compliance with E-rate rules listed below:

- By October 1, 2009, complete the Iowa Technology Plan Addendum & Certification to update your tech plan for 2010-2011. Because costs and revenue sources are unknown at this time, put an estimated budget in Column 4 based upon last year's information.
- The addendum has some information that is pre-populated that must be included:
 - The date the addendum was completed (example entered is October 1, 2009, but you may change to an earlier date, if completed prior to October 1).
 - Two E-rate services in Column 3 that include services filed for most districts at the state level. These include the "digital data transmission services" (Part III circuits) directly paid by the state for each district/school, and "interactive video conferencing discounts" (ensures a per-hour discount when districts use their Iowa Communications Network video classroom).
- Districts must e-mail the completed addendum to their AEA E-rate contact no later than October 1, 2009. Districts should also e-mail a copy to themselves to create a dated paper trail in the event of a Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review or an audit.
- After the addendum is sent to the AEA, districts may proceed with the filing of Form 470.

For questions about tech plans, please contact Vic Jaras at 515-242-6354 or vic.jaras@iowa.gov. For questions about E-Rate, please contact Pamela Pfizenmaier Jacobs at 515-975-0071 or pam.jacobs@iowa.gov.

Technology Plan Requirements

E-Rate program technology plans must contain the following five elements:

1. Goals and realistic strategy for using telecommunications and information technology;
2. A professional development strategy;
3. An assessment of telecommunications services, hardware, software, and other services needed;
4. Budget resources; and
5. Ongoing evaluation process - source: www.usac.org/sl/.

OSEP makes changes to measurements

The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) made changes to the measurement of a number of indicators of progress and compliance for students with disabilities reported in the State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) for fiscal year (FY) 2008.

These changes became effective with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval this spring and will be reported for the first time in the SPP/APR due February 1, 2010. Changes include:

- The graduation rate and target for students with disabilities will be calculated using the same method used for all students under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and approved in Iowa's Accountability Workbook for No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The Title I graduation rate will be used beginning in 2010-2011.
- The dropout rate for students with disabilities will be calculated using the same data used to calculate the graduation rate under the ESEA. Targets will be set based on these data.
- Proficiency targets for students with disabilities will be aligned with targets for all students as approved in Iowa's Accountability Workbook for NCLB.

If you have questions, please contact Amy Williamson at 515-281-6723 or amy.williamson@iowa.gov.



SPECIAL ED Service Delivery Plans

Districts are now able to enter their area education agency-approved District Developed Service Delivery Plans into their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

The plans must be entered by September 15, 2009, following the requirements in the technical assistance document, available at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1719&Itemid=1.

Please note that the character limit per question has been increased from 6,000 to 8,000 characters.

For more information, contact Kiersten Hensley at 515-281-4123 or kiersten.hensley@iowa.gov.

Fall training for EASIER and BEDS

EASIER and BEDS fall training is on Thursday, August 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Des Moines.

To register for this FREE training, go to http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=1261 and click the register link. JMC, PowerSchool, and Infinite Campus have confirmed attendance at the training. The sessions will target the integration of Certified Enrollment and EASIER Race and Ethnicity. Other sessions are being planned.

Please remember Iowa is moving to the new race and ethnicity coding system for 2009-2010. All students must be re-identified using the two-part question format. Parents/guardians are the source for determining race and ethnicity. Sample documents can be found at the same link as above under Race and Ethnicity Changes for 2009-2010. All students must be re-identified for the October 1 EASIER/Certified Enrollment submission.

Nonpublic accredited schools reporting through Fall BEDS must also report student race and ethnicity using the new format. Students will be re-identified this year and staff will be re-identified in the following year. Re-identification of staff will be necessary for state reporting for the 2010-2011 school year.

For more information, contact Carla Schimelfenig at 515-281-3111 or carla.schimelfenig@iowa.gov.

Early Childhood Preschool Programs

DE, IPTV GRANT Assistance helps early childhood education initiative

Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has awarded Iowa Public Television (IPTV) a grant of \$50,000 to collaborate with the Iowa Department of Education (DE) to provide early childhood education resources through the Ready To Learn initiative.

Working closely with the DE, IPTV will use the grant to determine which PBS Ready To Learn digital services — such as online activities, teacher resources, and video tied to six PBS KIDS programs — will most effectively assist with meeting Iowa's early childhood education needs.

The grant will also allow the DE and IPTV and to provide early childhood educators with greater access to Ready To Learn resources.

Grants were also awarded to public television stations in California, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, and New York.

Contact change for preschool program

Questions regarding the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children should be directed to Judy Knox.

Lorri Cooper has resigned from the early childhood consultant position to pursue other opportunities and Knox has assumed primary program responsibility.

Judy Knox can be reached at 515-281-4705 or judy.knox@iowa.gov.



News from Other Agencies

State contracts for auto parts, supplies

The state of Iowa sought to increase savings by reducing the number of auto parts suppliers providing products to state agencies like the State Fleet and the State Patrol. Following a bid, Auto Zone and Napa Auto Parts secured the contract. The contract also includes a provision requiring that pricing received by the state be made available to schools (K-12, community colleges, and universities), cities, and counties. Leverage from the state can bring very favorable pricing and passing that pricing on to other governmental entities benefits everyone.

Both Napa and Auto Zone have significant geographical coverage throughout the state of Iowa. Wherever you are located, you will be within a short distance of one or both of these suppliers, making it easy for you to benefit from the savings provided by these contracts.

To view contracts visit <http://das.gse.iowa.gov/contracts/automotive.html>. For information or questions regarding the contracts, please contact Ryan Roovaart at 515-281-5602 or ryan.roovaart@iowa.gov. Also, note contact information below.

Supplier	Name	Email	Phone	Contract Number
Auto Zone	David Yunker	David.Yunker@autozone.com	614-506-6699	3629-10
Napa Auto Parts	Nathan Hildebrand	Nathan.Hildebrand@genpt.com	515-306-4432	3630-10
State of Iowa Dept. of Administrative Services	Purchasing Agent Ryan Roovaart	Ryan.Roovaart@iowa.gov	515-281-5602	N/A



Legal Lessons

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

Sex offender law; Administrative rules

More Guidance on Sex Offenders and the ‘Exclusionary Zone’

Many questions are being raised about the “Exclusionary Zone” (the prohibition against being on school property that applies to sex offenders, but only to those whose offense was against a minor).

The Iowa Association of School Boards has worked with the Iowa Department of Education (DE), School Administrators of Iowa, and the Iowa Department of Public Safety to prepare additional guidance for school administrators.

The guidance specifically addresses the issue of when and how to approve or deny an offender’s request to be on school grounds. The document is available on the three Websites at the following links:

- Iowa Department of Education: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1815%3Anew-sex-offender-law-summary-for-schools&catid=411%3Alegal-lessons&Itemid=1;
- Iowa Association of School Boards: www.ia-sb.org/PolicyLegal.aspx; and
- School Administrators of Iowa: www.sai-iowa.org/.

Included in the document is a summary of the law, pointers for principals and a form principals can use when determining whether to grant access to registrants who have committed a sex offense against a minor.

Administrative Rules

At its July 30 meeting, the State Board of Education gave public notice of its intent to amend the following chapters of administrative rules:

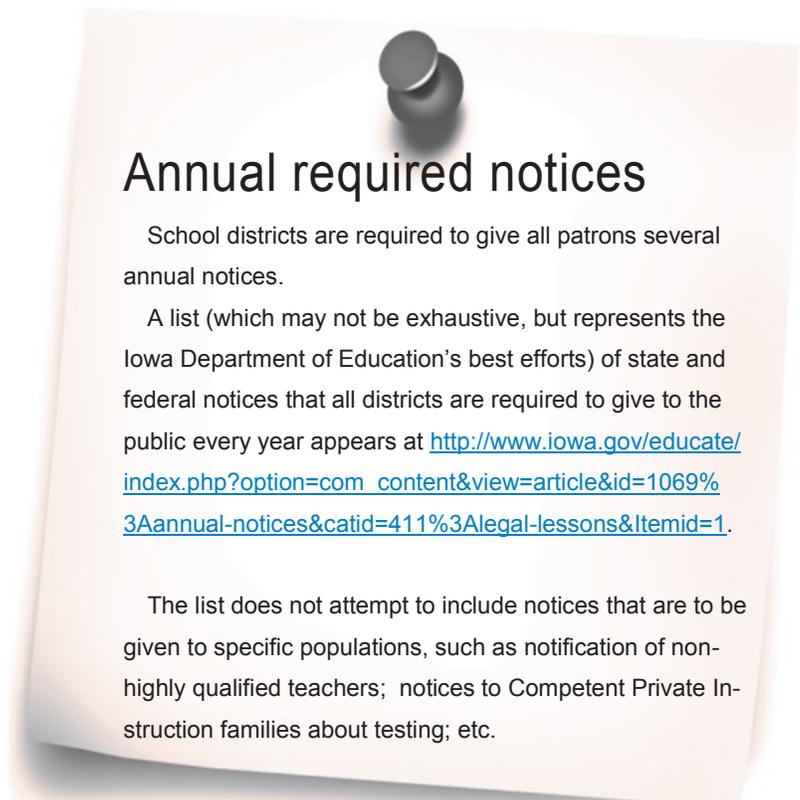
- 41, Special Education
- 59, Talented and Gifted Programs
- 60, Programs for Students of Limited English Proficiency
- 96, Local Option Sales and Services Tax for School Infrastructure
- 100, Vision Iowa Fund for School Infrastructure (notice to rescind)

Also at that meeting, the State Board adopted amendments to the following chapters of rules:

- 79, Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs
- 98, Financial Management of Categorical Funding

Final adoption of the Senior Year Plus Programs rules (chapter 22) will take place in November, but the underlying statute (Iowa Code chapter 261E) is in effect and has been in effect since July 1, 2008.

The rules calendar on the DE’s Website includes links to the specific changes: www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=75&Itemid=1.



Annual required notices

School districts are required to give all patrons several annual notices.

A list (which may not be exhaustive, but represents the Iowa Department of Education’s best efforts) of state and federal notices that all districts are required to give to the public every year appears at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1069%3Aannual-notices&catid=411%3Alegal-lessons&Itemid=1.

The 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.

Common registration issues

SCHOLARSHIP RULE Updated guidance

The guidance regarding the “scholarship rule” of 281— Iowa Administrative Code 36.15(2) has been updated.

It is available at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1157%3Aathletic-eligibility&catid=411%3Alegal-lessons&Itemid=1.

The only new substance is the chart at the end of the document of first legal playing dates for all interscholastic sports for the 2009-2010 school year.

Proof of student’s date of birth

- Districts may require some form of proof of birth date to ensure that child is “school age” (5 on or by September 15 and under age 21)
- Nothing gives a district the right to require that the proof be a birth certificate
- Therefore, reasonable alternatives include an adoption record, certified statement of physician, or anything reasonably reliable

Kindergarten, first graders

- Iowa Code § 282.3 unequivocally states that a child must be five on or before September 15 to enter kindergarten and must be age 6 on or before September 15 to enter first grade.
- There is an Iowa Attorney General’s Opinion (#79-7-3) stating that NO ONE has discretion to overlook this law. That means no exceptions — it doesn’t matter that the child moved in from another state where the child has been in kindergarten most of the year already.
- One resolution is to enroll the child when legal to do so in kindergarten, and — if appropriate to do so in the District’s opinion and only the District’s opinion — promote the child to first grade as soon as warranted.

Social Security Numbers (SSN)

The Iowa Department of Education does not require SSNs of students. Neither should schools and school districts!

Legal Names.

Per rule 12.3(4), students must be registered using the child’s legal name (not, for instance, stepfather’s surname).

Addresses

- Do NOT accept only a post office box for an address unless it is known for certain that the family resides in the district. Districts have a right to know who is truly a resident of their district.
- In cases where one parent has a No Contact Order protecting him/her from the other parent or from a third party, accept the P.O. Box, but make sure that the parent registering children is a resident of the district. The protected party could, for instance, let the building principal know her street address in return for a guarantee that her child’s records will only reflect the P.O. Box.
- If all else fails, explain that Iowa Code section 282.6 mandates that a district charge tuition of non-resident pupils. A district may assume non-residency until proper residency is proven. That should produce some street addresses.

Fees

There is no such thing as a “registration fee,” so avoid using that term. The chart of allowable fees is at www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1438&Itemid=2434.

School closing decision: What it means

On July 31, 2009, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed the 2005 decision of the Des Moines school board (and the State Board of Education's decision upholding the local board's decision) to close some attendance centers in the Des Moines Independent Public School District. In doing so, the Supreme Court decided that the "Barker" rules (281—chapter 19) are *void*.

What does this mean?

It does not negate the seven procedural steps listed in chapter 19 that a school board should take when acting to close an attendance center. Those steps have long existed as guidance and they remain as valid guidance.

Those steps are:

- The board shall establish a timeline in advance for carrying out the procedures involved in making the decision on the matter, focusing all aspects of the timeline upon the anticipated date that the board will make its final decision.
- The board shall inform segments of the community within its district that the matter is under consideration by the board. This shall be done in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information.
- The board shall seek public input in all study and planning steps involved in making the decision.
- The board and groups and individuals selected by the board shall carry out sufficient research, study, and planning. The research, study, and planning shall include consideration of, at a minimum, student enrollment statistics, transportation costs, financial gains and losses, program offerings, plant facilities, and staff assignment.
- The board shall promote open and frank public discussion of the facts and issues involved.
- The board shall make a proper record of all steps taken in the making of the decision.
- The board shall make its final decision in an open meeting with record made thereof.

What is different is that appeals to the State Board from these decisions will no longer be reviewed for compliance with the above steps, but, as directed by the Iowa Supreme Court, using the "abuse of discretion" review standard.

Under that standard, if a reasonable person could have found credible evidence supporting the school district's decision, the decision must be affirmed.

The full decision may be read online at http://www.iowacourts.gov/Supreme_Court/Recent_Opinions/20090731/07-0943.pdf.

SEVP has moved

For districts who agree to accept F-1 (non-exchange program foreign students) students, note that the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) office has moved!

The SEVP acts as the bridge for varied government organizations that have an interest in information on foreign students. SEVP uses web-based technology, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), to track and monitor schools and programs, students, exchange visitors, and their dependents throughout the duration of approved participation within the U.S. education system.

Until direct mail service is established, that office recommends that all correspondence be mailed to the following mailing address:
Student and Exchange
Visitor Program
Attn: (Branch Name)
Potomac Center North,
500 – 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536.

The new main telephone number is 703-603-3400. Inquiries may be sent to SEVP staff through their previous email or through SEVIS.Source@dhs.gov.



Photo: The Fort Dodge Messenger

Director to be featured speaker

Iowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey will be a featured speaker at the School Administrators of Iowa Annual Conference to be held August 12-13. For more information, please visit www.sai-iowa.org.

Calendar

- August 1**
 - Regular education foster care claim is due
 - Progress report toward reorganization due
 - Special education district court placed claim due
 - Special education foster care claim due
 - Special education high cost fund claim due
 - Special education provided to nonpublic schools claim due
 - Report juvenile home claim
- August 6**
 - [EASIER and BEDS fall training](#)
- August 14**
 - School Budget Review Committee hearing request
- August 24**
 - School Budget Review Committee exhibits due
- September 1**
 - Open Enrollment—Last day to file timely open enrollment for kindergarten students
- September 15**
 - Date by which student must be school age for Certified Enrollment
 - Certified Annual Report due
 - District Developed Service Delivery Plans due

[Click here for a complete Iowa Department of Education Calendar](#)



www.iowa.gov/educate

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