



# School Leader Update

A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

March 2015

## Getting ready to hire?

Spring is a great time to ready your district's TeachIowa.gov account for the hiring season.

TeachIowa.gov, the statewide job posting and application system, centralizes the job search process for employers and potential employees. The system makes hiring and applying for jobs more efficient and reduces costs statewide.

All public school and Area Education Association job postings must be listed on this site as required by Iowa Code 256.96.

Check out these "help" resources to maximize your Teach Iowa account:

- Use this instruction guide to [inactivate old postings](#).
- Use the [help page](#) or [archived webinars](#) to find additional information about posting jobs, accessing applicants, and setting up interviews.

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## Props to our front-line warriors, our teachers

There's a lot of buzz right now about education, both across Iowa and nationally.

The discussion and debate stretches from kitchen tables to Capitol buildings and covers so many questions: What's the best way to measure student progress? How should we hold our schools accountable for results? What do schools need to prepare children for success in life?

While this debate is an important and natural part of our pursuit of continuous improvement, we also must remember to recognize the ways that we're getting it right.

In Iowa, there are great teachers who can't wait to get out of bed every morning to make a difference in their students' lives. They understand that teaching is one of the toughest professions, and yet they rise to the challenge every day.

I've interacted with hundreds of teachers in schools all across Iowa – large and small, urban and rural, each with a personal story. And I've been so inspired by their dedication. Teachers deserve our respect and support, and they also deserve our thanks.

So, it will be a great privilege this month to help honor some of the state's best teachers at the Iowa Department of Education's annual teacher recognition luncheon. This is an opportunity to honor the award-winners and finalists for History Teacher of the Year, Iowa Teacher of the Year, and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.



Director Brad Buck

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## Nominate an educator for award, help celebrate Juneteenth

Iowans are invited to celebrate 150 years of Juneteenth by nominating an educator to receive the Mary McLeod Bethune Award.

McLeod Bethune was a pioneer in education, particularly for her work with African American youth. An award nomination form, which also contains eligibility requirements, can be found [online](#).

The deadline for nominations is March 20. For more information, contact Celeste Lawson at the Iowa Juneteenth Observance at [prinzcipal@aol.com](mailto:prinzcipal@aol.com). Juneteenth is an international observance marking the end of slavery on June 19, 1865.



## Yet another reason to use Iowa Learning Online

Do you have a student who missed a credit this spring, and has to wait another year before the class is again available? Iowa Learning Online offers your school district a unique opportunity to expand your curriculum by offering the first and second segments of a class for each of our semesters.

For example, this summer a student could be enrolled in the second semester of algebra whether it is for credit recovery or advancement. Visit [Iowa Learning Online](#) to view more than 40 course offerings, all at no-cost to your district. [Sign up](#) your school today. Enrollment also is ongoing for the summer and fall terms; more information can be found [here](#).

Important dates to note:

- Summer 2015 semester: May 18 to July 17 (enrollment closes May 25)
- Fall 2015 semester: Aug. 31 to Dec. 18 (enrollment closes Sept. 7)



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They are teachers like Ann Johnson, a math teacher in Dubuque who brings out the best in her second-grade students by building relationships and building their confidence in their math skills.

They are teachers like Josh Steenhoek from Pella. Josh brings science to life for his fifth-graders by treating them like scientists who ask questions, gather data, and support their claims with evidence.

They are teachers like Clemencia Spizzirri, a Spanish teacher from Des Moines who goes the extra mile to help needy students and families. She also works to ensure that children learning English as a second language are truly part of the culture of achievement.

These outstanding educators encourage and inspire their students and fellow teachers. And they will help lead the way as we take our education system to the next level in Iowa.

Do you know a great teacher? Consider a nomination for the 2016 Iowa Teacher of the Year award. The nomination deadline is April 25. For more information, please visit our website at [educateiowa.gov](http://educateiowa.gov).

Keep up the great work. And thanks for all you do for Iowa's students and schools.

# Volunteers sought for differentiated accountability pilot

The Iowa Department of Education will be ready to implement a pilot in 2015-16 of the state's new system of differentiated accountability and support. The new system is designed to reward high-functioning schools and programs with greater flexibility while giving more support to those that need it.

Full implementation of the system is expected in 2016-17.

The Department is asking for schools to volunteer to be part of the 2015-16 Differentiated Accountability Pilot. The pilot will include 30 to 40 participants, including districts and non-public schools, preschool programs and AEAs. Pilot participants will:

- Complete a brief survey to indicate availability to participate;
- Complete a desk audit to check for compliance requirements for all state and federal programs;
- Have their Healthy Indicator data reviewed by Department staff;
- Potentially participate in additional desk audits or remote interviews;
- Potentially have a team engage in an on-site visit; and
- Provide critical input and feedback to the new process.



Differentiated accountability has been and will continue to be developed by the Iowa Department of Education with input from representatives from Area Education Agencies, school districts, institutes of higher education, Iowa State Education Association, School Administrators of Iowa and Iowa Association of School Boards.

Further, we will need to account for statewide representation in the pilot (such as size, geography and preschool programs). If there isn't enough adequate representation through volunteers, the Department will choose some districts and schools to participate.

The Department will be hosting two webinars for schools to provide more information about the new differentiated accountability model, and what it means to be a pilot school in 2015-16:

- March 11 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.
- March 24 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

The [survey for districts and schools](#), which will indicate availability to participate, is due March 30.

A survey for AEAs will be sent directly to chief administrators. The survey also will indicate availability to participate.

If you would like to know more about Iowa's differentiated accountability system, take time to review Iowa's [Differentiated Accountability System](#). For more information, contact Amy Williamson at [amy.williamson@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.williamson@iowa.gov).

## Early Literacy Implementation webinars

The Iowa Department of Education will host two Early Literacy Implementation (ELI) webinars:

- Determining Intervention Success: March 6 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
- Review of Substantial Deficiency, Parent Notification and Parent Contracts: March 25 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Webinars will be hosted [here](#).

If you have identified an area in which a webinar is needed, email either Barbara Ohlund at [barbara.ohlund@iowa.gov](mailto:barbara.ohlund@iowa.gov) or Amy Williamson at [amy.williamson@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.williamson@iowa.gov).



## Early literacy assessment training planned for summer

Trainings on the state-provided early literacy assessment tools will be held again this summer for public and nonpublic elementary buildings interested in using Iowa TIER and FAST, though specific dates have yet to be determined.



Note the FAST can be used to, in part, meet 279.68 requirements. The Iowa TIER database and FAST will be available to all public and nonpublic elementary buildings. Interested schools might include:

- Districts that do not use FAST, but wish to in 2015-16;
- K-3 buildings using TIER and FAST that would like to attend again; and/or
- Buildings housing grades 4-6 that do not currently participate due to billing configurations.

Also planned is training on the state-provided preschool literacy screening tool (IGDIs). The preschool screening is not part of the 279.68 legislative requirement, but is available for districts and community partners. A level-of-interest survey will be coming to superintendents shortly. This survey will aid in planning dates and locations.

For more information, contact Barbara Ohlund at [barbara.ohlund@iowa.gov](mailto:barbara.ohlund@iowa.gov) or Amy Williamson at [amy.williamson@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.williamson@iowa.gov).

## Register for March 23 equity coordinator training

The Iowa Department of Education is sponsoring a free, one-day Statewide Civil Rights and Equity Coordinator Training on March 23 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

The day will be bookended by registration and a light breakfast from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and a study hall with conference speakers from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Two keynote speakers anchor the day:

Dr. Perry Zirkel: professor, Lehigh University

Topic: The Law and the Lore

Dr. Socorro Herrera: professor and executive director, Center for Intercultural and Multilingual Faculty and Staff, Kansas State University

Topic: Be the Lifeboat! Anchoring Your Practices in Culturally Responsive Pedagogy

The training will include workshops on the six responsibilities of the equity coordinator:

- 1) Knowledge of federal and state civil rights laws;
- 2) Equity policies and procedures required by law;
- 3) Dissemination of information to staff, students and community;
- 4) Professional development on rights and responsibilities;
- 5) Civil rights grievance process which is prompt and effective; and
- 6) Monitoring of disaggregated data.

Special emphasis will be placed on closing the achievement gap, preventing and reducing bullying and harassment behaviors, and meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

This training is provided free of charge to participants. Contact Margaret Jensen for more information at [margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov](mailto:margaret.jensenconnet@iowa.gov). To register, click [here](#).

## Iowa Teacher of the Year nominations due April 25

Thousands of talented Iowa educators lead and inspire their students, but only one is chosen annually as the state's top teacher. The deadline to nominate the 2016 Iowa Teacher of the Year is April 25.

The award is an opportunity to recognize an exceptional Iowa teacher who is helping to redefine education. Nominations will be accepted from anyone, including students, parents, school administrators, colleagues, college faculty members and associations.

Nomination forms can be found on the Iowa Department of Education's [website](#).

The Iowa Teacher of the Year award was established in 1958. The annual program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education through an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature.

The Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador to education and as a liaison to primary and secondary schools, higher education and organizations across the state.

Clemencia Spizzirri, a middle-school Spanish teacher from the Des Moines Public Schools, was named the 2015 Teacher of the Year. The 2016 Teacher of the Year will be announced this fall.



## Check out Iowa's Conservation Education Grant opportunities

Got an idea to advance environmental literacy, but lack funds? Mini-grants for up to \$3,500 are available from Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP CEP).

Standard grants, averaging \$22,000, are also available.

The CEP annually awards \$350,000 for conservation education in Iowa, and grant reviewers are seeking applications for innovative projects that need start-up funds. Plan now for the May 15 grant deadline.

For more information about the application process and the types of programs funded, go to the [REAP Conservation Education website](#). Read the [quick overview](#) of the program.



School Leader Update March 2015

## Want to teach in Taiwan?

The Iowa Department of Education has implemented an agreement with the Ministry of Education in the Republic of China (Taiwan) that will offer experienced and newly licensed Iowa elementary teachers the opportunity to teach in Taiwanese schools for one academic year.

Participants work with local Taiwanese teachers to develop curriculum and teach English to elementary students. Applications for the Teaching in Taiwan program are due March 27. Go to the Iowa Department of Education's [website](#) for application materials and more information.

## Coming soon: a social studies survey

The University of Northern Iowa, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Education, is conducting a statewide survey on the status of social studies in Iowa.

The survey will collect data from three stakeholder groups: K-12 social studies educators, district leaders, and AEAs. To get the survey out to teachers, the University of Northern Iowa will be emailing principals across the state and asking them to forward the survey link to educators in their building who teach social studies. Be on the lookout for this survey and forward it to the appropriate teachers.



Questions? Contact Stefanie Wager at [stefanie.wager@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.wager@iowa.gov).

## Financial Literacy Summit: May 5

Being financially literate is an important part of being college and career ready. To provide better exposure about the importance of financial literacy and the impact of its implementation, the Iowa Department of Education is sponsoring a Financial Literacy Summit on May 5 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

Speakers include Governor Terry Branstad, Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, Education Director Brad Buck, and Jack Kosakowski, the chief executive officer of Junior Achievement. The summit is tracked to interest secondary students, educators, and the general public.

Registration information will be available soon. Questions? Contact Stefanie Wager at [stefanie.wager@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.wager@iowa.gov).

# Data and Reporting

## Changes to bullying, harassment data reporting this school year

The process for reporting bullying and harassment data has changed substantially.

Bullying and harassment data for the 2014-15 school year will now be collected at the district level at the end of the reporting period through a survey tool such as Survey Monkey. Public districts and nonpublic schools will be required to submit total counts for each data element.

Instructions for collecting aggregate counts, examples and a template for building and district use can be found on the [Department's website](#). Please make sure to communicate this information to building-level users to help ensure that the data reported are valid and reliable.

If you have questions about this change, contact Meredith MacQuigg at [meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov](mailto:meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov).



## Annual report available for viewing

The Iowa Department of Education is required to issue an annual report on the statewide progress of the following: student achievement scores in mathematics and reading at the fourth- and eighth-grade levels on a district-by-district basis, evaluator training program, and changes and improvements in the evaluation of teachers under the Iowa Teaching Standards. [Click](#) to view the report.



For more information, contact David Tilly at [david.tilly@iowa.gov](mailto:david.tilly@iowa.gov) or 515-281-3333.

## Microsoft 2nd Cy Pres update

The claims administrator has just sent the final calculations for eligible schools. The General Purpose Voucher (GPV) is now \$24.38 per student (up from \$19.71) and Software Purpose Voucher (SPV) is \$47.57 (up from \$46.18). This information is located on the Iowa Department of Education's [website](#).

The calculations spreadsheet is located there. Locate your school on the spreadsheet. Column "U" and column "V" contain the amount of the GPV and SPV that each building will receive.



Schools do not have to update their budget page if they have already filed their application. They will have to update their application if they change any numbers or products that they add to the application. This is done by sending an email to [John O'Connell](#) requesting to make an addendum. If you have any questions or concerns, contact O'Connell via email or 515-249-0334.

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- Use this process if you have a position to fill that has not generated many applicants, [email to potential candidates](#).

For more information, go to [teachiowa.gov](http://teachiowa.gov). Additional questions may be directed to the Marietta Rives at [mariatta.rives@iowa.gov](mailto:mariatta.rives@iowa.gov) or Kelly Hart at [kelly.hart@iowa.gov](mailto:kelly.hart@iowa.gov).

# Early Childhood Preschool Programs

## Don't have a preschool program? Apply by April 17

Schools districts not currently participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program may apply to become part of the program. This [application](#) will be due April 17.

The Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs for Four-Year-Old Children (SWVPP) was established to provide an opportunity for all 4-year-old children in the state of Iowa to enter school ready to learn by expanding access to research-based preschool curricula and licensed teaching staff. The allocation of funds for the SWVPP is to improve access to high-quality early childhood education with predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding to increase the number of children participating in quality programs.



This program has grown from 64 school districts and their community partners to 320 school districts. Over 22,000 4-year-old children are served in these quality programs across the state. An additional 2,000 children funded from other sources also participate.

For more information on the SWVPP, go to the [Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program web page](#) or contact Penny Milburn at [penny.milburn@iowa.gov](mailto:penny.milburn@iowa.gov) or 515-281-7844, Jennifer Adkins at [jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2219, or Amy Stegeman at [amy.stegeman@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.stegeman@iowa.gov) or 515-725-2273.



# Nutrition and Health Services

## Farm to School Census coming soon

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Program is preparing to conduct a second [Farm to School Census](#) to provide updated information about how many school districts are purchasing locally produced food for school meal programs or conducting other farm-to-school activities.

The USDA is planning to send out the census survey in March and will ask that all school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be similar to what was distributed in 2013 (see [results](#) for Iowa) and will focus on gathering procurement data related to local sourcing, with documentation of additional farm-to-school activities as a secondary objective.



The USDA expects to share results from this census in October as part of [National Farm to School Month](#). Because of everyone's efforts, the USDA received a 75 percent response rate for the first Farm to School Census and your efforts will again be critical for achieving a similar response rate. Help us show that farm to school is growing with the Farm to School Census.

## Grants available for fruit, vegetable program

The Iowa Department of Education is now accepting applications from elementary schools for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for school year 2015-16.

This is a grant opportunity for schools to provide children with free fresh fruits and vegetables during the school day. The goal is to create healthier school environments by expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables consumed and by making a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health.



Elementary schools having 50 percent or more of their enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals are selected for the program based on an annual application. Priority must be given to schools with the highest free and reduced-price populations.

Applications must be submitted to the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services by 3 p.m. on March 27.

Check out the website for the application and more information [here](#) or contact the department's Stephanie Dross at [stephanie.dross@iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.dross@iowa.gov) or 515-281-4760.

## Nutrition and Health Services continued

### Why supporting school breakfast is important

Children who eat breakfast at school start the day ready to learn, reflected in higher test scores and better classroom behavior.

But only 40 percent of the children in Iowa schools who eat lunch at school also eat school breakfast, according to the Food Research and Action Center that ranks Iowa 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation in breakfast participation.

This may be due to logistical barriers such as busing schedules and parent expectations and misperceptions about school breakfast. Schools are working to increase breakfast participation by using alternative models for serving breakfast, such as grab-n-go, breakfast in the classroom, or breakfast after the first bell.

This week (March 2-6) in honor of National School Breakfast Week (NSBW), schools will be celebrating this year's theme, "Make the Grade with School Breakfast," highlighting how eating a nutritious breakfast helps students achieve success in the classroom and beyond.

Click [here](#) for more NSBW information and resources to support school breakfast, or contact Patti Delger at [patti.delger@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.delger@iowa.gov).



### Deadline looms for the 2015 Healthy Iowa Award for schools

The Healthy Iowa Awards Program recognizes the outstanding achievements of cities, schools, businesses, individuals, colleges and universities leading Iowa's charge in advancing well-being. School award criteria include:

- Developed and implemented policies and practices resulting in sustainable environmental change fostering healthier living;
- Demonstrated high levels of engagement among students, staff and families in wellness programming; and
- Demonstrated food literacy, quality physical education, strong nutritional standards, positive character development, etc., for students, staff, and families.



The K-12 School Award application can be found at [here](#). The application and nomination deadline is April 15. Winners will be recognized at an award reception in June sponsored by the Healthiest State Initiative and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Last year's award-winning school was Howard-Winneshiek Community School District.

For more information, contact Patti Delger at [patti.delger@iowa.gov](mailto:patti.delger@iowa.gov)



## Legislative Update

Contact Shan Seivert for all legislative items at [shanlyn.seivert@iowa.gov](mailto:shanlyn.seivert@iowa.gov) or 281-3399.

### It may be cold outside, but it's heating up inside

Just as the flurry of activity subsided a bit, we are now in funnel week, where bills go through yet another sieve and either sink or swim.

For those of you who are not familiar with the term funnel week, it is the final date for Senate and House bills to be reported out of their respective committees. Bills that do not make it out of committee during funnel week are typically considered to be dead for the current legislative session.

The Governor's Antibullying bill has passed the Senate subcommittee and Education Committee on a partisan vote of 9-6. The primary amendment to the bill is for the Department to convene a public-private work group of representatives to research strategies and provide recommendations to the Department. The Senate version will now be placed on the calendar for debate on the floor. The Governor's version passed in the House subcommittee and will be scheduled in the Education Committee soon. For reference on the Governor's Antibullying bill, I outlined the specifics in the February School Leader Update or you can monitor the bills activity on the Senate side [SSB 1044](#) and on the House side [HSB 39](#).

The debate on Supplemental State Aid has raged on with no resolution, so subsequently has been assigned to Conference Committee. House Republicans have remained firm on their support of the Governor's recommendation that districts receive a 1.25 percent increase next year, and the Senate Democrats have maintained their recommendation of 4 percent. Two of the members of the committee include Senate Majority Leader Gronstal, and Speaker of the House Paulsen. With these two as members of the committee, it certainly sends a message that a resolution is needed sooner rather than later. For a full list of the committee members, you can look at the bill history [SF 171](#). The history link is located on the left side of bill.

School Start Date has been reduced to a slow simmer. [HF 307](#) modifies language prohibiting an early school start date for a school calendar by providing that school districts and accredited nonpublic schools cannot begin their school calendar any sooner than Aug. 23. The bill also eliminates a provision that authorizes the Department to grant waivers for early start dates.

On the Senate side, [SF 227](#) authorizes school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to determine the school start date for the school calendar, providing complete local control. The bill also eliminates a provision that authorizes the Department to grant early start-date waivers. Both have passed their respective Education Committees and therefore could be debated on the floor at any time. I believe everyone would like to see a resolution on this issue soon!

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## Legislative Update continued

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During the 2012 legislative session, the Iowa Legislature approved two pilot virtual academy options to be available for students through June 30, 2015. The two pilot locations were the Iowa Connections Academy at the Cumberland-Anita-Massena (CAM) Community School District and the Iowa Virtual Academy at the Clayton Ridge Community School District. In order for CAM and Clayton Ridge to continue with their virtual academies, the legislation needs to be amended to continue beyond June 30 of this year.

I researched the archives on this legislation and found there were very passionate arguments on both sides during the 2012 legislative session. Many of the same arguments still exist. Earlier this month, with a great deal of fanfare, [HF 204](#) bill passed the House, which allowed the academies to continue to function after June 30.

The Department's bills continue to progress through the legislative process. The At-Risk and Dropout Prevention Funding bill ([SSB 1074](#)) makes changes relating to at-risk programs, alternative programs and alternative schools, and returning dropout and dropout prevention programs and funding for schools and programs. There were two other similar bills that were introduced during the subcommittee. The bill was tabled so the language in the three bills can be merged. In the House, the bill passed the Education Committee and became [HF 346](#).

Child Care Oversight and Licensing ([HF 347](#)), which relieves the Department from monitoring child-care facilities and establishes that Department of Human Services as the agency responsible for supervising and monitoring child-care programs, has passed the House Committee and the Senate subcommittee.

The Iowa Principal Leadership Institute [HSB13](#) is designed to establish an Iowa Principal Leadership Institute Advisory Council to advise and make policy recommendations to the director of the Department regarding the development of and financing for an Iowa Principal Leadership Institute. The goal would be to develop a pool of principals to provide leadership in Iowa's highest-needs schools. This bill passed the House subcommittee, but stalled in the Senate subcommittee. If it does not pass the Senate subcommittee this week, the Senate bill will die. The Department will continue to monitor the bill on the House side.

As I was writing this piece, it dawned on me how much has happened on specific bills within the legislative process since the last School Leader Update and how much I have learned by being a part of the behind-the-scenes work. Also, what I have found to be interesting is the instances when a bill that seems innocuous at first glance can quickly become a hot spot and vice versa.

Until next month....



## Legal Lessons

Contact Nicole Proesch for all Legal Lessons items: [nicole.proesch@iowa.gov](mailto:nicole.proesch@iowa.gov) or 515-281-8661

### Here's hopin' for a wee bit o'luck

With a little luck, maybe the leprechauns will bring us some spring weather this March.

When I was in school, one of my favorite memories I have was celebrating St. Patrick's Day. "Leprechauns" would come visit our classrooms overnight and turn everything upside down. The tables and chairs would be flipped over and we would find little green footprints left behind. We would spend all morning picking up the mess of the little people.

I loved this tradition so much that I have decided to continue it for my kids. Traditionally in our house, the leprechauns turn the milk and toilet bowl water green, write on mirrors and windows with green paint, drop clovers all over the house, and leave a box of Lucky Charms for breakfast. Sometimes I even take the extra time to make green eggs and ham for the occasion. Maybe this year I can find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow .

In this March edition of Legal Lessons, I bring you rule changes for summertime coaching activities, open enrollment issues, and guidance from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

#### **Rule changes for summertime coaching activities**

With the assistance of the executive directors of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, the State Board has adopted an amendment to 281 IAC 36.15(6)(b) which sets out requirements for the operation of summer camps, clinics, and coaching contact for out-of-season sports activities. The amendment to [281 IAC subrule 36.15\(6\)\(b\)](#) changes the time period in which summertime coaching activities cannot be in conflict with sports in season from "summertime" to specific dates "between June 1 and the first day of fall sports practices." This change is to ensure all schools are limiting these activities during the same specified time periods. This rule became effective this past January, so it is in place for this summer.

#### **Open enrollment issues**

##### **Open enrollment to online academies**

Since March 1 fell on a Sunday this year, state law extends the deadline to today, March 2, for open enrollment applications. Here are a few reminders with regard to open enrollment applications into the online academies at CAM or Clayton Ridge:

- Students can open enroll to CAM or Clayton Ridge if they file their application by March 1 or meet "Good Cause."
- A student who misses the deadline or does not meet good cause but alleges pervasive harassment or a serious medical condition in his or her application will need approval from the resident district before the receiving district can accept the student.
- Students must meet residency and age requirements to open enroll into these academies. They cannot be under suspension, expulsion, or already have a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma.



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# Legal Lessons continued

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- There is still a 1 percent cap on students being sent – both the sending and the receiving districts are responsible to know the cap.
- Parents open enroll students into districts and not attendance centers. You cannot deny an application based on sunset date in statute. A student could still attend another attendance center in the district or the student could terminate the open enrollment if the online academies close.

## **State Board reverses local board's decision**

In a recent appeal to the State Board of Education, the Board reversed the decision of the local school district denying the student's open enrollment to one of the online academies. The case involved a student who filed an open enrollment application on the basis of both pervasive harassment and having a serious medical condition that could not be adequately addressed by the school district.

The local board found that the student was not subject to pervasive harassment and further noted that the district could serve the student in their own online credit recovery programming, thus denying her application.

However, the local board overlooked the fact that the student had been undergoing truancy proceedings with the district for several months due to depression. As part of the truancy proceedings, the student was ordered to get a mental health evaluation. Additionally, at a truancy mediation meeting, the principal and assistant principal encouraged the student and her mother to enroll in one of the online academies because they felt this may be the best option for the student.

The State Board found that the student did have a serious medical condition that could not be adequately addressed by the district and the district conceded this fact when they encouraged her to enroll in the online academy. See the link below for the full text of the case cited above.

[\*In re Open Enrollment of C.N., 27 D.o.E. App. Dec. 571 \(2015\).\*](#)

## **FTC reviews the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and the role of schools**

The Federal Trade Commission recently provided a review for schools regarding the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and its application in a school setting. COPPA protects children's privacy and the online collection of personal information by commercial entities or software companies. In short, schools don't fall under the legal definition of who is covered under COPPA because schools are not commercial operators. However, many schools use sites or services that are covered by COPPA and require notice and parental consent. This article outlines that issue. [Testing, testing: A review session on COPPA and schools](#)

For more information on COPPA, see the links below:

[Complying with COPPA: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule: Not Just for Kids' Sites](#)

[Other COPPA issues](#)

## Calendar

### Open enrollment due today, March 2

Because March 1 landed on a Sunday, the Iowa Code extends the open enrollment deadline to today, March 2, this year. Open enrollment encompasses all students entering grades 1-12 for the 2015-16 school year.



March 31 • Last date to submit LEA electronic annual audit of prior year to the Iowa Department of Education and Auditor of State's Office

*It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, telephone number 312-730-1560, fax 312/730-1576, e-mail: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)*



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