

# **Prairie Lakes AEA**

## **Reorganization Plan**

**Required by  
Iowa Code Chapter 275**

**April 19, 2004**

**Revised: June 21, 2021**

**Prairie Lakes AEA**  
**500 NE 6<sup>th</sup> St**  
**Pocahontas, IA 50574**

**Board of Directors**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Districts Served</b>
Pat Brown Director District 1	Estherville Lincoln Central, Graettinger-Terril, North Kossuth, North Union (partial), Okoboji, Spirit Lake
Sue Brown Director District 2	Algona, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, Emmetsburg, Humboldt, LuVerne, North Union (partial)
Marti Bomgaars Director District 3	Albert City-Truesdale, Clay Central-Everly, Harris-Lake Park, Laurens-Marathon, Ruthven-Ayrshire, Sioux Central, Spencer, Twin Rivers, West Bend-Mallard
Lori Baade Director District 4	Alta-Aurelia, Gilmore City-Bradgate, Newell-Fonda, Pocahontas Area, Schaller-Crestland, Storm Lake
Janice Harbaugh Director District 5	East Sac County, Greene County, Manson Northwest Webster, Paton-Churdan, Prairie Valley, South Central Calhoun
Gary Astor Director District 6	Fort Dodge (partial)
Todd Lundgren Director District 7	Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge (partial), South Hamilton, Southeast Webster-Grand, Stratford, Webster City

**Secretary to the Board:**

Michelle Dowd

**Administrator:**

Dr. Susie Meade

# Preface

**Iowa Code section 275.1, paragraph 3, 2020**, 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.

<b>Public hearing on revision of plan</b>	<b>Pocahontas, Iowa</b>	<b>April 19, 2004</b>
<b>Plan adopted by Prairie Lakes AEA Board of Directors</b>		<b>April 19, 2004</b>
<b>Plan transmitted to director of Dept. of Educ.</b>		<b>April 23, 2004</b>
<b>Plan revision adopted by Prairie Lakes AEA Board of Directors</b>		<b>August 19, 2013</b>
<b>Plan transmitted to director of Dept. of Educ.</b>		<b>August 22, 2013</b>
<b>Plan revision adopted by Prairie Lakes AEA Board of Directors</b>		<b>June 21, 2021</b>
<b>Plan transmitted to director of Dept. of Educ.</b>		<b>June 29, 2021</b>

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

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

# 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, 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:

- 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:
  - 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.
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. 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.

3. The plan may include alternate plans proposed by school districts for sharing programs as an alternative to school reorganization.
4. 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 2020 version of the Code of Iowa.**

The accepted practice of Code citation is to format it as, "Iowa Code section 274.37, 2003." 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 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 Two

## Records of Prairie Lakes 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 Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency<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:

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

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<sup>1</sup> Records of the original AEAs 3 and 5 are listed where appropriate. Such references may be deleted as deemed appropriate when revisions to the Prairie Lakes AEA plan are approved.

# Insert 2-01

## Record of Adoption of Plans and Revisions of Plans Since July 1, 2003

### Iowa Code Reference:

**Section 275.1, paragraph 3, 2020:** “. . . 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: Prairie Lakes AEA

Dates	Notes
April 19, 2004	Original plan <sup>2</sup>
August 19, 2013	Revision of Plan
June 21, 2021	Revision of Plan

### Record of Adoption: AEA 3 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)

Dates	Notes
November, 1980	Original plan
March 2, 1987	First revision
September 20, 1999	Second revision
July 20, 2000	Third revision

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

# Insert 2-01

## Record of Adoption: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)

Dates	Notes
July, 1980	Original plan
June, 1984	First revision
April, 1985	Updated information booklet
May, 1986	Second revision
June, 1989	Third revision
July, 1993	Fourth revision
June 11, 1998	Fifth revision

# Insert 2-02

## Record of Approval of Changes Since July 1, 2003

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.12 (1), 2020:** “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 petition 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 registered voters reside. . . .”

**Record of Changes: Prairie Lakes AEA**

Dates	Notes
August 2, 2004	Southeast Webster CSD Grand CSD – Territory into Prairie Lakes AEA New District – Southeast Webster Grand
October 2, 2008	Graettinger CSD Terril CSD New District – Graettinger-Terril CSD
July 1, 2011	Sac Community Wall Lake View-Auburn New District – East Sac County Community
September 13, 2011 (failed to pass vote of electors)	Odebolt-Arthur Battle Creek-Ida Grove
July 1, 2012	Pocahontas Area Pomeroy-Palmer New District – Pocahontas Area Community
July 1, 2014	East Greene CSD Jefferson-Scranton CSD New District – Greene County CSD
July 1, 2014	Rockwell City-Lytton CSD Southern Cal CSD New District – South Central Calhoun CSD
July 1, 2014	Algona CSD Titonka Consolidated School District New District – Algona CSD
July 1, 2014	Clarion-Goldfield CSD Dows CSD New District – Clarion-Goldfield-Dows CSD
July 1, 2014	Armstrong-Ringsted CSD

	Sentral CSD New District – North Union CSD
July 1, 2018	Odebolt-Arthur CSD Battle Creek-Ida Grove CSD New District – Odeboldt-Arthur-Battle Creek-Ida Grove CSD
July 1, 2018	Alta CSD Aurelia CSD New District – Alta-Aurelia CSD
July 1, 2019	Webster City CSD Northeast Hamilton CSD New District – Webster City CSD

**Record of Changes: AEA 3 (July 1, 1995 – June 30, 2003)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Notes</b>
May 6, 1996	Changes approved at hearing on petition for Estherville and Lincoln Central. Territory excluded for later inclusion in Armstrong-Ringsted.
July 20, 2000	Algona Burt New District--Algona

**Record of Changes: AEA 5 (July 1, 1995 – June 30, 2003)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Notes</b>
October 24, 1995	Lake View-Auburn Wall Lake New District—Wall Lake View Auburn

# Insert 2-03

## Record of Transmittal of Plans to the Director of the Department of Education Since July 1, 2003

**Iowa Code Reference:**

**Section 275.4, paragraph 2, 2020:** “Completed plans shall be transmitted by the area education agency board to the director of the department of education.”

**Record of Transmittal: Prairie Lakes AEA**

Dates	Notes
April 23, 2004	Original plan
August 19, 2013	First Revision
June 21, 2021	Second Revision

**Record of Transmittal: AEA 3 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Notes
November, 1980	Original plan
March, 1987	First revision
March, 2000	Second revision
August, 2000	Third revision

# Insert 2-03

**Record of Transmittal: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Notes</b>
July, 1980	Original plan
June, 1984	First revision
May, 1986	Second revision
June, 1989	Third revision
July, 1993	Fourth revision
June 11, 1998	Fifth revision

# Insert 2-04

## Record of Further Surveys Since July 1, 2003

### Iowa Code Reference:

**Section 275.5, 2020:** “. . . 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.”

**Section 275.9, 2020:** “When any school district is enlarged, reorganized, or changes its boundaries pursuant to the plans hereinabove provided for, such enlargement, reorganization, or boundary change shall be accomplished by the method hereinafter provided.

The provisions of sections 275.1 to 275.5, 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.”

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 hearings upon petitions and those that were prepared in anticipation of petitions that did not materialize.

### Record of Further Surveys: Prairie Lakes AEA

Dates	Districts Included in Surveys	Surveys Conducted by
December 9, 2009	Twin Rivers & Gilmore City-Bradgate CSDs Feasibility Study	IA Dept. of Ed.
May 27, 2008	Pocahontas Area, Pomeroy-Palmer Reorganization/Sharing Study Follow-Up	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
April 10, 2008	Pocahontas Area, Pomeroy-Palmer Reorganization/Sharing Study	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
April 3, 2007	Sharing/Reorganization Study – Albert City-Truesdale, Laurens-Marathon, Newell-Fonda, Pocahontas Area	Ghan Consulting, Inc.

August 13, 2004	Dows CSD - Sharing Reorganization Study – Clarion Goldfield	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
August 14, 2004	Dows CSD	Ghan Consulting, Inc.

**Record of Further Surveys: AEA 3 (January 1, 1992 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Districts Included in Surveys	Surveys Conducted by
1992	Estherville & Lincoln Central— finance study	Dept. of Ed.
1992	Lincoln Central—consultation	Dept. of Ed.
1995	Estherville & Lincoln Central— combination study	Dept. of Ed.
1995	Armstrong-Ringsted & Lincoln Central—combination study	Dept. of Ed.
1995	Armstrong-Ringsted, Estherville & Lincoln Central—follow-up	Dept. of Ed.
1995	Estherville & Lincoln Central— technical consultation	Dept. of Ed.
1996	Estherville & Lincoln Central— finance & data	Dept. of Ed.
1996	Estherville & Lincoln Central—tax combination	Dept. of Ed.
April, 1997	Algona & Burt—full study	Ghan Consulting
January, 1998	Burt—follow-up	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
1999 & 2000	Harris-Lake Park—3 studies & consultations—with MN district	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
1999 & 2000	Burt and Algona—two reorganization consultations	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
May, 2002	Terril	Dept. of Ed.

**Record of Further Surveys: AEA 5 (January 1, 1995 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Districts Included in Surveys	Surveys Conducted by
1995--with earlier studies in 1988 & 94	Lake View-Auburn Wall Lake	Department of Education
1997	Cal & Dows	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
2002	Battle Creek-Ida Grove, Galva- Holstein, Odebolt-Arthur, & Schaller-Crestland (AEAs 5 & 12)	Department of Education

**Insert 2-04**

**Record of Further Surveys: AEA 5 (January 1, 1995 – June 30, 2003)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Districts Included in Surveys</b>	<b>Surveys Conducted by</b>
2002	Battle Creek-Ida Grove, Galva-Holstein, Odebolt-Arthur, & Schaller-Crestland (AEAs 5 & 12)	Ghan Consulting, Inc.
2002	Gilmore City-Bradgate and Twin Rivers	Department of Education
2002	Alden, Hubbard-Radcliffe, & Northeast Hamilton (AEAs 5 & 6)	Department of Education

## Insert 2-05

# Record of Assistance from the Director of the Department of Education Since July 1, 2003

### Iowa Code Reference:

**Section 275.4, paragraph 1(b), 2020:** “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: Prairie Lakes AEA

Dates of Consultations	Notes
January 5, 2004	Consultation regarding reorganization plan Plus other assistance

### Record of Assistance and Consultation: AEA 03 (January 1, 1996 to June 30, 2003)

Dates of Assistance	Notes
1996	Assistance with Estherville & Lincoln Central reorganization—including 8 studies since 1992
October 23, 1997 Plus other assistance	Consultation regarding second revision

### Record of Assistance and Consultation: AEA 05 (January 1, 1996 to June 30, 2003)

Dates of Consultations	Notes
November 14, 1997 Plus other assistance	Consultation regarding fifth revision

# Insert 2-06

## Record of Public Hearings Since July 1, 2003

### Iowa Code References:

**Section 275.4, paragraph 1(a), 2020:** “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, 2020:** “. . . 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 (275.4--Plan): Prairie Lakes AEA

Dates	Locations	Notes
April 19, 2004		Approval of Prairie Lakes AEA reorganization plan

### Record of Hearings (275.5--Petition): Prairie Lakes AEA

Dates	Locations	Notes
August 2, 2004	Dayton	Southeast Webster & Grand reorganization petition
October 2, 2008	Terril	Graettinger & Terril reorganization petition
October 6, 2009	Sac City	Sac Community & Wall Lake View-Auburn reorganization petition
November 15, 2010	Pomeroy	Pocahontas Area & Pomeroy-Palmer reorganization
June 29, 2011	Ida Grove	Odebolt-Arthur & Battle Creek-Ida Grove reorganization petition

October 24, 2012	Titonka	Algona & Titonka reorganization petition
November 1, 2012	Jefferson	East Greene & Jefferson-Scranton reorganization petition
November 5, 2012	Rockwell City	Rockwell City-Lytton & Southern Cal reorganization petition
March 27, 2013	Clarion	Clarion-Goldfield & Dows reorganization petition
April 10, 2013	Armstrong	Armstrong-Ringsted & Sentral reorganization petition
June 20, 2016	Ida Grove	Odebolt-Arthur & Battle Creek-Ida Grove reorganization petition
April 19, 2017	Ida Grove	Odebolt-Arthur & Battle Creek-Ida Grove reorganization petition
June 26, 2017	Alta	Alta & Aurelia reorganization petition
January 10, 2018	Blairsburg	Webster City & Northeast Hamilton reorganization petition

**Record of Hearings (275.4--Plan): AEA 3 (July 1, 1995 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Locations	Notes
April 19, 2004	Fort Dodge	Approval of Prairie Lakes AEA reorganization plan

**Record of Hearings (275.4--Plan): AEA 3 (July 1, 1995 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Locations	Notes
April 16, 1999	Cylinder	Revision of AEA3 reorganization plan

**Record of Hearings (275.5--Petition): AEA 3 (July 1, 1995 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Locations	Notes
May 6, 1996	Estherville	Estherville & Lincoln Central reorganization petition
July 20, 2000	Algona	Algona & Burt reorganization petition

**Record of Hearings (275.4—Plan): AEA 5 (July 1, 1997 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Locations	Notes
May 14, 1998	Fort Dodge, Iowa	Revision of AEA 5 reorganization plan

**Record of Hearings (275.5—Petition): AEA 5 (July 1, 1997 – June 30, 2003)**

Dates	Locations	Notes
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none

# Insert 2-07

## Record of Passed Reorganization Elections Since July 1, 2003

### Iowa Code References:

**Section 275.18, paragraph 1,2020:** “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 question shall be submitted to the voters at an election held on a date specified in section 39.2, subsection 4, paragraph “c” in the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the reorganization will take effect.”

**Section 275.20,2020:** “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 any additional provision authorized pursuant to section 275.12, subsection 6. 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 275.24,2020:** “When a school district is enlarged, reorganized, or changes its boundary 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.”

**Section 275.27,2020:** “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 registered voters of the district reside at the time of the special election . . . .”

### Record of Passed Elections: Prairie Lakes AEA

Effective Date	Original Districts & AEA Nos.	New District & AEA No.
July 1, 2005	Grand (11) Southeast Webster Grand (8)	Southeast Webster Grand (8)
July 1, 2010	Graettinger (8) Terril (8)	Graettinger-Terril CSD (8)
July 1, 2011	Sac Community(8) Wall Lake View-Auburn(8)	East Sac County CSD(8)
July 1, 2012	Pocahontas Area (8) Pomeroy-Palmer (8)	Pocahontas Area Community
July 1, 2014	Algona (8) Titonka (8)	Algona CSD (8)

July 1, 2014	East Greene (8) Jefferson (8)	Greene County CSD (8)
July 1, 2014	Rockwell City-Lytton (8) Southern Cal (8)	South Central Calhoun CSD (8)
July 1, 2014	Clarion-Goldfield (8) Dows (AEA 267)	Clarion-Goldfield-Dows CSD (8)
July 1, 2014	Armstrong(8) Sentral (8)	North Union CSD (8)
July 1, 2018	Alta(8) Aurelia(8)	Alta-Aurelia CSD(8)
July 1, 2018	Odebolt-Arthur(8) Battle-Creek-Ida Grove(12)	Odebolt Arthur Battle Creek Ida Grove CSD(12)
July 1, 2019	Webster City CSD (8) Northeast Hamilton CSD (8)	Webster City CSD (8)

**Record of Passed Elections: AEA 3 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Effective Date	Original Districts/AEA #s	New District/AEA #
July 1, 1978	Ledyard (3) Swea City (3)	North Kossuth (3)
July 1, 1979	Armstrong(3) Ringsted (3)	Armstrong-Ringsted (3)
July 1, 1983	Ayrshire (3) Ruthven (3)	Ruthven-Ayrshire (3)
July 1, 1988	Arnolds Park (3) Milford (3)	Okoboji (3)
July 1, 1992	Buffalo Center-Rake(2) Lakota (3)	Buffalo Center-Rake-Lakota (2)
July 1, 1993	Clay Central (3) Everly (3)	Clay Central/Everly (3)
July 1, 1993	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt (5) Sioux Valley (3)	Sioux Central (5)
July 1, 1995	Mallard (3) West Bend (3)	West Bend-Mallard (3)
July 1, 1997	Estherville (3) Lincoln Central (3)	Estherville-Lincoln Central (3)
July 1, 2001	Algona (3) Burt (3)	Algona (3)

**Record of Passed Elections: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Effective Date	Original Districts & AEA Nos.	New District & AEA No.
July 1, 1976	Laurens (5) Marathon (5)	Laurens-Marathon (5)
July 1, 1979	Rembrandt (5) Sioux Rapids (5)	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt (5)
July 1, 1988	Havelock-Plover (5) Pocahontas (5)	Pocahontas Area (5)

July 1, 1991	Central Webster (5) Dayton (5)	Southeast Webster (5)
July 1, 1992	Jefferson (5) Scranton (5)	Jefferson-Scranton (5)
July 1, 1993	Clarion (5) Goldfield (5)	Clarion-Goldfield (5)
July 1, 1993	Manson (5) Northwest Webster (5)	Manson-Northwest Webster (5)
July 1, 1993	Fonda (5) Newell-Providence (5)	Newell-Fonda (5)
July 1, 1993	Pocahontas Area (5) Rolfe (5)	Pocahontas Area (5)
July 1, 1993	Palmer (5) Pomeroy (5)	Pomeroy-Palmer (5)
July 1, 1993	Cedar Valley (5) Prairie (5)	Prairie Valley (5)
July 1, 1993	Lytton (5) Rockwell City (5)	Rockwell City-Lytton (5)
July 1, 1993	Crestland (5) Schaller (5)	Schaller-Crestland (5)
July 1, 1993	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt (5) Sioux Valley (3)	Sioux Central (5)
July 1, 1993	Lake City (5) Lohrville (5)	Southern Cal (5)
July 1, 1996	Lake View-Auburn (5) Wall Lake (5)	Wall Lake View Auburn (5)

# Insert 2-08

## Record of Dismissed Reorganization Petitions and Failed Reorganization Elections Since July 1, 2003

### Iowa Code References:

**Section 275.15, paragraph 1, 2020:** “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, 2020:** “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, 2020:** “. . . If the majority of the votes cast by the registered voters 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: Prairie Lakes AEA

Hearing Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers

### Record of Failed Elections: Prairie Lakes AEA

Election Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
September 13, 2011	Odebolt-Arthur Battle Creek-Ida Grove	8 NWAEA
June 20, 2016	Odebolt-Arthur Battle Creek-Ida Grove	8 NWAEA

**Record of Dismissed Petitions: AEA 03 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Hearing Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
December 13, 1982	Buffalo Center-Rake	2
	Lakota	3
June 19, 1995	Armstrong-Ringsted	3
	Lincoln Central	3
August 29, 1995	Estherville	3
	Lincoln Central	3

**Record of Failed Elections: AEA 3 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Election Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
December 28, 1981	Ayrshire	3
	Emmetsburg	3
December 7, 1982	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt	5
	Sioux Valley	3
November 27, 1990	Buffalo Center-Rake	2
	Lakota	3
July 14, 1992	Estherville	3
	Lincoln Central	3

**Record of Dismissed Petitions: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Hearing Dates	Original Districts and AEA Nos.	Actions
July 26, 1976	Rembrandt (5) Sioux Rapids (5)	dismissed by AEA board
June 30, 1987	Glidden-Ralston (11) Scranton (5)	dismissed by joint board

**Record of Failed Elections: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Election Dates	Original Districts	AEA Numbers
October 12, 1976	Gilmore City-Bradgate	5
	Rolfe	5
January 13, 1976	Boone Valley	5
	Goldfield	5
August 14, 1979	Albert City-Truesdale	5
	Newell-Providence	5
December 7, 1982	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt	5
	Sioux Valley	3
February 28, 1995	Lake View-Auburn	5
	Wall lake	5

# Insert 2-09

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

### Iowa Code References:

**Section 275.51, paragraph 4, 2020:** “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, paragraph 1, 2020:** “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, paragraph 3, 2020:** “The proposition shall be adopted if a majority of the electors voting on the proposition approve its adoption.”

### Certification of Commission: Prairie Lakes AEA

Date	District/AEA
October 19, 2009	South Clay/(Prairie Lakes AEA)

### Failure of Commission to Agree: Prairie Lakes AEA

Date	District

# Insert 2-09

**Approval by Electors: Prairie Lakes AEA**

Date	Original District	Districts Receiving Territory
February 2, 2010	South Clay	Spencer, Sioux Central, Clay Central-Everly, Laurens- Marathon, and Ruthven-Ayrshire

**Failure of Electors to Approve: Prairie Lakes AEA**

Date	District

**Certification of Commission: AEA 3 & 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Date	District/AEA
None	(AEA 3)
February, 1988	Boone Valley Community School District (AEA 5)

**Failure of Commission to Agree: AEA 3 & 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Date	District
None	(AEA 3)
None	(AEA 5)

**Approval by Electors: AEA 3 & 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Date	Original District	Districts Receiving Territory
July 1, 1988	Boone Valley AEA 5	Clarion Goldfield Humboldt Kanawha Lu Verne

**Failure of Electors to Approve: AEA 3 & 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Date	District
None	AEA 3
None	AEA 5

# Insert 2-10

## Record of Boundary Line Changes by Concurrent Action Since July 1, 2003

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 274.37, paragraph 1, 2020:** “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, 2020:** “. . . 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: Prairie Lakes AEA**

Effective Date	Excluded From	Included In
July 1, 2005	Southeast Webster Grand (Prairie Lakes AEA)	Ogden CSD (AEA 11)

# Insert 2-10

**Other Concurrent Action: Prairie Lakes AEA**

Effective Dates	Districts	Districts
July 1, 2004	Dows (267) exchange	Northeast Hamilton (8) exchange
January 15, 2018	Pocahontas Area CSD (8)	Laurens-Marathon CSD (8)
February 19, 2018	Estherville Lincoln Central CSD (8)	North Union CSD (8)

**Territory Exclusion/Inclusion: AEA 3 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Effective Date	Excluded From	Included In

July 1, 1978	Ledyard or Swea City	Records not available
July 1, 1979	Armstrong or Ringsted	Records not available
July 1, 1983	Ayrshire	Emmetsburg
July 1, 1992	Lakota	North Kossuth
July 1, 1995	Mallard	Emmetsburg Laurens-Marathon Pocahontas Area
July 1, 1997	Lincoln Central	Armstrong-Ringsted

**Territory Exclusion/Inclusion: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Effective Date	Reorganizing Districts	Territory Attached to
July 1, 1989	Havelock-Plover Pocahontas	Laurens-Marathon & Mallard
July 1, 1993	Clarion Goldfield	Eagle Grove
July 1, 1993	Manson Northwest Webster	Fort Dodge, Humboldt, & Rockwell City

**Territory Exclusion/Inclusion: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

July 1, 1993	Fonda Newell-Providence	Pocahontas & Storm Lake
July 1, 1993	Cedar Valley Prairie	Manson, Northwest Webster, & Rockwell City
July 1, 1993	Crestland Schaller	Sac

**Other Concurrent Action: AEAs 3 & 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Effective Dates	Districts	Districts
None		

# Insert 2-11

## Record of Joint Board Actions Since July 1, 2003

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.8, paragraph 3, 2020:** “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.”

**Section 275.16, paragraph 1, 2020:** “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: Prairie Lakes AEA**

Effective Dates or Action Dates	AEA Nos.	Districts	Joint Board Actions
August 2, 2004	8 11	Southeast Webster Grand	Joint board approved petition, election passed
June 29, 2011	8 NWAEA	Odebolt-Arthur Battle Creek-Ida Grove	joint board approved petition, election failed
March 27, 2013	8 267	Clarion-Goldfield Dows	Joint board approved petition, election pending

June 20, 2016	8 NWAEA	Odebolt-Arthur Battle Creek-Ida Grove	joint board approved petition, election failed
April 19, 2017	8 NWAEA	Odebolt-Arthur Battle Creek-Ida Grove	joint board approved petition, election passed
June 26, 2017	8 NWAEA	Alta Aurelia	joint board approved petition, election passed

**Actions of Joint Boards: AEA 3 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Hearing Dates	Other AEAs	Districts	Joint Board Actions
1982	5	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt Sioux Valley	Granted petition
1982	2	Buffalo Center-Rake Lakota	Dismissed petition
1990	2	Buffalo Center-Rake Lakota	Granted petition
1992	2	Buffalo Center-Rake Lakota	Granted petition
1993	5	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt Sioux Valley	Granted petition

**Actions of Joint Boards: AEA 5 (July 1, 1975 – June 30, 2003)**

Effective Dates or Action Dates	AEA Nos.	Districts	Joint Board Actions
December 7, 1982	5 3	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt Sioux Valley	joint board approved petition, election failed
June 30, 1987	11 5	Glidden-Ralston Scranton	joint board dismissed petition
July 1, 1993	5 3	Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt Sioux Valley	joint board approved petition, election passed

# Chapter Three

## Suggested Alternate Plans

**Iowa Code References:**

**Section 275.2, paragraph, 2, 2020:** “. . . 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, 2020:** “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 school enrollment requirement.”

- Insert 01 List of Districts in Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency
- Insert 02 List of Alternate Whole-Grade Sharing Plans
- Insert 03 Overview of Plans
- Insert 04 Projected Enrollments—Districts with Less than 300 Enrollment
- Insert 05 Open Enrollment Out—Districts with Less than 300 Enrollment

## List of Districts in Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency Fall 2020

AEA #	Co #	Dist #	District Name	Certified Enrollment	Statewide Rank from Smallest	Operates High School
8	40	6246	Stratford	128.7	2	no
8	55	3897	LuVerne	158.3	3	no
8	46	6516	Twin Rivers	159.0	4	yes
8	46	2493	Gilmore City-Bradgate	166.0	5	no
8	37	5139	Paton-Churdan	204.0	13	yes
8	11	0072	Albert City-Truesdale	215.7	17	no
8	74	5724	Ruthven-Ayrshire	224.0	22	yes
8	55	4778	North Kossuth	265.8	30	no
8	76	3537	Laurens-Marathon	268.0	31	yes
8	30	2846	Harris-Lake Park	295.0	36	yes
8	74	6921	West Bend-Mallard	307.0	40	yes
8	21	1218	Clay Central-Everly	314.0	43	yes
8	81	5823	Schaller-Crestland	370.0	56	no
8	74	2556	Graettinger-Terril	387.0	60	yes
8	32	0333	North Union	401.0	63	yes
8	11	6035	Sioux Central	463.1	86	yes
8	11	4644	Newell-Fonda	469.2	90	yes
8	94	6096	Southeast Webster Grand	524.1	112	yes
8	94	5325	Prairie Valley	575.7	129	yes
8	40	6095	South Hamilton	620.6	151	yes
8	13	4023	Manson Northwest Webster	652.0	156	yes
8	74	2088	Emmetsburg	652.8	159	yes
8	76	5283	Pocahontas Area	660.1	162	yes
8	81	6741	East Sac County	786.9	187	yes
8	11	0171	Alta-Aurelia	826.0	195	yes
8	13	6091	South Central Calhoun	930.9	206	yes
8	99	1206	Clarion-Goldfield	946.2	210	yes
8	99	1944	Eagle Grove	946.6	211	yes
8	30	4890	Okobojo	1,033.0	221	yes
8	37	3195	Greene County	1,159.6	234	yes
8	30	6120	Spirit Lake	1,162.0	235	yes
8	32	2124	Estherville Lincoln	1,228.4	238	yes
8	46	3060	Humboldt	1,242.1	240	yes
8	55	0126	Algona	1,282.4	245	yes
8	40	6867	Webster City	1,740.0	273	yes
8	21	6102	Spencer	1,968.6	282	yes
8	11	6219	Storm Lake	2,603.6	292	yes
8	94	2313	Fort Dodge	3,674.6	304	yes
			Total	30,012.0		

## Alternate Whole-Grade Sharing Plans Fall 2020

<b>District</b>	<b>Grade Level Sending</b>	<b>Grade Level Receiving</b>	<b>Partner District</b>
Albert City-Truesdale	7-12		Sioux Central
Gilmore City-Bradgate	7-12		West Bend-Mallard
LuVerne	6-12		Algona
Stratford	7-12		Webster City
Twin Rivers	6-12		Humboldt
North Union	6-8	9-12	North Kossuth
North Kossuth	9-12	6-8	North Union
Prairie Valley	5-8	9-12	Southeast Webster Grand
Southeast Webster Grand	9-12	5-8	Prairie Valley
Schaller-Crestland	9-12	6-8	Galva-Holstein

# Insert 3-03

## Overview of Plans

**Iowa Code section 275.2**, 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. Prairie Lakes Area Education AEA currently has ten (10) districts below an enrollment of 300, as noted in Table 3-01:

**Table 3-01**  
**Districts with Less than 300 Enrollment**  
**Prairie Lakes AEA**

#	District Name	2020 Certified Enrollment	Statewide Rank from Smallest
1	Stratford	128.7	2
2	LuVerne	158.3	3
3	Twin Rivers	159.0	4
4	Gilmore City-Bradgate	166.0	5
5	Paton-Churdan	204.0	13
6	Albert City-Truesdale	215.7	17
7	Ruthven-Ayrshire	224.0	22
8	North Kossuth	265.8	30
9	Laurens-Marathon	268.0	31
10	Harris-Lake Park	295.0	36

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, 2020, 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 Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency 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, Area Education Agency “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 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.
  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, paragraph 2. 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 Area Education Agency 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. Suggestions for AEA districts**

The board of directors of Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency offers the following suggestions to local boards of directors as they consider merger possibilities:

Take the time to thoroughly study any type of consolidation plan. Engage the services of the Department of Education or other consultants to conduct reorganization feasibility studies. Form and work with local citizen committees.

When selecting partner districts look for eventual long-term stability.

If practicable, enter into whole-grade sharing before taking the more drastic actions of reorganization or dissolution. With rare exception, the districts that joined between 1985 and 1995 engaged in whole-grade sharing before reorganizing.

Meet with groups of neighboring districts to examine regional possibilities. Also, include the districts that we in Prairie Lakes AEA consider being our large districts.

When geographical patterns and open enrollment configurations indicate that there is no single partner that meets the needs of a broad base of resident students, the local board is encouraged to study the dissolution possibility.

#### **D. Suggested alternate plans**

As of the date of the approval of this plan there are ten (10) districts in Prairie Lakes Area Education that have certified enrollments less than 300. The suggested alternate plans for the 10 districts are listed below. The districts under 300 enrollment are presented in alphabetical order. The alternate options are not listed in any priority.

##### **1. Albert City-Truesdale (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-215.7)**

The Plan recognizes the alternate one-way whole-grade sharing agreement of the Albert City-Truesdale Community School District that sends its high school (7-12) students to the Sioux Central district.

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Newell-Fonda district
- b. Reorganize with the Laurens-Marathon district.
- c. Reorganize with the Sioux Central district
- d. Reorganize with the Storm Lake district
- e. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

##### **2. Gilmore City-Bradgate (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-166.0)**

The plan recognizes the alternate one-way whole-grade sharing agreement of the Gilmore City-Bradgate Community School District that sends its high school (7-12) students to the West Bend-Mallard district.

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Manson-Northwest Webster district
- b. Reorganize with the Humboldt district.
- c. Reorganize with the West Bend-Mallard district.
- d. Reorganize with the Pocahontas Area district
- e. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

##### **3. Harris-Lake Park (October, 2020-Certified Enrollment-295.0)**

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Spirit Lake district
- b. Reorganize with the Okoboji district
- c. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

##### **4. Laurens-Marathon (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-268.0)**

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Pocahontas Area district
- b. Reorganize with Sioux Central district
- c. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

**5. LuVerne (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-158.3)**

The plan recognizes the alternate one-way whole-grade sharing agreement of the LuVerne Community School District that sends its middle/high school (6-12) students to the Algona district.

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Algona district
- b. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

**6. North Kossuth (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-265.8)**

The plan recognizes the alternate two-way whole-grade sharing agreement of North Kossuth Community School District that sends its high school (9-12) students to the North Union district and receives the middle school (6-8) students from North Union.

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the North Union district
- b. Reorganize with the Algona district
- c. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

**7. Paton-Churdan (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-204.0)**

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Greene County district
- b. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

**8. Ruthven-Ayrshire (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-224.0)**

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Emmetsburg district
- b. Reorganize with the Graettinger-Terril district
- c. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

**9. Stratford (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-128.7)**

The plan recognizes the alternate one-way whole-grade sharing agreement of the Stratford Community School District that sends its junior-senior high school (7-12) students to the Webster City district.

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Boone district (AEA 11)
- b. Reorganize with the South Hamilton district
- c. Reorganize with the Webster City district
- d. Reorganize with the Southeast Webster Grand district
- e. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

**10. Twin Rivers (October, 2020—Certified Enrollment-159.0)**

The plan recognizes the alternate one-way whole-grade sharing agreement of the Twin Rivers Community School District that sends its middle/high school (6-12) students to Humboldt district.

If the district were to consider reorganizing, Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency suggests it:

- a. Reorganize with the Humboldt district
- b. Reorganize with the Algona district
- c. Dissolve pursuant to Iowa Code 275

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

# Insert 3-04

## Projected Enrollments

The following table inserts display the 5-year historical and five-year projected enrollments for the 10 districts with less than 300 certified enrollments for October 2020. The data were copied and pasted from the Department of Education web site.

The tables include the BEDS enrollments, which count the number of students actually attending the districts, whether or not they reside in the districts. The certified enrollments, which are also listed, count the resident students, even if they attend other districts through sharing contracts or open enrollment. The certified enrollment is the amount cited in the Code in Section 275.3.

The tables are from October 2020 made public by the DE and displays the October 2020 certified enrollments since those amounts are already official.

**Table 03-04**  
**Districts with Less than 300 Enrollment**  
**Prairie Lakes AEA**

#	District Name	2020 Certified Enrollment
1	Stratford	128.7
2	LuVerne	158.3
3	Twin Rivers	159.0
4	Gilmore City-Bradgate	166.0
5	Paton-Churdan	204.0
6	Albert City-Truesdale	215.7
7	Ruthven-Ayrshire	224.0
8	North Kossuth	265.8
9	Laurens-Marathon	268.0
10	Harris-Lake Park	295.0

The DE combines the enrollments of whole-grade sharing districts for the purpose of developing these historical and projection tables. The tables in the insert are in alphabetical order by the district under 300. However, the following sharing conditions need to be considered:

**Table 03-05**

**Districts with Less than 300 Enrollment**  
**Sharing Arrangements Considered in DE Enrollment Tables**

#	District Name	Notes
1	Stratford (partial day)	Webster City
2	LuVerne	Algona
3	Twin Rivers	Humboldt
4	Gilmore City-Bradgate	West Bend-Mallard
5	Paton-Churdan	Greene County
6	Albert City-Truesdale	Sioux Central
7	Ruthven-Ayrshire (partial day)	Graettinger-Terril
8	North Kossuth	North Union
9	Laurens-Marathon	Pocahontas Area
10	Harris-Lake Park	

**2016-2017 to 2020-2021 Iowa Public School Certified Enrollments and 2021-2022 to 2023-2026 Certified Enrollment Projections by District**

Co	County Name	AEA	AEA Name	Dist	District Name	Cert17	Cert18	Cert19	Cert20	Cert21		Certp22	Certp23	Certp24	Certp25	Certp26
11	Buena Vista	5	Prairie Lakes	0072	Albert-City-Truesdale	203	214	202	217	216		211	207	202	196	192
46	Humboldt	5	Prairie Lakes	2493	Gilmore City-Bradgate	118	146	161	163	166		163	159	155	151	148
30	Dickinson	5	Prairie Lakes	2846	Harris-Lake Park	300	307	298	292	295		289	283	276	269	262
76	Pocahontas	5	Prairie Lakes	3537	Laurens-Marathon	291	281	255	276	268		263	257	251	244	238
55	Kossuth	5	Prairie Lakes	3897	LuVerne	154	165	164	146	158		155	152	148	144	141
55	Kossuth	5	Prairie Lakes	4778	North Kossuth	262	282	274	272	266		261	255	249	242	236
37	Greene	5	Prairie Lakes	5139	Paton-Churdan	194	208	212	206	204		200	196	191	186	181
74	Palo Alto	5	Prairie Lakes	5724	Ruthven-Ayrshire	229	222	217	225	224		220	215	210	204	199
40	Hamilton	5	Prairie Lakes	6246	Stratford	161	151	142	138	129		126	124	121	117	114
46	Humboldt	5	Prairie Lakes	6516	Twin Rivers	162	143	135	150	159		156	153	149	145	141

# Open Enrollment Out

The following table inserts list the number of students open enrolling out of the 10 districts that have less than 300 certified enrollments. The receiving districts are also noted. The tables were printed from the DE web site using the 2020-2021 data.

Table 03-06 lists the total open enrollments in and out for the 10 districts. This table uses the 2021 data.

**Table 03-06  
Open Enrollment  
2020-2021**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Certified Enrollment</b>	<b>Open Enrollment Out</b>	<b>Open Enrollment In</b>	<b>Open Enrollment Net</b>	<b>Open Enrollment Percent</b>
Stratford	128.7	26.0	20.6	-5.4	-4.19%
LuVerne	158.3	61.3	2.0	-59.3	-37.46%
Twin Rivers	159.0	39.0	7.0	-32.0	-20.13%
Gilmore City-Bradgate	166.0	62.0	25.0	-37.0	-22.29%
Paton-Churdan	204.0	43.0	50.0	7.0	3.43%
Albert City-Truesdale	215.7	57.7	12.0	-45.7	-21.19%
Ruthven-Ayrshire	224.0	63.0	17.0	-46.0	-20.54%
North Kossuth	265.8	48.8	48.0	-.8	-.30%
Laurens-Marathon	268.0	86.0	5.0	-81.0	-30.22%
Harris-Lake Park	295.0	30.0	32.0	2.0	6.78%

District #	District Name	Resident Students In-District Row1	Open Enrollment Out Row2	Tuition Out Row3	Nonpublic Shared Time Row4	Public H S CPI Row5	Certified Enrollment Row7	Open Enrollment In Row8	Tuition In Row9	Statewide Voluntary Preschool Row10	Total Served Enrollment Row11	LEP Weighting Row 13
6246	Stratford	51.4	26.0	51.3	0.0	0.0	128.7	20.6	0.0	4.0	72.0	0.00
3897	LuVerne	32.0	61.3	65.0	0.0	0.0	158.3	2.0	0.0	3.0	34.0	0.66
6516	Twin Rivers	41.0	39.0	79.0	0.0	0.0	159.0	7.0	0.0	2.5	48.0	0.00
2493	Gilmore City-Bradgate	72.0	62.0	32.0	0.0	0.0	166.0	25.0	0.0	9.0	97.0	0.00
5139	Paton-Churdan	160.0	43.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	204.0	50.0	0.0	5.0	210.0	0.00
0072	Albert City-Truesdale	94.0	57.7	64.0	0.0	0.0	215.7	12.0	0.0	5.5	106.0	1.32
5724	Ruthven-Ayrshire	154.0	63.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	224.0	17.0	0.0	2.0	171.0	0.00
4778	North Kossuth	137.0	48.8	80.0	0.0	0.0	265.8	48.0	84.0	11.0	269.0	1.32
3537	Laurens-Marathon	101.0	86.0	81.0	0.0	0.0	268.0	5.0	0.0	9.5	106.0	2.86
2846	Harris-Lake Park	265.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	295.0	32.0	1.0	10.0	298.0	0.22

2021 Certified Enrollment by District – December 2, 2020