

# NORTHWEST AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

## Reorganization Plan

*Required by Iowa Code Chapter 275*

**May, 2018**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Director District</b>	<b>Schools Represented*</b>
Keith Zylstra	1	Central Lyon George-Little Rock Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn Rock Valley Sibley-Ocheyedan West Lyon
Mike McAlpine	2	Akron-Westfield Boyden-Hull Sheldon Sioux Center West Sioux
Roger Brinkert	3	Cherokee Kingsley-Pierson Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn Remsen-Union River Valley South O'Brien Woodbury Central
Dr. Tom Bjorge	4	Hinton Le Mars MOC-Floyd Valley
Creston Schubert	5	Ar-We-Va Aurelia * Battle Creek-Ida Grove ** Denison Galva-Holstein Maple Valley Anthon Oto Schleswig
Glen Coble	6	Maple Valley Anthon-Oto Charter Oak-Ute Lawton-Bronson Sergeant Bluff-Luton Westwood West Monona Whiting Sioux City Precincts 20 & 26
Patricia Sutherland	7	Sioux City Precincts 1, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19
Glenda Den Herder	8	Sioux City Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
Ron Jorgensen	9	Sioux City Precincts 12, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28

\*Before redistricting mid-2018 with Alta Community Schools

\*\* Before redistricting mid-2018 with Odebolt Arthur Community Schools

**Administrator: Dr. Timothy Grieves**

**Secretary to the Board: Gloria Miller**

**Iowa Code section 275.1, unnumbered paragraph 2, 1999**, 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. The AEA Plan contemplates that it may be augmented from time to time through the addition of studies and surveys conducted by the AEA or through the assistance of the Department of Education or other educational consultants. The plan will be altered by subsequent reorganization activity. Further, factors relevant to the statutory standards including matters outside the scope of this plan may serve as a basis for AEA Board decision making on a proposed reorganization. The provisions of this Plan are just one consideration and not the exclusive consideration(s) for the Board in acting upon prospectively filed reorganization petitions. The Board reserves the right to base its future actions upon conditions as they develop and upon new information as it becomes available.

Action	Date
Plan adopted by NWAEEA Board of Directors	8-20-2012
Plan transmitted to DIRECTOR of IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	8-21-2012
Plan revised by NWAEEA Board of Directors	5-21-2018
Plan transmitted to DIRECTOR of IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	5-23-2018

# Table of Contents

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Chapter Two	Records of Reorganization Plan and Activities
Chapter Three	Suggested Alternate Plans

## Chapter 1

### 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 Iowa 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 for reorganization 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 Iowa Code contains three general methods for school districts to change their boundary lines. The first, and predominant method, is the petition process in Iowa Code Chapter 275. The others are the dissolution method embodied in Iowa 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.

Iowa 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:

- Iowa 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.
- 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.
- 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 (found in Iowa Code 275.2):
  - 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.

**References in this area education plan are to the 2011 version of the Code of Iowa.** The accepted practice of Code citation is to format it as, "Iowa Code section 274.37, 2011." For purposes of brevity and readability, some Code references in this plan may specify the chapter and section numbers, without identification of the year or reference to "Iowa Code."

The following table is a list of sections of the Code that are totally or partially quoted in the plan:

**274:** 37

**275:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27, 51, 53, 55.

## Chapter 2

# **Records of Northwest AEA 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 Northwest AEA<sup>1</sup>.

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

Table 01	Adoption of Plans and Revisions of Plans.
Table 02	Approval of Changes.
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 Changed by Concurrent Action.

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<sup>1</sup>Records of the original AEAs 4 & 12 are listed where appropriate.

Table 2-01

## Record of Adoption of Plans and Revisions of Plans July 1, 1975 – 2018

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.1, unnumbered paragraph 2, 2003:** “. . . 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: Northwest AEA (July 1, 2006 – Present)**

Dates	Notes
8-20-12	Original plan <sup>2</sup>
5-21-18	First revision of plan
	Second Revision of plan

**Record of Adoption: Western Hills AEA 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Dates	Notes
10-20-80 and 6-15-87	Original plan
6-30-86 and 5-8-98	First revision
5-18-98	Second revision

**Record of Adoption: AEA 4 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Dates	Notes
10-20-82, 9-17-86, 9-15-99	Original plan
4-90 and 1-7-04	First revision
	Second revision

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<sup>2</sup>Changes made to the plan in the future are to be labeled as “Revisions of Plan.”

Table 2-05

**Record of Assistance from the Director of the  
Department of Education  
July 1, 1975 - 2012**

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.4, unnumbered paragraph 2, 2003:** “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 Further Surveys:**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>District Name</b>	<b>Surveys Conducted by</b>	<b>Study Type</b>
Dec. 1995	Willow	DE (G. Ghan)	Reorg & Finance Study
Dec. 1977	Hartley Paullina Primghar Sanborn Sutherland	DE	Feasibility Study
1986	East Monona	DE (G. Ghan)	Reorg Study
1986	Whiting	DE (G. Ghan)	Reorg Study
Oct. 1991	Central Lyon George Little Rock Sibley-Ocheydan	DE	Reorg Study
Oct. 1991	Paullina Primghar Sutherland	DE	Reorg & Facility Study
1993	Anthon-Oto Maple Valley	DE	Further Survey
1993	Eastwood Willow	DE	Further Survey
1995	Anthon-Oto Maple Valley	DE	Further Survey
1996	East Monona Boyer Valley, Charter Oak-Ute West Monona	DE	Reorg Study

<b>Dates</b>	<b>District Name</b>	<b>Surveys Conducted by</b>	<b>Study Type</b>
1998	East Monona Boyer Valley Charter Oak-Ute West Monona	DE (G. Ghan)	Reorg Study
2001	George Little Rock	DE (G. Ghan)	Reorg Analysis
Nov. 2004	Ar-We-Va IKM Manning	DE (G. Ghan)	Sharing/Reorg Study
May 2006	Alta Aurelia	DE (B. Byrd)	Feasibility Study
2014	Remsen-Union MMC	Earl Bridgewater	Feasibility Study

Table 2-06

## Public Hearings Since July 1, 2000

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.4, unnumbered paragraph 1, 2003:** “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, 2003:** “. . . 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
July 18, 2002	George, Iowa	Approval of George and Little Rock Reorganization Petition
Oct. 26, 2010 and Nov. 11, 2010	Anthon, Iowa	Approval of Maple Valley and Anthon-Oto Reorganization Petition
June 29, 2011	Ida Grove, Iowa	Approval of Battle Creek-Ida Grove and Odebolt-Arthur Reorganization Petition
June 20, 2016	Ida Grove, Iowa	Approval of Battle Creek-Ida Grove and Odebolt-Arthur Reorganization Petition
April 19 2017	Ida Grove, Iowa	Approval of Battle Creek-Ida Grove and Odebolt-Arthur Reorganization Petition
June 26, 2017	Aurelia, Iowa	Approval of Alta and Aurelia Reorganization Petition

Table 2-07

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

Effective Date	Original Districts & AEA Nos.	New District & AEA No.
July 1, 1981	Hartley (4) Melvin (4)	Hartley-Melvin (4)
July 1, 1985	Ocheyedan (4) Sibley (4)	Sibley-Ocheyedan (4)
July 1, 1991	Hartley-Melvin (4) Sanborn (4)	Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (4)
July 1, 1993	Marcus (4) Meriden-Cleghorn (4)	Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn (4)
July 1, 1993	Paullina (4) Primghar (4) Sutherland (4)	South O'Brien (4)
July 1, 1994	Floyd Valley (4) Maurice-Orange City (4)	MOC-Floyd Valley (4)
July 1, 2003	Little Rock (4) George (4)	George-Little Rock (4)
July 1, 1980	Galva (12) Holstein (12)	Galva-Holstein (12)
July 1, 1981	Akron (12) Westfield (12)	Akron-Westfield (12)
July 1, 1994	Battle Creek (12) Ida Grove (12)	Battle Creek-Ida Grove (12)
July 1, 1992	Irwin (13) Manilla (12)	IKM (13)
July 1, 1994	Dunlap (12) Dow City-Arion (13)	Boyer Valley (13)
July 1, 1996	Eastwood (12) Willow (12)	River Valley (12)
July 1, 2012	Maple Valley (NWAEA) Anthon-Oto (NWAEA)	Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto (12)
July 1, 2018	Battle Creek-Ida Grove (NWAEA) Odebolt Arthur (Prairie Lakes)	OA-BCIG (12)
July 1, 2018	Alta (Prairie Lakes) Aurelia (NWAEA)	Alta-Aurelia (8)

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, 2003:** “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, 2003:** “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, 2003:** “. . . 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: [NWAEA](#)**

Hearing Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
None		

**Record of Failed Elections: [NWAEA](#)**

Election Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
Sept. 13, 2011	Battle Creek-Ida Grove Odebolt-Arthur	NWAEA (12) Prairie Lakes (8)
Sept. 13, 2016	Battle Creek-Ida Grove Odebolt-Arthur	NWAEA (12) Prairie Lakes (8)

**Record of Dismissed Petitions: [AEA 4](#) (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Hearing Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
Oct. 18, 1979	Sanborn Melvin	4 4

**Record of Failed Elections: AEA 4 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

<b>Election Dates</b>	<b>Original Districts</b>	<b>AEA Numbers</b>
March 1980	Sibley Melvin	
Sept. 11, 1984	Marcus Meriden-Cleghorn	4 4
June 28, 1988	Cherokee Meriden-Cleghorn	12 4
Nov. 24, 1992	Floyd Valley Maurice-Orange City	4 4

**Record of Dismissed Petitions: AEA 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

<b>Hearing Dates</b>	<b>Original Districts and AEA Nos.</b>	<b>Actions</b>
None		

**Record of Failed Elections: AEA 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

<b>Election Dates</b>	<b>Original Districts</b>	<b>AEA Numbers</b>
Oct. 18, 2005	Maple Valley Anthon-Oto	12 12

Table 2-09

## Record of Certification of Dissolution Commissions Since July 1, 2003

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.51, unnumbered paragraph 4, 2003:** “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, 2003:** “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, 2003:** “The proposition shall be adopted if a majority of the electors voting on the proposition approve its adoption.”

**Certification of Commission: NWAEA**

Date	District (AEA)
None	

**Failure of Commission to Agree: NWAEA**

Date	District
Oct. 10, 2005	Ar-We-Va (NWAEA Board denied their request to join Heartland AEA)
Oct. 11, 2005	Ar-We-Va (Heartland Board denied their request to join Heartland AEA)

**Approval by Electors: NWAEA**

Date	Original District	Districts Receiving Territory
None		

**Failure of Electors to Approve: NWAEA**

Date	District
None	

**Certification of Commission: AEAs 4 & 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Date	District/AEA
June 30, 2004	East Monona (12)

**Failure of Commission to Agree: AEs 4 & 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>District</b>
None	

**Approval by Electors: AEs 4 & 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Original District</b>	<b>Districts Receiving Territory</b>
None		

**Failure of Electors to Approve: AEs 4 & 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>District</b>
None	

Table 2-10

## Boundary Line Changes Since July 1, 1975

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 274.37, unnumbered paragraph 1, 2003:** “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, 2003:** “. . . 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: AEA 4 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Effective Date	Excluded From	Included In
July 1, 1981	Hartley-Melvin	Sanborn
July 1, 1991	Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn	Sibley-Ocheyedan Sheldon
July 1, 1993	Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn	Willow Kingsley-Pierson Cherokee
July 1, 1994	MOC-Floyd Valley	Boyden-Hull

**Other Concurrent Action: AEA 4 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Effective Date	Excluded From	Included In
None		

**Territory Exclusion/Inclusion: AEA 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Effective Date	Excluded From	Included In
July 1, 1980	Galva	Aurelia
July 1, 1981	Westfield	Sioux City
July 1, 1996	Eastwood	Battle Creek-Ida Grove Woodbury Central
July 1, 1996	Willow	Cherokee

**Other Concurrent Action: AEA 12 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2006)**

Effective Date	Excluded From	Included In
December, 1986	Charter Oak-Ute Denison	Exchange some land

**Territory Exclusion/Inclusion: NWAEA (July 1, 2006 – Present)**

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Excluded From</b>	<b>Included In</b>
July 2012	Maple Valley-Anthon Oto	River Valley West Monona Woodbury Central
July 1, 2018	OA-BCIG	Wall Lake

**Other Concurrent Action: NWAEA (July 1, 2006 – Present)**

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Excluded From</b>	<b>Included In</b>
None		

## Chapter 3

# Suggested Alternate Plans

### **Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.2, 2003:** “. . . 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, 2003:** “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 sparse population, natural barriers or other good reason makes it impracticable to meet the school enrollment requirement.”

Table 3-01

**List of Districts in  
Northwest Area Education Agency  
October 2017**

**ENROLLMENT, 2017**

DISTRICT NAME	CERTIFIED ENROLLMENT
Akron-Westfield	544
Ar-We-Va	267
Aurelia	237*
Battle Creek-Ida Grove	648**
Boyden-Hull	596
Central Lyon	761
Charter Oak-Ute	259
Cherokee	973
Denison	2,101
Galva-Holstein	444
George-Little Rock	426
Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn	627
Hinton	526
Kingsley-Pierson	456
Lawton-Bronson	575
Le Mars	2,184
Maple Valley-Anthon Oto	471
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn	424
MOC-Floyd Valley	1,436
Remsen-Union	344
River Valley	422
Rock Valley	805
Schleswig	266
Sergeant Bluff-Luton	1,435
Sheldon	1,071
Sibley-Ocheyedan	772
Sioux Center	1,028
Sioux City	14,522
South O'Brien	590
West Lyon	923
West Monona	606
West Sioux	833
Westwood	532
Whiting	205
Woodbury Central	549

\*Before redistricting mid-2018 with Alta

\*\*Before redistricting mid-2018 with Odebolt-Arthur

Table 3-02

## List of Alternate Whole-Grade Sharing Plans 2017-18

<b>AEA</b>	<b>School District</b>	<b>First Year</b>	<b>Grade Levels Receiving</b>	<b>Grade Levels Sending</b>	<b>Partner School Districts</b>
NWAEA	Schleswig	1993	--	9-12	Denison
NWAEA	Denison	1993	9-12	--	Schleswig
NWAEA	BCIG	2008	6-8	9-12	Odebolt-Arthur
8	Odebolt-Arthur	2008	9-12	6-8	BCIG
NWAEA	Remsen-Union		Some shared classes.		St. Mary's, Remsen
NWAEA	St. Mary's, Remsen		Some shared classes.		Remsen-Union
8	Alta	2011	9-12	6-8	Aurelia
NWAEA	Aurelia	2011	6-8	9-12	Alta
NWAEA	Galva-Holstein	2010	9-12	6-8	Schaller-Crestland
8	Schaller-Crestland	2010	6-8	9-12	Galva-Holstein
NWAEA	Remsen Union	2016	5-8	9-12	Marcus Meriden Cleghorn
NWAEA	Marcus Meriden Cleghorn	2016	9-12	5-8	Remsen Union
NWAEA	ArWeVa	2017		9-12	Carroll
NWAEA	Charter Oak-Ute	2017		9-12	Maple Valley-Anthon Oto

Table 3-03

## Overview of Plans

### OVERVIEW

Three reorganizations have occurred since 2006, when Northwest AEA was formed by the merger of Western Hills AEA 12 and Area Education Agency 4.

The date of the election was 2-1-2011, the name chosen was Maple Valley-Anthon Oto and the date of reorganization was 7-1-2012.

A failed attempt for a reorganization of two school districts, Battle Creek-Ida Grove and Odebolt-Arthur, occurred in September 2011. A reorganization hearing was held on June 29, 2011, with no objections filed. However, with the election on September 13, 2011, the reorganization did not pass. A second attempt was in 2016, with the reorganization hearing on June 20, 2016. The vote failed on September 13, 2016, to bring these two school districts together. The third and final attempt at reorganization was successful, with the reorganization hearing held on April 19, 2017, and the vote on June 27, 2017. The effective date for reorganization is July 1, 2018. Odebolt-Arthur was previously a part of Prairie Lakes AEA.

A reorganization hearing date of June 26, 2017, was for Alta and Aurelia. The election was on September 12, 2017, and it passed, with an effective date of July 1, 2018. Alta is in Prairie Lakes AEA and Aurelia is currently in Northwest AEA, so because Alta's enrollment is larger than Aurelia's, this new school district will be located in Prairie Lakes AEA.

Northwest Area Education Agency serves approximately 39,500 students and 35 school districts in a ten-county region. Kindergarten through twelfth grade district enrollments range from 205 students at Whiting (Oct. 2017) to 14,504 students at Sioux City (Oct. 2017). Coupled with continuing school financing limitations, the current trends of curriculum reform and total district transformation are forcing some districts to review their existing operations while maintaining a high quality of educational services.

Iowa Code section 275.2, 2009, 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 for enrollment in Section 275.3 is 300 students. After the reorganizations that will occur on July 1, 2018 (see above), Northwest Area Education Agency will have four districts below a certified enrollment of 300 and one more that is near:

Whiting – 205 (10/17)

Charter Oak-Ute – 259 (10/17)

Schleswig – 266 (10/17)

Ar-We-Va – 267 (10/17)

Remsen-Union – 344 (10/17)

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, 2009, 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.

**1975**

	<b>School Districts</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
AEA 4	21	13,974 (includes nonpublic)
AEA 12	30	41,377 (includes nonpublic)

**2006**

	<b>School Districts</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Northwest AEA	36	45,673

**2012**

	<b>School Districts</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Northwest AEA	35	43,187

**2018**

	<b>School Districts</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Northwest AEA	35	44,684

## **ALTERNATE PLANS**

This section of the plan lists alternate plans 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 alternate plans apply to petitions presented by the 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 Northwest AEA 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 of 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, 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, Northwest AEA “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 Northwest AEA board encouraged 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, 2011.
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 275.14, unnumbered paragraph 2, 2011. 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 Northwest AEA 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.

At the date of the approval of this plan, there are three districts in Northwest AEA that have a certified enrollment of less than 300 students. There are three major reorganization options suggested as alternate plans for these districts:

- 1) Reorganization with one or more contiguous school districts.
- 2) Dissolution of the district, with territory being attached to two or more of the contiguous districts;
- 3) Reorganization with one or more contiguous school districts, with territory being excluded, for later inclusion in another contiguous school district.

1. Whiting (Certified Enrollment of 205, October 2017)

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Northwest AEA suggests it reorganize with a contiguous district or districts.

2. Charter Oak-Ute (Certified Enrollment of 259, October 2017)

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Northwest AEA suggests it reorganize with a contiguous district or districts.

3. Schleswig (Certified Enrollment of 266, October 2017)

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Northwest AEA suggests it reorganize with a contiguous district or districts.

4. Ar-We-Va (Certified Enrollment of 267, October 2017)  
If the district were to consider reorganizing, Northwest AEA suggests it reorganize with a contiguous district or districts.
5. Remsen Union (Certified Enrollment of 344, October 2017)  
If the district were to consider reorganizing, Northwest AEA suggests it reorganize with a contiguous district or districts.

### **SUMMARY**

Petitions filed by any of the above listed district, by other districts in Northwest AEA, or by a district in Northwest AEA 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.

It is important to restate that the Northwest AEA board of directors has neither the authority nor the interest to force school district reorganization or dissolution.

Table 3-04

## **Projected Enrollments**