

Iowa State Board of Education
Work Session to Discuss Legislative Issues and Priorities
Legislative Dining Room, State Capitol
January 23, 2014, 7:45-8:30 a.m.

Invited:

Honorable Senator Herman Quirnbach, Chair, Senate Education Committee

Honorable Senator Joni Ernst, Ranking Member, Senate Education Committee

Honorable Senator Brian Schoenjahn, Chair, Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Honorable Senator Roby Smith, Ranking Member, Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Honorable Senator Wally Horn, Vice-Chair, Senate Education Appropriations Committee

Honorable Representative Ron Jorgenson, Chair, House Education Committee

Honorable Representative Sharon Steckman, Ranking Member, House Education Committee

Honorable Representative Quentin Stanerson, Vice-Chair, House Education Committee

Honorable Representative Cecil Dolecheck, Chair, House Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Honorable Representative Cindy Winckler, Ranking Member, House Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Honorable Representative Rob Taylor, Vice-Chair, House Education Appropriations Committee

Restoring Iowa as the Leader in Education



Rosie Hussey
President
Clear Lake



Charles C. Edwards, Jr.
Vice President
Des Moines



Diane Crookham-Johnson
Oskaloosa



Sister Jude Fitzpatrick
West Des Moines



Michael Knedler
Council Bluffs



Valorie Kruse
Sioux City



Mike May
Spirit Lake



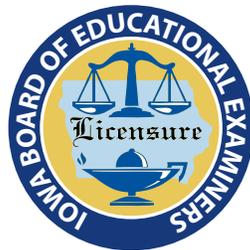
Max Phillips
Woodward



LaMetta Wynn
Clinton



Edgar Thornton
Student Member
Iowa City



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Your Iowa State Board of Education is Ready to Serve!

We are an independent, bipartisan group of Iowans who are selected by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate to work on educational issues. In working exclusively on educational issues, we strive to be an objective voice by doing the following:

- Adopt rules for the enforcement of school laws.
- Review and approve teacher preparation programs in Iowa colleges and universities.
- Approve or deny K-12 charter school applications.
- Work with policymakers in the executive and legislative branches by providing input on major educational issues.
- Listen to the concerns and input of Iowa citizens throughout the year.
- Interact with Iowa school leaders through dialogue and action in our duties.
- Approve the budgets of the community colleges and area education agencies.
- Hear appeals of local school board decisions.
- Adopt rules for accrediting public and nonpublic schools.

**EDUCATION GOALS**

We strongly believe that the following key concepts must be addressed and advanced with positive support from the Governor and Iowa General Assembly:

- Improve teacher and leader preparation in this state to produce quality professionals in every Iowa classroom and school setting. We should prepare candidates to meet the high expectations of our teacher and leader workforce.
- Continue to build on the initial success and innovative opportunities that competency-based education has provided in Iowa schools.
- Support the infusion of online learning and other technology in the classroom.
- Reduce the achievement gap that exists in our state so that all Iowa children are learning at their maximum capacity.
- Increase the effectiveness of our assessment system so that students, parents, and educators can best measure the status of learning taking place in our state.

2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As a State Board, we commend Governor Branstad and the Iowa General Assembly for major progress in educational policy in 2013. Their passage of education reform was historic and is appreciated. Building off of these good bipartisan efforts, we believe in these goals:

Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation

- Highlight exceptional methods for using technology in the classroom.
- Improve accountability with a reliance on student achievement data to demonstrate results.
- Continue to push for innovation and high quality in all programs in our state.
- *Analyze the new 2014-15 yearlong student teaching experience pilot project that we believe will yield positive results in helping prepare our teachers.*

Competency-based Education

- Continue to establish Iowa as a national leader in providing this learning option.
- Utilize the report from the multi-year task force that extensively studied competency-based education.
- Establish a permanent state funding stream to support competency-based measures in Iowa schools.
- *Support the innovative efforts of ten Iowa schools who were awarded grants to develop a framework to support statewide implementation of competency-based education.*

Online Learning and Other Technological Advances

- Be bold in embracing online learning in this state in preparing our learners for the future.
- Require all Iowa students to take at least one class online before graduation.
- Collect data to measure best practice in using technology, properly funding the necessary broadband capacity and hardware to allow such learning to take place.
- *Work to promote the usage of the expanded Iowa Learning Online system by Iowa schools to provide expanded student learning opportunities.*

Reducing Achievement Gaps

- Learn from Iowa schools that have effectively closed the gap.
- Establish intensive efforts for students based on ever improving data in this policy area.
- Continue to study root causes of and current efforts to address disparities.
- *Implement pilot extended learning projects researched and prepared for the Iowa General Assembly as well as monitor the distribution of \$10 million in high need school grants.*

Assessment

- All student assessments must align with the Iowa Core to accurately study what students know.
- Assessments should provide usable results that help educators provide instruction that best meet the needs of their students.
- All assessment choices should be available for potential use in this state, with testing choices being selected based on professional research and review, not legislative prohibitions.
- *We commend the legislative action that established an assessment task force and encourage this group to support reliable testing systems that use the latest technology.*