A MONTHLY JOURNAL
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

School Leader Update

April 2013

In This Issue

Federal grant deadlines ... P. 2
New voice for teachers ... P. 4
Early learning standards ... P. 6

Students take on leadership roles in their schools

Students are taking an active leadership role in tackling bullying and harassment in Iowa's schools.

Schools that are participating in Safe and Supportive Schools, a state effort to measure and improve conditions for learning, have put in place Youth Leadership Teams. The students on these teams review bullying and harassment data and pinpoint strategies aimed at decreasing the number of incidents.

Cyndy Erickson, an Iowa Department of Education consultant, calls these teams a "critical component" of the initiative, which is supported through the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Supportive Schools grant. In 2011, Iowa was awarded nearly $14 million over four years through the grant.

Continued on Page 3 ...

Stay the course on the Iowa Core

Our efforts to dramatically improve Iowa schools have been benchmarked against the effective practices in high-performing education systems in the United States and across the world. Clearly, the best education systems pay a great deal of attention to the quality of the educator workforce and to making sure education is tailored to fit the needs of each student.

Jason Glass, Director

One other foundational component to a great school system is a clear set of expectations, or standards, that the education system helps all students reach. In Iowa, that effort is known as the Iowa Core.

I want to be clear that I support the work of the Iowa Core completely and without reservation. If we are to become a high-performing education system, the presence of clear and high standards to which curriculum, instruction, professional learning, and assessment are all aligned is an essential and critical step.

The Iowa Core represents a set of standards that have been vetted and customized by Iowans and for Iowa. The English/Language Arts and Mathematics components of the Iowa Core have been designed and internationally benchmarked through an initiative launched by state education chiefs and governors nationwide. These standards are known as the Common Core.

To be clear, the Common Core, which represents an important part of the Iowa Core, was designed by and for states. It is not a federal government-led effort. So far 45 states, including Iowa, have adopted these rigorous and relevant standards.

Continued on Page 12 ...

Deadlines loom for grant opportunities

The U.S. Department of Education reminds school districts about fast-approaching deadlines for several grant competitions. They are:

- Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant Program (closes April 15). SEED provides funding for national nonprofit organizations for projects that are supported by evidence to recruit, select, and prepare professional enhancement activities for teachers and leaders. For more information: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/edseed/

- Carol M. White Physical Education Program (closes April 12). This program provides funding for districts and community-based organizations (CBOs) to initiate, expand, or enhance physical education programs, including after-school programs, to help students meet their state's physical education standards. For more information: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/whitephysed/

- Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination Grants Program (closes April 22). This program supports the enhancement, expansion, documentation, evaluation, and dissemination of innovative, cohesive models that integrate the arts into the core elementary and middle school curricula; strengthens arts instruction; and improves students' academic performance, including their skills in creating, performing, and responding to the arts. For more information: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/artsedmodel/

Also, be sure to review the U.S. Department of Education's Fiscal Year 2013 Grants Forecast, which lists virtually all programs and competitions under which the agency has invited, or expects to invite, applications for awards and provides actual or estimated dates for the transmittal of applications under these programs.

For more information: http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html

Read all about it: News from the DE

The Iowa Department of Education has news that you can use. Some previews:

- If the United States doesn't start effectively competing educationally on a global front, it could affect our standard of living, even here in Iowa. Find out why: http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2830:education-developing-a-worldwide-competitive-edge&catid=666:headlines

- This diverse urban high school was at the bottom of the education pack in Iowa just four years ago. Not so, anymore: http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2837:student-performance-heads-north-at-diverse-urban-school&catid=666:headlines

- Rosanne Malek discovered her life's passion as a seventh grader waiting for an after-school ride from her brother, whose high school choir was rehearsing. See what transpired for this Iowa Department of Education arts consultant : http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2834:state-association-sings-praises-about-department-of-education-consultant&catid=666:headlines

Iowa teacher shortage areas

Opportunities exist for educators in teacher-shortage areas. Teachers in shortage areas may be eligible for college student forgivable loans through both state and federal programs. Information regarding applying for forgivable loans is available at the Iowa College Student Aid Commission website: http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov

Iowa Student Loan offers one-time grants to new teachers hired in shortage areas. The grants (up to $2,000) are made directly to the new teacher and can be used for any purpose (moving expenses, rent, living expenses, etc.). Apply online at www.studentloan.org/teachergrant.

Iowa teacher shortage areas are designated annually by the Iowa Department of Education. Data used to calculate the shortages include the number of Class B licenses (conditionals) issued, the number and frequency of job postings on Teach Iowa, the Iowa Department of Education's statewide teacher recruitment website, and the number of projected graduates in each teaching discipline.

To review the list of Iowa teacher shortage areas for the 2013-14 school year, go to http://www.boee.iowa.gov/teacher_shortage.html.

… Continued from Page 1

"These teams have really taken ownership of their school efforts and have engaged their peers in a way that adults simply could not," Erickson said.

Students received training on how to analyze data, as well as how to communicate that data to others. The students work with adults on how to partner with youth and to engage and develop leadership skills in youth teams. At Anamosa High School, data collected by the leadership team last year showed that bullying was one barrier to having a safe and supportive school.

"We found that students felt that they were too afraid of telling an adult about it," said Anamosa Senior Kyzer Moore. "So we made Locker 178 – an empty locker – and painted it, put a padlock on it. If they felt they were bullied, they could put an anonymous note in the locker. "

And students use it. "The guidance office opens the locker and checks it every two days," Moore said. "There are about three or four letters each time, and counselors have acted on each complaint."

The Iowa Department of Education conducted a survey last year showing the state initiative had a positive impact after just one year. Seventeen of the 20 schools improved their perceived environments from 2011 to 2012. Results from the most recent survey, completed in February, are expected this spring.

Does your district have the next Teacher of the Year?

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 2014 Iowa Teacher of the Year is April 26.

The award is an opportunity to recognize an exceptional Iowa teacher who is helping 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 following webpage: http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=686&Itemid=2683

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. Winners are chosen by a committee that includes representatives of the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa State Education Association, the School Administrators of Iowa, the Parent Teachers Association and the current Iowa Teacher of the Year.

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.

Tania Johnson of Cedar Rapids was named the 2013 Teacher of the Year.

The 2014 Teacher of the Year will be announced this fall.

2013 Teacher of the Year Tania Johnson accepts her award last fall as Governor Branstad looks on.

A new voice for teachers

Iowa's top teachers traditionally have come together once a year at a state recognition luncheon. Now they're banding together to have a seat at the table among education policymakers.

A new advisory committee has formed under the leadership of past and present winners of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the Iowa Preserve America History Teacher of the Year, and the annual Iowa Teacher of the Year award. These talented teachers wanted to do more with their titles.

"They wanted to be a voice for teachers," said Iowa Department of Education consultant Isbelia Arzola. "We have long wanted to do something more with our teachers. We brought in several teachers from across the state, and they all recommended that we create a committee to come together on issues of education."

The Voices from the Classroom: Iowa Teacher Advisory Committee, which met for the first time in March, will be co-chaired by 2013 Iowa Teacher of the Year Tania Johnson of Cedar Rapids and 2012 Iowa Teacher of the Year Charity Campbell of Norwalk. The committee also is open to teachers throughout Iowa. ***Read more at www.educateiowa.gov.***

Iowa Core: Students with disabilities

The adoption of the Common Core State Standards requires Iowa to develop a new Iowa Alternate Assessment aligned to the Iowa Core. In this effort, Iowa joined Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), a 14-state member consortium. The DLM assessment consortium is guided by the core belief that all students should have access to challenging grade-level content which is reflected in the Common Core Essential Elements (Iowa Core Essential Elements). The Essential Elements for students with significant cognitive disabilities were developed at each grade level in the areas of English Language Arts and Math by Iowa teachers (both general and special education) and other state consortium members. The Iowa Core Essential Elements are scheduled to be released later this spring. They will be found on the Iowa Core section of the Iowa Department of Education website, www.educateiowa.gov.

The DLM assessment system is designed to map a student's learning throughout the year. The system will use items and tasks that are embedded in day-to-day instruction. In this way, testing happens as part of instruction, which both informs teaching and benefits students. An end-of-year assessment will be created for states that want to include a summative test in addition to the instructionally embedded system. The DLM assessment will be operational in the 2014-15 school year. For more information, contact the Department's Emily Thatcher at emily.thatcher@iowa.gov or visit http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/.

AYP, SRI, and spring training

The spring data collection season will open soon, and, as always, change is in the air. The Iowa Department of Education rebuilt the Adequate Yearly Progress application as part of an ongoing alignment and integration with the Student Reporting in Iowa (SRI) collection. The student data collection suite – SRI, Vertical Reporting Framework, the new AYP, and more – opens April 18 for testing.

Planning is under way for spring training: reviewing recurring themes, presenting new interfaces, and looking ahead. Expect regional trainings across the state, and expect more details soon. For more information, contact the Department's Kim Wilson at kim.wilson@iowa.gov or 515-281-3757.

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 the Department's David Tilly at david.tilly@iowa.gov or 515-281-3333.

IQPPS verification visits for 2013-14

The Iowa Department of Education will soon complete the 2012-13 verification visits for the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS). Forty-six districts will receive an IQPPS verification visit in 2012-13. Another 37 districts will be visited next year, completing the IQPPS verification visits for all districts funded in 2010-11.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program districts funded in 2010-11 (funding Year 4) will receive IQPPS verification visits based on the year of the district school improvement visit. Districts that change program standards to IQPPS will receive a verification visit during the first year of IQPPS implementation. A district changing to the IQPPS must notify the Iowa Department of Education and report this information in the Early Childhood Application located on the Department's secure reporting site at http://educateiowa.gov.

A complete list of Year 4 districts receiving an IQPPS verification visit in 2013-14 will be posted in May. Please refer to the following webpage: http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279

For information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, contact Penny Milburn at penny.milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844 or Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov or 515-725-2273.

Early Learning Standards

A revised version of the Iowa Early Learning Standards was recently approved by Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) and shared with the State Board of Education. The standards represent what children from birth to age 5 should know and be able to do upon entry to kindergarten. The standards were revised during the fall of 2012 by a committee of stakeholders from different agencies in the field of early childhood, including the Iowa Department of Education.

The standards are referenced in the Chapter 16 rules that were adopted for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for 4-year-old children. In the rules, a preschool program is required to "demonstrate how the curriculum, assessment, staff development, and instructional strategies are aligned to the Iowa Early Learning Standards." Further: "The teacher shall provide instruction on the skills and knowledge included in the Iowa Early Learning Standards." (IAC 281-16.3(5))

The revised standards include a new learning standard area (social studies) and alignment with the Iowa Core for English Language Arts and Mathematics. This alignment will reinforce a reciprocal relationship between early care/preschool providers and kindergarten teachers, who all work to help children achieve academic and social success as they enter the K-12 educational settings.

The standards can now be found on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program webpage at http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279.

For more information, visit the website or contact the Department's Kimberly Johnson 515-281-4709 or kimberly.johnson@iowa.gov, or Melissa Schnurr at melissa.schnurr@iowa.gov or 515-281-5751.

How to become a HealthierUS School Challenge School

Once your school is certified for the 6 cents reimbursement for school meals, you are on the right track to become a HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) school! The HUSSC award brings national recognition for your school's wellness efforts and showcases the great work your district is doing. The Iowa Department of Education's Team Nutrition is partnering with ISU Extension and Outreach to provide four regional computer lab trainings being held in the spring for schools ready to submit a HUSSC application.

Participants will bring their school menus and other documentation to the workshop and begin completing the online HUSSC application. Technical assistance will be provided. Mileage reimbursement will be available through a partnership with Iowa Department of Public Health. Space is limited, so register today.

Four workshop dates and locations:

· Tuesday, April 23 – Great Prairie AEA, 2814 North Court St., Ottumwa
To register, click here.

· Tuesday, May 14 – Prairie Lakes AEA, 500 NE 6th St., Pocahontas
To register, click here.

· Tuesday, June 4 – Cedar Rapids CSD, 2500 Edgewood Road NW, Cedar Rapids
To register, click here.

· Thursday, June 6 – Atlantic High School, 1201 E. 14th St., Atlantic
To register, click here.

Contact the Department's Patti Delger at patti.delger@iowa.gov for more information.

Legislative Update

Contact Mike Cormack for all legislative items: mike.cormack@iowa.gov or 515-281-3399.

Cormack at the Capitol

Rooting for a home run

At about this time last year, I foolishly predicted that the Minnesota Twins would be the World Series Champions in 2012. While they came close, with close being defined as a last-place team that lost nearly 100 times, they did come up just a bit short. But, I have realized the folly of my prediction last year. Obviously, I was simply a year early.

After all, in 1991 they went from worst to first to win it all, with fantastic performances from Jack Morris and Kirby Puckett. With the addition of several starting pitchers coming off of major arm surgeries, this looks to be the year for the team to return to World Series glory. I can't believe the "experts" aren't picking them to win! At least, it's not as crazy as picking the Chicago Cubs to win. Literally, no one roaming the planet can recall the last time the Cubs won it all in 1908. Sadly, they are my second favorite team to watch.

Still, spring is my favorite time of the year. It brings hope to the Iowa General Assembly and the legislative process. As we near the second legislative funnel later this week, we are beginning to learn what bills will be eligible to move on and which bills won't. If a bill doesn't involve taxes or spending, it must have passed one legislative chamber and a committee in the other chamber to remain eligible. Those remaining bills that have passed the funnel begin to get the full focus and attention of the legislative bodies, and many of them ultimately head to the Governor's desk for his signature or veto. You can check the legislative update section of our website for a list of education bills and their current status.

Many of the bills on the list are already dead because they didn't survive the first funnel. As a former legislator, some of my bills became law, but the majority found the legislative Bermuda Triangle – never to be seen again. Those surviving the funnel dates do have reason for hope to become law.

Some of the bills still eligible at this time include anti-bullying legislation, school bus inspections, changing the school calendar to hours versus days, vision screening, establishing school emergency plans, whole-grade sharing incentives, entrepreneur education, mandatory reporting changes, suicide prevention training, background checks for all school employees, and funding for English language learners. This isn't a complete list, but it gives an indication of the many subjects legislators have yet to consider this year. Oh, and they have to agree to an education budget bill, too.

Of course, there is another major concept out there known as education reform. That is the elephant in the room compared to all other educational bills this year. On March 26, the Iowa Senate approved on a party-line vote its version of education reform, Senate File 423. House Study Bill 4 was the initial proposal put forth by Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds in January. HSB became House File 215 after some changes in the House; it passed about a month ago on a party-line vote, as well.

Continued on page 9 ...

Legislative Update continued

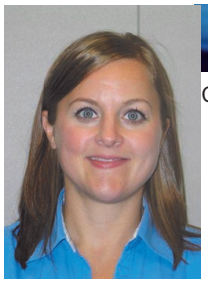
Both versions now include the concept of what was previously known as allowable growth and is now referred to as supplemental state aid. They both contain expansion of Iowa Learning Online and share some other minor elements.

The House version contains the Governor's proposed teacher leadership and compensation system with the ability of an alternate plan to be approved by a local district. The Senate's version contains those elements, plus two other compensation plans. The other two plans allowed by the Senate are an instructional coaching model and a restructured version of career ladders from 2001 legislation. So, while everyone agrees there should be a teacher compensation system, there are differences in how they would be carried out. Eventually, for education reform to occur, there must be 100 percent agreement on what will stay in the bill and how it will be done. Both sides must compromise.

Last year, the differences between the House and Senate were like two friends arguing over whether to go out to the steakhouse or to the pizzeria. This year, it's as if they've decided on pizza but are arguing about the toppings. Much work remains, and as I have noted, it is likely this will be settled in conference committee. Based on my experience in the legislative process, I am optimistic that a final compromise can be achieved on this bill and the many elements of it.

Just as baseball's spring training is wrapping up, so, too, goes the "spring training" of the 2013 legislative session. Just as the real games that count in the standings kick off the baseball world, decisions impacting school districts for years to come will be made in the coming weeks before the Iowa General Assembly. The only legislation the Legislature must complete by code is to determine the education appropriations bill and the other budget bills prior to July 1 to avert a government shutdown. My hope is that this Legislature acts more boldly and hits a home run with action on the education reform proposal before them.

As always, contact me with any questions you might have on any legislation as this session continues. And may we all have a great spring!



Legal Lessons

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

Spring is here!

Although we have been hit by several snow storms this year, we are finally starting to see signs of spring. I know I am ready to get my kids out of the house, play outside, and begin spring cleaning. You may be ready for spring cleaning, too. Here is some information to help you along the way and some ideas to get the students out of the classroom for some fresh air.

Spring cleaning, student records, and retention

Many school districts are going through mountains of student records trying to determine what, if anything, the district can get rid of. There are a few important things to note: 1) The permanent records are just that – permanent – and these should be kept permanently. 2) The cumulative records may be kept according to your local policy. However, if the permanent records include cumulative records, then you should keep those cumulative records as well. Here is the rule verbatim:

Iowa Administrative Code 281-12.3(4) Student records.

Each board shall require its administrative staff to establish and maintain a system of student records. This system shall include for each student a permanent office record and a cumulative record. The permanent office record shall serve as a historical record of official information concerning the student's education. The permanent office record shall be recorded and maintained under the student's legal name. At a minimum, the permanent office record should contain evidence of attendance and educational progress, serve as an official transcript, contain other data for use in planning to meet student needs, and provide data for official school and school district reports. This record is to be permanently maintained and stored in a fire-resistant safe or vault or can be maintained and stored electronically with a secure backup file.

The cumulative record shall provide a continuous and current record of significant information on progress and growth. It should reflect information such as courses taken, scholastic progress, school attendance, physical and health record, experiences, interests, aptitudes, attitudes, abilities, honors, extracurricular activities, part-time employment, and future plans. It is the "working record" used by the instructional professional staff in understanding the student. At the request of a receiving school or school district, a copy of the cumulative record shall be sent to officials of that school when a student transfers.

For the sole purpose of implementing an interagency agreement with state and local agencies in accordance with Iowa Code section 280.25, a student's permanent record may include information contained in the cumulative record as defined above.

The board shall adopt a policy concerning the accessibility and confidentiality of student records that complies with the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Iowa Code chapter 22.

Earth Day: It isn't easy being green

April 22 is Earth Day. Earth Day is a wonderful annual event celebrated worldwide to increase awareness for our environment. School districts and nonpublic schools can incorporate Earth Day into their curriculum in a number of ways. One way a school can do this is by scheduling a day of community service.

Continued on page 11 …

Under Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 281—12.1(8), a day of school is defined as a day during which the district is in session and the students are "under the guidance and instruction of instructional professional staff." A day during which the students are present and under the guidance and instruction of instructional staff is considered a day of attendance — Iowa Admin. Code r. 281—12.1(10). A day of community service can be considered a day of school under the rules as long as the community service is aligned to the curriculum, and students are under the guidance and supervision of instructional professional staff. Scheduling a community service day may also be a unique way to incorporate career education into the curriculum. Not only is this good for the students, it's good for the environment and the community, too. Go GREEN!

For more information on career education, see the following page:
http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=394:careereducation&catid=449:content-areas&Itemid=3623.

Prom: The Four "Ds" of Prom Protocol: Dates, Dress, Decorum, Drug Testing

It's that time of year to revisit the four "Ds" of Prom.

Dates: Iowa's civil rights law extends protection to students on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the classroom, as well as in all activities offered by a school, both public and nonpublic.* This applies to all school dances, including prom. What this means is that same-sex couples may attend prom together if they are otherwise eligible to attend prom. A school may have a policy that lawfully discriminates, such as limiting prom participants to current students of the school or recent graduates of the school. Here are a few examples for illustration:

1. Bill and Ted are students at Acme High School. Neither is known to be gay; both have reputations as class clowns. They announce that they plan to attend prom as a couple. Because the protection afforded to gay, lesbian, and bisexual students applies to perceived sexual orientation, school officials cannot ask Bill and Ted if they are gay or bisexual. They get to attend prom as a couple and continue their "excellent adventure."
2. Acme High School has a policy that only students currently enrolled in Acme, as well as Acme graduates (if they are the guest of a current student) may attend prom. Alice is a current student of Acme. She may bring as her date any of her classmates or any graduate of Acme High School. But if Alice has a relationship with a girl or boy at Pinnacle High School, Alice must decide whether to forego her prom, attend stag, or ask another Acme student to go with her.
3. One of Alice's classmates at Acme High School is Angie. Angie is class president, star athlete, 4.0 student, and top blood donor. Angie dates Brad, who is a student at Pinnacle, and is the top scholar and athlete and all-around best person in the world at his school. The Acme administrators decide to overlook the Acme policy (only Acme students may attend Acme's prom) and allow Angie to bring Brad. Having made an exception for Brad and Angie, the Acme administrators must make an exception for Alice and all other Acme students.

**However, a bona fide religious school may impose "qualifications based on religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity when such qualifications are related to a bona fide religious purpose." — Iowa Code section 216.9*

Dress: While a school cannot insist that students wear traditionally female or male attire (i.e., girls do not have to wear dresses, and boys do not have to wear tuxedoes), schools may lawfully have a dress code if enforced even-handedly. The types of rules that will be allowable include such rules as no exposed navels, no exposed nipples, no exposed derrieres, no clothes with obscenities printed on them. In other words, the usual regulations are acceptable. But a boy may wear a

Continued on page 12 …

dress to prom if the dress would be acceptable on a girl, and a girl may wear acceptable "male" prom-wear. By the way, what a kid wears does not have to be related to sexual orientation or gender identity. Think of it this way: If the male wants to wear a dress as a joke, then at his class reunion, he will be the butt of jokes, and the administration will be remembered in a positive light.

Decorum: The key here is evenhandedness. Whatever reasonable rules of conduct and decorum a school has must be enforced evenly and consistently. If public displays of affection are not tolerated, then make sure that staff members break up the kissing between straight couples as well as same-sex couples.

***Drug testing*:** Drug testing is regulated by the Iowa Student Search and Seizure Law, Iowa Code chapter 808A. School officials may test a student ONLY upon suspicion that the student is under the influence. Period. There are **no exceptions** that permit a school to conduct (or to ask law enforcement to conduct) drug testing on a suspicionless basis. Here's the kicker: Because the law is so clear on this point, school officials who continue to violate the law will be told by EMC that the insurance company will not provide any protection for them when the inevitable lawsuit is filed.

New federal special education rule on Medicaid claiming NEW

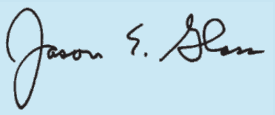
On February 14, the U.S. Department of Education amended its regulation on using Medicaid to pay for special education services. The amended regulation requires one-time parental consent to access Medicaid, with notice of parental rights, and annual notification of parental rights thereafter. The Iowa Department of Education will be amending its rules and policies to conform to this new federal regulation, as well as providing support and technical assistance to school districts and AEAs. The new federal regulations and guidance materials are available here. For more information on school-based Medicaid claiming, contact the Department's Jim Donoghue at Jim.Donoghue@iowa.gov or 515-281-8505. For more information about this regulation or the state rule-making process, contact Thomas Mayes at thomas.mayes@iowa.gov or 515-242-5614.

Continued from page 1, Director Glass

Standards represent broad outcomes that students should work to achieve and that the education system should strategically support. But a great deal of work remains in designing curricula, lessons, and formative assessments. While standards are a sort of "north star" for our schools to work toward, talented educators at the local level make the "on-the-ground" decisions about the best way to get students to reach these high expectations.

I can't stress enough how important it is for Iowa to stay the course on our work to implement the Iowa Core. This is a central component of our collective effort to achieve world-class schools.

Thanks for all your efforts on behalf of our state, our schools, and our students. You are appreciated.



Recommendations give students a voice

A panel of Iowa students capped off months of discussion about key education issues in March with recommendations to make the state's schools more relevant, engaging and effective.

The Learning Council's recommendations include improvements to teaching, testing, and high school curriculum. The students also called on schools to steer young people toward STEM careers, as well as to expand online courses and opportunities to explore career interests. Read the recommendations at www.educateiowa.gov.

Calendar

April 15	• AEA Budget Proposal—resubmit unapproved
April 15	• Budget Certification
April 15	• Budget Guarantee—board resolutions due to DOM
April 15	• ISP/VPPEL—copy of ballot or resolution due to DOM
April 18	• Spring student-level reporting test site opens
May 1	• Bond resolution filing (if any) with control county auditor
May 1	• VPPEL ballot due to DOM
May 1	• Second semester parental claim forms for nonpublic transportation reimbursement

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

www.educateiowa.gov

Iowa Department of Education

400 E 14th Street
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Ph: 515-281-5294
www.educateiowa.gov