



To: Superintendents  
School Board members  
Principals  
Teachers  
Other interested stakeholders

From: Judy Jeffrey, Director

Subject: 2006 Legislative actions that will impact LEAs

Date: June 5, 2006

The 2006 Legislative session was very active, both in terms of funding priorities and policy changes. In an effort to keep you informed of changes that will likely require some conversation and adjustment to local policy and procedures, we've provided below a brief synopsis of legislative action related to educational issues. Please note that on several of these issues, the Department will be issuing detailed guidance specific to those issues under separate cover.

## Policy Issues

### 1. Additional data reporting by LEAs.

School districts and accredited nonpublic schools will be required to report to the DE additional information regarding

- students pursuing and attaining GEDs,
- graduates who were not proficient in reading, math, and science in grade 11, and
- seniors who were within four units of graduation at the end of junior year.

Whenever possible, the Department will pre-populate reports for LEAs using existing data. These data will be included in the annual APR beginning with the August 2007 report. **Additional guidance on these reporting requirements will be issued in the fall.** ([SF 2272](#) - sections 3 & 8)

## 2. Statewide Graduation Requirements and reporting.

Beginning with students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of the 2007-08 school year, local graduation requirements shall include four years of English/language arts, three years of math, three years of science, and three years of social studies in order to obtain a diploma. Local districts will still determine the courses that count toward these graduation requirements. Department data collected last fall show that of the 350 districts with high schools, 196 have already implemented the statewide graduation requirements effective with the graduating class of 2010.

Additionally, data collection regarding the numbers of students taking the ACT Core will be developed and districts will include in the local CSIP information on how districts will increase the numbers of students taking the ACT Core.

**Additional guidance on these requirements will be issued separately in the near future.** ([SF 2272](#) - section 4, [HF 2792](#) - sections 33 & 50)

## 3. Changes to Class Size/Early Intervention requirements.

New language attached to this early intervention funding requires school districts to ensure that a parent signs off on the receipt of K-3 diagnostic assessment results if the performance of the student is below grade level. If the parent does not sign off, the school is required to note that lack of signature in the student's permanent file.

Since not all diagnostic assessments indicate a grade level, local districts will have to provide guidance to teachers on how to determine if a student is "below grade level" on the diagnostic assessments provided for the K-3 early intervention programming or may have to use other local or classroom assessments as available. The Department recommends that school districts consider having all K-3 parents sign off on the receipt of assessment results under the K-3 early intervention program. ([SF 2272](#) – section 5)

## 4. Charter Schools.

The cap of 10 charter schools statewide was increased to 20. No additional funding or other changes were made to the Charter School statute. We are unclear at this point whether additional federal funds will be available – the Department will provide information if additional funding becomes available. ([SF 2272](#) – sections 7 & 17)

## 5. 8<sup>th</sup> grade four-year plan requirements.

The four-year high school plans to be developed with each 8<sup>th</sup> grader statewide (required as a result of SF 245 in 2005) must now include career options, and shall identify coursework needed in grades 9-12 to support those career options,

beginning in the fall of 2006. The plan shall also be signed by a parent if the student is under 18 years of age and shall be included in the student's records. **Additional Department's guidance on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade plans will be issued as soon as possible.** ([SF 2272](#) – section 13)

6. LEA Financial Reporting.

School districts will now be required to develop and distribute a financial report to the public on an annual basis. Seven separate requirements are mandated for reporting. The Department believes that data currently exists in the system related to six of seven of these requirements. The Department will develop a reporting template and/or provide links to existing information and will pre-populate this template with the existing collected data. **Technical assistance on these data reporting requirements will be forthcoming.** ([SF 2272](#) – sections 14 & 15)

7. Changes to special education requirements – services in nonpublic schools.

This change modifies existing statute to reflect current practices in the field and federal expectations. If a district elects to provide special education services at the nonpublic school site, those services shall be similar to those provided at the public school setting. ([SF 2272](#) – section 19)

8. Foreign exchange student extracurricular participation.

Foreign exchange students are still immediately eligible for varsity or any other level of extracurricular participation unless undue influence was exerted to place the foreign exchange student in a school primarily for athletic purposes, in which case existing transfer policy applies. **Additional guidance will be issued by the athletic organizations on this issue.** ([SF 2272](#) – section 20)

9. Certified enrollment deadline change from third Friday in September to October 1.

This change aligns state reporting to federal reporting requirements. Any deadline that was linked to “the third Friday in September” is now moved to October 1, along with all concurrent deadlines linked to “the third Friday in September”. Clarification on any deadline change caused by this action will be included in the annual training on reporting of certified enrollment. This is effective for the 2006-07 school year. ([SF 2272](#) – sections 22, 25, 26, 32, 37, 39, 40, 41, 44, 46, 49, & 53)

10. Modifications to expectations regarding Modified Allowable Growth for At-Risk Students.

As has been done the past three years, districts must submit program applications for modified allowable growth for at-risk students through the CSIP. The deadline for annual requests for funding and budget submissions has changed from November 1 to December 15. Several new data reporting requirements will be included in the annual budget submission. **Additional clarification on these requirements will be included in guidance regarding the annual budget and funding request submission.** ([SF 2272](#) – sections 24, 25, 27, 28, & 53)

11. Changes to permissible uses of revenue from the sale of a schoolhouse or school site.

Any revenue obtained by the sale of a schoolhouse or school site may now be used for the same purposes as PPEL under Iowa Code section 298.3. ([SF 2272](#) – section 36)

12. Open Enrollment.

Changes includes:

- A mechanism for a resident district to appeal to the Director if it believes a decision by a receiving district regarding good cause determination was not legal.
- Clarification that preschool attendance does not create a situation allowing a family to file for open enrollment under the continuity provisions in the existing law.

**Additional clarification on these items will be included in the Department's open enrollment manual.** ([SF 2272](#) – sections 41, 42, & 43)

13. Changes impacting bus drivers.

The language clarifies that a part-time or substitute bus driver is treated the same way as a full-time bus driver under the law. Also provides to the Director additional options for sanctions beyond the current “revoke or non-revoke” options. Also deletes the out-dated requirement that bus drivers submit certificates of physical fitness to the Department. This process is being handled through the DOT currently. ([SF 2272](#) – sections 45, 50, and 51)

14. Barbed wire around school buildings.

There shall be no barbed wire within 10 feet of any school attendance centers. ([SF 2272](#) – sections 47 & 56)

#### 15. Home Schooled Student Records.

Clarifies that the records of home-schooled students, including Form A (Report of CPI) shall be treated with the same confidentiality that applies to all other students. ([SF 2272](#) – section 58)

#### 16. New school construction in unincorporated areas.

Mandates that new school construction that occurs in areas with no local building codes must meet state building codes. ([SF 2272](#) – section 52)

#### 17. Reinstates the mandate for a media program and teacher librarians (previously media specialists) in school districts.

Requires all school districts to have an articulated, sequential media program with oversight by a properly licensed teacher librarian (previously media specialist). Waiver provisions are included in the legislation. **Additional guidance on these issues is included as the other attachment to the email that contained this document.** ([HF 2792](#) – sections 2, 3, & 49)

#### 18. Teacher Quality (excluding Administrator Quality).

Several policy adjustments:

- The majority of the increased funding for Teacher Quality will be applied toward general salary enhancements for all teachers.
- Any counselor or teacher librarian new to the profession shall now be included in mentoring and induction programming.
- Adjusts the minimum salaries for teachers - \$25,500 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year teachers, \$26,500 for 1<sup>st</sup> year Career Teachers, and \$27,500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Career Teachers.
- Maintains funding for one day of professional development, but requires that the funding be distributed locally on an individual per diem basis (**additional guidance will be issued – a specific amount of money will be appropriated to every district under this provision.**)
- Maintains current “Pot 2” funding language. Department guidance on the expenditures of these funds remains the same as last year (**The guidance issued by the Department last summer still applies to this funding – a specific amount of money will be appropriated to every district under this provision.**)
- Extends the National Board Certification program for another year. Creates and funds a National Board Certification Support Center for NBC teachers.
- Includes language on Market Factor Teacher Salaries and an appropriation (**additional guidance will be issued – a specific amount of money will be appropriated to every district under this provision.**)

- Includes language and funding for a pay for performance study to be completed by the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce as well as pay for performance pilots and pilots.

([HF 2792](#) – sections 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32)

#### 19. New Administrator Mentoring and Induction.

Creates a new Iowa Code Chapter 284A specifically for administrator quality. Language creates and funds a one-year statewide mentoring and induction program for first-time administrators. **Additional guidance is forthcoming.** SAI has been implementing a pilot program that may serve as a model for this type of support and could be accessed by school districts seeking a program under this provision. ([HF 2792](#) – sections 28, 29, 30)

#### 20. English Language Learner Supplemental Weighting

Extends fiscal support of ELL students from three to four years. **Guidance on these changes will be included in the annual Certified Enrollment training.** Changes to the 2006-07 weights and funding were automatically adjusted under this bill. ([HF 2792](#) – sections 41, 44, 47, 53, & 54)

#### 21. Issuance of free textbooks by a vote of the people.

[HF 2462](#) adjusts the number of votes required to allow local citizens to vote on whether a district can issue free textbooks, by allowing either 100 signatures or 10 percent of registered voters, whichever is higher, to bring the issue mandating the school district to issue free textbooks to a vote of the people.

#### 22. Iowa Studies Model Curriculum.

[SF 2320](#) mandates the Department of Cultural Affairs convene a group of educators to develop a model 0.5 unit 9-12 Iowa Studies Curriculum.

#### 23. Local school board reporting of allowable claims.

[HF 2194](#) allows local board to consolidate multiple payment claims from the same vendor into one payment and one notice.

#### 24. Changes to bid thresholds for certain public improvement contracts.

[HF 2713](#), along with language included in HF 2797, adjusts the bid thresholds for certain public improvements.

## 25. Background checks required for renewal licensing of teachers

The BOEE will now be required to do background checks for all teachers seeking renewal of licensure or certification. Additional information from the BOEE will be forthcoming.

### Funding

- 4% allowable growth for FY08; (Same as for FY07)
- School Foundation Aid - \$2,049,333,461; \$85,405,906 above FY06 – includes \$3.3 million for a 4<sup>th</sup> year of ELL and \$6.0 million for property tax relief in high tax rate districts.
- Empowerment funding - \$23,781,594; same as FY06
- Teacher and Administrator Quality - \$104,593,894; \$35,000,000 above FY06
  - \$4.65 million for Teacher Mentoring and Induction
  - \$2.25 million for National Board Certification
  - \$10 million for one professional development day (same as last year)
  - \$6.625 million for reimbursing teachers for time spent on professional development activities or straight salary enhancement (same as last year)
- New Administrator Mentoring and Induction - \$250,000 (new)
- Early Childhood funding - \$15,000,000 (to Empowerment, new funding included in HF 2769). \$3.5 million will be distributed to local empowerment boards for possible preschool supports.
- Nonpublic textbooks - \$638,620; \$24,562 above FY06
- Community College funding - \$159,579,244; \$10,000,000 over FY06
- Nonpublic transportation - \$8,604,714; \$330,951 above FY06
- Educational Excellence program - \$55,469,053; same as FY06
- Early Intervention/Class Size - \$29,250,000; same as FY06
- Shared Visions program - \$11,271,000; same as FY06
- Department of Education administration - \$5,643,607; \$225,000 and 4 FTE above FY06
- Instructional Support levy - \$14,428,271; same as FY06
- Reading Instruction Pilot Project Grants - \$250,000 (new)
- Parent Liaison Pilot - \$44,000 (new)
- Vocational Agriculture Youth Organization - \$50,000 (new)
- Before/After school grant program - \$150,000 (HF 2743) (new)
- Reduced the cut to AEAs from \$11,798,703 to \$8,000,000

## Department of Education Statewide Studies

### 1. Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce Education System Efficiency Study.

Mandates that the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce develop "an Iowa education efficiency and improvement plan, the goal of which is to establish a new educational delivery system. In developing the plan, the Institute shall address issues concerning the alignment of school districts, area education agencies, public postsecondary institutions, and the Department of Education, focusing on specific quantitative and qualitative indicators, management, governance, services, boundaries, infrastructure and efficiencies, and administrative efficiencies. The ITW shall submit the plan and any recommendations for changes to leaders by January 15, 2007. ([HF 2792](#) – sections 31)

### 2. Equity in Property Taxation Interim Study Committee.

Mandates that the Legislative Council create an interim legislative committee to study property tax equity issues and create a proposal for additional equalization of property taxes statewide. This is a two-year study. ([HF 2792](#) – section 48)

### 3. Community College Supplemental Weighting Data Collection.

Mandates the Department to collect and submit data regarding community college courses offered to high school students that qualify for supplemental weighting. The statute describes six types of data to be collected and analyzed. **Guidance to schools and community colleges is pending.** ([HF 2527](#) – Section 7, 17, & 24)

### 4. High School Graduate Academic Experience Data Collection Study.

Mandates that the Department, in collaboration with Regents Institutions and Community Colleges, examine ways for data collection to occur that allows for tracking of the performance of Iowa students K-16. Report due by January 1, 2007. ([HF 2527](#) – Section 8)

### 5. Health Children's Task Force.

The Department of Education and Department of Public Health will co-facilitate a task force designed to study policy issues involving the health and well being of children and to recommend policy changes that could positively affect these issues. Report to the legislature due January 2007. ([SF 2251](#))



## New Grant Opportunities

1. Reading Instruction Pilot Project Grant Program - \$250,000 statewide.

This pilot project establishes a minimum of two comprehensive reading strategy pilots and two direct reading instruction pilots for grades K-3. Details are included in the bill. **An RFP will be issued for a limited number of pilot projects.** ([HF 2527](#) – Section 15)

2. Parent Liaison Pilots - \$44,000 statewide.

This pilot project provides funding to support a parent liaison in schools with a high percentage of students in poverty. **An RFP for interested applicants will be issued for a limited number of pilots.** ([HF 2527](#) – Section 6, Item 15).

3. Before/After school program grants - \$150,000 statewide.

This pilot project supports expansion of before/after school programming for children. **An RFP will be issued for a limited number of program applications.** (HF [2743](#) – Section 5)

For additional information, please visit the Department's Legislative Update page at <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/legisupdate.asp> or contact the Department's Legislative Liaison Jeff Berger at 515-281-3399 or [jeff.berger@iowa.gov](mailto:jeff.berger@iowa.gov)