



A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

# School Leader Update

March 2014

## A better way to student teach

Two Iowa colleges have been chosen to collaborate with the Iowa Department of Education on a pilot project designed to explore whether there are better ways to deliver the educational experience to student teachers.

The University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and Dordt College in Sioux Center will share in a \$1 million allocation from the Iowa Legislature to pilot an expansion of the student teaching program to a year-long experience. Student teachers in Iowa currently train for 14 consecutive weeks.

"Iowa produces very good teachers," said Iowa Department of Education's Larry Bice, an administrative consultant for educator preparation. "This pilot is an examination of ways that could make them even better."

Read more about the program by clicking [here](#).



## In This Issue

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## School districts show they want some 'TLC'

One of the key initiatives designed to jump-start the quality of Iowa's education system is launching, and I couldn't be more excited. It's the Teacher Leadership and Compensation System, or TLC, in which school districts representing approximately one-third of Iowa's students will start reaping benefits in the next school year.



As you know, TLC is the initiative in which top teachers are identified as leaders in their schools, who then work with co-workers to ensure best practices are being delivered in each classroom every single day. The Legislature is funding the initiative through an appropriation of \$50 million starting next year, with an additional \$50 million each year through 2017, in which all districts wanting to participate in TLC may do so.

In this first round, 146 districts – that's 42 percent of all school districts in the state – applied for funding. The applications were strong and the interest phenomenal, but the applications exceeded the available funding by nearly double the amount. As such, more than half the applications had to be declined.

The applications required the districts to identify the essential elements of the leadership system each intended to locally implement.

The applications were read by the members of the Teacher Leadership Commission. The districts were ultimately identified by the quality of the locally defined system, geography, and district size. Based on these concepts, the districts were presented to the Iowa Department of Education for final review.

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# When disciplinary action requires reporting to the state

Since 2012, state law requires reporting to the Board of Educational Examiners any instance of disciplinary action for conduct in any of these three areas:

- (1) soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or other wise inappropriate relationship with a student;
- (2) falsifying student grades, test scores, or other official information or material; and
- (3) converting public property to the personal use of the school employee.



Disciplinary actions that trigger the reporting requirement include written reprimands, written warnings, job separation agreements, resignations, non-renewals, or terminations resulting from conduct in the three listed areas. School officials must also report nonrenewal, termination, or resignation based on conduct that, if proven, would be a disqualifying criminal offense (certain forcible felonies and sexual offenses involving children). When in doubt about whether an event needs to be reported, call the Board of Education Examiner's attorney, Darcy Lane, at 515-242-6506.

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The [identified districts](#) will immediately set about choosing their local teacher leaders. Using locally developed processes, these leaders will be chosen for the strengths they possess in teaching as well as in leading professional learning experiences for other adults.

As this application and identification process has been unfolding, the Department has been working with a group of representative stakeholders on designing training for these newly identified leaders. While each of them are likely great teachers and leaders in their own right, it will be important that they receive training to continue to advance the skills that they possess. As a Department, we are working on legislation that will support funding for the training for both the teacher leaders and the building administrators.

So, why is the identification of these leaders such an important next step for improvement in Iowa schools? We have a number of initiatives under way in the state. Those include topics such as the Iowa Core, a multi-tiered system of supports or MTSS, improved assessment frameworks, and more.

The intent of the TLC is to accelerate the implementation of these statewide initiatives. It is also the intent of the system to assist the districts in locally determining what implementation of the state initiatives look like in each district.

For example, we have an agreed-upon set of content standards in the state called the Iowa Core. Its implementation at the district level comes to life through local curriculum, materials, and resources. The school leaders' jobs, in part, will be to ensure the standards are applied to the local curriculum.

It will be fascinating watching the first set of districts put in place their versions of TLC. As for the other districts, I ask that you apply again for round two next year. I also challenge you to start envisioning how TLC will look in your own districts.

I appreciate the hard work you do for our students in Iowa. They deserve to graduate from high school with all doors open to their future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Bruce A. Bauer', is displayed within a thin black rectangular border.

## Competency-based conference set for June 23-24

Register now for an unprecedented joint conference between the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa ASCD. The conference intends to expand the skills and knowledge base of educators and others interested in competency-based education and to build the capacity of educators and others to transform the current system of education in Iowa to a system focused on personalized learning for each and every student.

Single sessions and/or two-day tracts are designed specifically for district, Area Education Agencies, and institutes of higher education around the following themes:

- Define: Understanding the basics
- Design: Writing competencies and scoring guides and other how-to tracks
- Deliver: Personalizing what we do for students

Featured Speakers: Rose Colby, author of *Off the Clock* and national consultant on competency-based education; Tom Vander Ark, author of *Getting Smart: How Digital Learning is Changing the World* and CEO of Getting Smart; Jim Rickabaugh, director of *the Institute @ CESA #1* and personalized learning expert; Kim Carter, QED Foundation, national competency and student-centered approaches expert., and members of the Iowa CBE Collaborative..

The conference will be held June 23 and 24 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. The cost for ASCD members is \$250, and \$295 for non-members. To register, go to <http://iowaascd.org/index.php/events/>.

## What is i-Evaluate?

The Iowa Department of Education and AEA Professional Development Online system have been hosting an online evaluator approval course titled **i-Evaluate**. It is an online training for professionals seeking an initial, or renewal of, an Iowa Evaluator Approval License. Educational leaders participating in the course must hold a teaching or administrative license and be responsible for evaluating certified staff. By participating in the course, leaders will:

- develop knowledge around Iowa's educator quality legislation;
- determine an educator's effectiveness in increasing student achievement;
- build an understanding of the Iowa Teaching Standards, the Iowa Standards for School Leaders and other professional education standards;
- practice observational techniques;
- develop coaching techniques to guide educators;
- practice conferencing techniques and procedures; and
- implement effective evaluation practices.

**i-Evaluate** includes key articles and reports related to evaluation practices that are critical to improving instruction and student learning and incorporates best practices in adult learning. Participants engage in collaborative practices through forum discussions and partner with a cooperating administrator and career teacher to complete various evaluator tasks.

Click on this link for more information: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/educator-quality/ievaluate>





## In search of the right solutions for your school

What can a school do when it wants to jump-start its education delivery? Visit a school that is performing at top levels. That is what Eagle Grove Elementary educators did when they visited Northeast Elementary School in Ankeny. Of particular interest to the Eagle Grove educators were the co-teaching models designed to enhance the education of all students. To read more about this, go to the March issue of [\*Each and Every Child\*](#).



## ELL Professional Learning Events

Note that districts in Corrective Action Status for not meeting Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for English Language Learners are required to send a team to the two statewide ELL Professional Learning Events.

Districts should coordinate with their AEA Title III consultant to arrange for financial support if needed and for technical assistance in selecting appropriate team members for attendance at both events. Please note that the Iowa Department of Education is required to provide technical assistance to districts in AMAO Corrective Action status.

Districts serving ELLs who are not in corrective action status are also encouraged to send team members to one or both professional learning opportunities to gain access to research-based, high-yield practices, networking opportunities, and Title III Department of Education updates from the Title III director.

The scheduled dates are:

June 24-25: Our Kids Summer Institute

Nov. 11-12: Iowa Culture and Language Conference

Watch the Iowa Department of Education's website for additional details as the events get closer. For more information, contact the Department's Jobi Lawrence at [jobi.lawrence@iowa.gov](mailto:jobi.lawrence@iowa.gov) or 515-281-3805.



# Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) awards

The Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) Iowa Leadership Team is honoring the work of 32 schools meeting criteria for one of six levels of recognition. The award process requires schools to submit an online application and provide evidence they met criteria for one level of recognition. Applications are reviewed by AEA PBIS coordinators and awards are endorsed by the PBIS-Iowa Leadership Team.

The following schools are awarded the **PBIS Emerging School Award**. These schools completed training during the 2012-13 school year and developed all of their products to begin implementation.

Black Hawk Elementary, Burlington  
Grimes Elementary, Burlington  
Jefferson Elementary, Mason City  
Keokuk High, Keokuk  
Lincoln Elementary, Charles City  
Maquoketa Middle, Maquoketa  
Newell -Fonda Elementary, Newell  
Perry Elementary, Perry  
Prairie Trail Elementary, Ankeny  
Riverside Early Learning Center, Fort Dodge  
SE Webster Grand Elementary, Boxholm  
Washington Elementary, Charles City

The following schools are awarded the **PBIS Honor Plus School Award**. These schools are implementing their universal systems with fidelity and are beginning to develop their Targeted Tier.

Central Lee Elementary, Donnellson  
Farley Elementary, Farley  
Lambert Elementary, Manchester  
Sigourney Elementary, Sigourney  
South Tama Middle, Toledo  
West Delaware Middle, Manchester  
Xavier Elementary, Dyersville

The following schools are awarded the **PBIS Paramount School Award**. Paramount schools are maintaining Universal and Targeted systems and have intensive interventions in place with 50 percent or more of students receiving this level of support responding positively. These schools are considered to be fully implementing a multi-tiered system of support for all students.

East SAC Elementary, Sac City/Wall Lake  
Stratford Elementary, Stratford

The following schools are awarded the **PBIS Honor School Award**. These schools have rolled out their PBIS universal systems to staff, students and families and have begun implementation.

Feelhaber Elementary, Fort Dodge  
Grant Wood Elementary, Bettendorf  
Hampton-Dumont Middle, Hampton  
Libertyville Elementary, Fairfield  
North Hill Elementary, Burlington  
Prairie Valley Jr./Sr. High, Prairie Valley  
Union Middle, Dysart  
Washington Elementary, Fairfield  
Wilson Elementary, Davenport

The following school is awarded the **PBIS Banner School Award**. Banner Schools are maintaining their universal systems and have 50 percent of the critical elements for the Targeted Tier in place. They show evidence that at least 50 percent of students receiving targeted supports are responding positively to the intervention.

Eleanor Roosevelt Middle, Dubuque

The following school is awarded the **PBIS Banner Plus School Award**. Banner Plus schools have 80 percent of the critical elements for the Targeted Tier in place and have 70 percent or more of students responding to targeted interventions. They are progressing toward full implementation through continued development of their multi-tiered action plan and are preparing to implement intensive interventions.

Bunger Middle School, Waterloo

## 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 ambassador to education. The deadline to nominate the 2015 Iowa Teacher of the Year is April 25.

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.

Click [here](#) to access the nomination form.

Nominees will be notified, and asked to complete an application form that is due in July. In October, the winner will be selected.



Jane Schmidt, 2014 Teacher of the Year

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 Department, the Iowa State Education Association, the School Administrators of Iowa, the Parent Teachers Association, the Area Education Agencies, the Iowa Association of School Boards, the Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and the current Iowa Teacher of the Year.

The Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador for education and is a liaison to primary and secondary schools, higher education, and organizations across the state. Jane Schmidt of Maquoketa Community School District was named the 2014 Teacher of the Year.



Governor Terry Branstad with 2014 Teacher of the Year Jane Schmidt and Department of Education Director Brad Buck.



# Early Childhood Preschool Programs

## Identifying English Language Learners

Districts serving preschool students who are Potential English Language Learners (PELL) need to identify and report these students prior to kindergarten in their student information systems. PELL status is required for all preschool students reported in Student Reporting in Iowa. In order to identify students, the Department recommends using Form A located on the TransAct web site or the GOLD online Home Language Survey.

There is no need to purchase additional preschool assessments. Districts may use more informal means to identify programming that preschoolers who are PELLs may need. Strategies such as teacher and staff observations and parent input are acceptable. There is no requirement for specific services based upon the PELL reporting process, but districts need to provide a quality research-based curriculum addressing the development of oral language and literacy as well as content skills appropriate for this age group.

For additional information, contact the Department's Jobi Lawrence at 515-281-3805 or [jobi.lawrence@iowa.gov](mailto:jobi.lawrence@iowa.gov).



## Nutrition and Health Services

### Help combat student hunger in the summer

An estimated 91 percent of students who receive meal assistance during the school year go hungry during the summer months. That's because there are not enough summer food programs statewide to meet the needs of the 195,712 students who qualify during the school year for free or reduced-price lunches.



To that end, the Iowa Department of Education is seeking sponsors statewide to help run a program that provides healthy meals and snacks to children in low-income neighborhoods through the summer.

The Summer Food Service Program, administered by the Iowa Department of Education, helps reduce the risk of hunger during the summer months. Though there are many summer programs in Iowa, their reach is not far enough to meet needs statewide. The summer meals program is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Funds are available to sponsors to offset the cost, which is based on a per-meal reimbursement. Reimbursement funds can be used for both operational and administrative expenses.

Sponsoring a program means acting as the manager for the sites. Sponsors must be able to provide a capable staff, supervision of meal sites and meal services either via meals prepared on site or vended from another organization. Typical sponsors include public or private nonprofit schools; local, municipal, county, tribal or state government; private nonprofits; public or private nonprofit camps; and private or nonprofit universities or colleges. For more information on the program, go to our [website](#) or contact the Department's Stephanie Dross at [stephanie.dross@iowa.gov](mailto:stephanie.dross@iowa.gov).

### Grants available for fresh fruit and vegetables

The Iowa Department of Education is now accepting applications from elementary schools for the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program for school year 2014-15.

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 28. Check out the website for more information at: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/fresh-fruit-vegetable-program> 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



### An alternative meals-reimbursement option

Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, some Iowa schools will have a new reimbursement option for the National School Lunch Program: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Qualification is determined for a single building, a group of buildings or the entire district once in the spring rather than on a student-by-student basis. Does your school or district meet these qualifications?

- On April 1, at least 40 percent of enrolled students qualify for free meals by a method other than income application (e.g. direct certification, migrant, homeless).
- Breakfast and lunch are served in all buildings that will be under CEP.
- Because no students are charged for a meal, will you be able to support the meal program on the calculated reimbursement alone? It takes a percentage of at least 62.5 percent of students qualified by non-application methods to be at a 100 percent free reimbursement rate.

More students eat healthy meals as food service becomes more streamlined without processing applications and dealing with accounts or payments. While direct certification information will still be available individually, individual student data is not available for those students previously qualified by household income on a meal eligibility application. If you are interested in CEP, March is the month to look at individual buildings or grouping possibilities. To start, gather the number of students who qualify for free meals by a non-income application method and the number of students enrolled who have access to at least one meal to review your percentage. After you have calculated the percentage for each building, you may want to look at the percentage when you group two or more sites together.

The aggregate free and reduced statistics will be impacted because CEP buildings will no longer have a complete set of individual student demographics. Title 1, supplemental service to low socioeconomic status students, and E-Rate are a few of the federal or state education programs that utilize free and reduced information. The Department of Education is identifying the many programs and services impacted by this provision as well as options to bridge the data gap. Additional information will be distributed in the spring.

If you have questions, contact Ann Feilmann at [ann.feilmann@iowa.gov](mailto:ann.feilmann@iowa.gov) for questions on Food and Nutrition Programming or Jeff Berger at [jeff.berger@iowa.gov](mailto:jeff.berger@iowa.gov) for any other questions.



## Legislative Update

Contact Mike Cormack for all legislative items: [mike.cormack@iowa.gov](mailto:mike.cormack@iowa.gov) or 515-281-3399.

### Cormack at the Capitol Can't we all just get along?



As the powerful, non-voting (think about that phrase) member representing the Department of Education at the Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, it is an honor to participate at their many state tournaments. My goal in awarding trophies or medals is to show absolute respect to the student-athletes who have accomplished great achievements and to not embarrass myself by dropping a trophy, especially in the era of YouTube. Recently, I was able to participate at the Boys State Swimming Meet in Marshalltown. The high level of sportsmanship and mutual respect that the swimmers had for one another was refreshing.

Contrast that, unfortunately, with our current world of politics. The vast majority of people in the political process, are great public servants. However, at times, the toxic atmosphere at the national level in politics has found its way to Iowa. I think the political discourse in the state is worse today than it was when I served as a House member from 1995-2002. I believe that we can hold views in agreement or disagreement but have respect for the individual.

Disgusting! Distasteful! Dishonest! Gosh, those aren't words that are likely to find their way into a Hallmark Card. Yet those were some of the enlightened comments hurled my way recently during hearings on the Iowa Core. Orwellian, bureaucratic, liar and belligerent were among the many other warm and fuzzy thoughts directed to me on the topic.

There are positives and negatives to any issue. In the past 11 years, as either a legislator or citizen, I have observed more anger concerning the Iowa Core than on any particular issue. I understand readers may agree or disagree that the core is a good thing for education. I believe, it is appropriate to review and modify all programs to keep them updated and working at their best. There were hearings on bills that would end the core statewide and also force Iowa to leave the Smarter Balanced consortium. My voice did not raise in anger nor did I namecall others who were advocating those bills.

Instead at the hearings, I emphasized our collective care about education and that name-calling was unproductive. I also stated I would address and correct inaccuracies as they arose. Names that were said to me in person, by email or on talk radio essentially came because I disagreed with certain comments. To be fair, there were many good people at those meetings who are not supportive of the core, but remained friendly.

Name-calling tends to occur in politics when facts cannot be provided to make a coherent point. Here is a sampling of some of the points I made at those meetings to warrant the "disgusting" label that I earned:

- **Books.** It was said by one of the three out-of-state "experts" on the topic that the Department of Education and the core forces districts to use pornographic material in literature. I pointed out that Director Buck and I both have said from the start that literature is a local decision and no district should ever claim that the core made them use any particular book.
- **Data breaches.** Another "expert" claimed that the Department of Education routinely breaches student data. I asked her if she could provide specific examples to justify that comment and she could not. Another

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# Legislative Update continued

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member of the crowd told me I shouldn't claim that because we all know what happened at Target. (I would argue that there is a huge difference between someone illegally hacking into a business and our Department willfully sharing data, which we don't do.)

- **How it came to be.** At the end of one meeting, I was confronted as a liar because I stated that the Iowa General Assembly passed this and the State Board of Education followed. Both were done in the public and that this measure was treated like any other measure before the State Board (public meeting, agenda, public comment, etc). Instead, some maintained that the Gates Foundation and non-elected bureaucrats forced the core on our schools.

Those are three of countless examples of factual mishaps that were shared at the meeting. We don't force local districts to read any literature, we don't routinely breach data and the Iowa Core was adopted in a public manner, with no secrecy involved.

I share this so you have an idea of the level of anger being expressed to legislators on a daily basis about the core. I don't think that they represent the vast majority of Iowans but it is the voice that is being heard by legislators on it. Every major educational group and several business groups came to the hearings and expressed their disagreement with removing the core, as well as the assessments.

If you are against the core, rest assured that your voice is being heard by the legislators, loudly and clearly. If you are for the core, then your views are not being expressed on an individual basis to them with the same intensity or quantity.

There is a bill that passed the funnel on the core and it came out of the House Education Committee. It passed with solid support and only one "no" vote. It essentially codifies the executive order by the governor and sets down a process moving forward on the topic, such as the need to hold public hearings across the state on the issue. Many of the requirements of the bill we are already doing and it doesn't end the core in our state. I think it has a likelihood of moving forward this year but is much more moderate in tone than simply getting rid of the core in Iowa.

This isn't the first time I was called names. I remember being called names as a legislator when I worked with then-Representative and now Senator Bill Dotzler on a bipartisan bill to shut down a corrupt low-income housing program. We proposed shifting the funds to a program that actually assisted the poor. We were told we were against the poor, but as the truth came out, it was disclosed that the agency administering those funds actually had excessive salaries. Documentation showed that state funds were being used for alcohol and inappropriate hotel television services; that enabled us to finally be able to shut the program down and use the funds for their intended purpose. By day's end, the truth came out.

I believe the truth will come out on this issue. In my role, I will continue to work to be as honest and factual on the core as well as any other issue. If that causes some discomfort, so be it. There are no bad people on this issue, just bad behavior at times. I just hope the next generation that comes along can find a way to have the spirit of sportsmanship I witnessed at the swim meet be present in the discussions on important policy debates. The adults could learn something about competing hard, respecting your opponent and living with the results. Call that "distasteful" but in a democracy, you have a right to your views and the ability to speak it. You just shouldn't expect everyone else to agree with you all of the time.



## Legal Lessons

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

# Snow, snow, snow and more snow (days)

### C-c-cold? Think *Frozen*

Let us hope that the winter weather will be exiting soon and we will all be able to enjoy the sights and sounds of spring in early March this year. There were certainly a few days in February that provided us with a glimpse of spring but they did not stick around for very long. We were thankful that the winter weather hung around for my daughter's birthday. Coincidentally, she wanted a birthday party using the theme of Disney's animated movie *Frozen*. We decorated the house in snowflakes and had snowflake cookies, ice blue jello, blue rock candy, and a frozen birthday cake. The party went off without a hitch and we had plenty of snow to go sledding and make snow angels just like in the movie. We also enjoyed singing and dancing around the house to the entire movie soundtrack for the last month since we have been stuck inside. My son loves marching to the "Frozen Heart" and my daughter loves singing "Let It Go" and pretending to be Princess Elsa. I prefer pretending to be Olaf – the snowman – who sings and dreams about summer. After this LONG, LONG, winter, I hope summer gets here fast!



### Snow Days

Well it's that time of year again and Mother Nature has certainly not given schools any breaks this year when it comes to inclement weather. I think we can all agree that spring cannot come soon enough this year. The department has received several calls this year from schools and school districts requesting that they be allowed to add hours and minutes onto the school day in order to help make up for snow days this year. Six years ago, we know the department was lenient on this issue. However today, we recognize there is no authority in the law to make such a decision. Nor, do we have the authority to approve a waiver of the law. Any changes to this law would have to come through the Legislature.

The primary responsibility of instructional leaders is to provide learning time for students. Providing this time requires providing full days of instruction for students. The law for this year still requires that schools and school districts provide a minimum of 180 instructional days. Thus, it is important to provide full days of instruction when there are snow days that need to be made up.

Now for the good news: for next year, schools and school districts will have the option of choosing between 180 days or 1,080 hours of instruction. This may provide greater flexibility next year for schools and school districts who choose hours to add time to the end of the school day to make up missed hours due to snow days. But for now, schools and school districts should be making up full days.

Schools and school districts are reminded when developing their calendars for next year (and subsequent years) to consider Iowa's climate. It is reasonable to build in some days that can be used as make-up days. If doing so, for the benefit of staff, students, and students' families, please state so upfront that certain identified days WILL be used by the school as make-up days if needed.

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# Legal Lessons continued

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## Instructional Hours vs. Days Updates

Effective July 1, 2014, districts and accredited nonpublic schools have the option to choose between 180 days or 1,080 hours of instruction. Prior Department of Education guidance required that schools and school districts report whether they are choosing hours or days to the department by March 1, 2014. However, given the legislative fixes that needed to be made during this legislative session to the instructional hours law, we have decided that schools will report this in the Spring 2014 Basic Educational Data Survey (BEDS).

The bill has passed through both houses of the Legislature. The legislation bill restores language struck last year that permitted a school or school district choosing days to record a day of school with less than the minimum instructional hours for emergency, health or safety factors, for staff development opportunities, and parent-teacher conferences. The bill provides that a minimum school day shall consist of six hours of instructional time. This bill also provides non-public schools with the ability to request a waiver of the school start date along with their public counterparts.

For the full text of the bill click here: <http://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&frame=1&GA=85&hbill=HF2170>

The passage of these fixes will undoubtedly make it easier for schools and districts to stay with their current days calendars. Nonetheless, the option to choose hours for next year is also now available and may provide greater flexibility for schools and districts in planning their school calendars. Below is a quick reference chart which highlights the differences between choosing instructional hours versus days.

	1,080 Hours	180 Days
<b>Parent-teacher conferences</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>What is an hour and day</b>	Hour is 60 minutes of instruction, excluding lunch.	Day is 6 hours of instruction, excluding lunch.
<b>Lunch</b>	No	No
<b>Passing time</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Minimum hours</b>	No minimums	6 hours ( <i>this is new</i> )
<b>Professional Development</b>	No, may not be counted	No, may not be counted
<b>Emergency closing for one attendance center</b>	Count the hours the center was in attendance	Must meet 6 hours to count as a day
<b>What building do we count when it comes to instructional hours</b>	The building with the least amount of instructional hours.	The building with the least amount of instructional hours. The minimum must be at least 6 hours per day.
<b>Early outs</b>	Only instruction time counts toward 1,080 hours.	Must provide 6 hours of instruction for the day to count
<b>Early Start date</b>	Must have an early start waiver	Must have an early start waiver

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## Legal Lessons continued

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Full guidance on instructional hours versus days may be found at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/documents/legislative-information/2013/12/2013-11-04-instructional-hours-vs-days-guidance>.

### **New boiler inspection and certificate fees proposed**

The Iowa Boiler and Pressure Vessel Board has proposed changes to the boiler inspection program's fee schedule.

Iowa's Boiler and Pressure Vessel Board is required to set the boiler program fees at a level that will cover the costs of running the boiler program. The fees have not been increased since 2005. As a result, the board proposed a certificate fee increase of \$15 per year, and increases of \$15 for the inspection fees. The deadline to comment on the proposed fee increases is March 12, 2014. Click [here](#) for an attachment that includes instructions on filing comments and the proposed new fees.

For more information about Iowa's boiler program, visit [http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/boiler\\_inspection\\_.htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/boiler_inspection_.htm)

### **School Safety Corner**

The Iowa School Safety Coalition now has all safety bulletins posted on their website. Refer to <http://www.iowaschoolsafety.org/> for more information on what you can do to protect your students.

### **Students with Disabilities**

For questions regarding students with disabilities please contact Thomas Mayes at 515-242-5614 or [Thomas.mayes@iowa.gov](mailto:Thomas.mayes@iowa.gov).





Rosanne Malek

## She's got a song in her heart

Life is music to Rosanne Malek's ears. Consider: Malek, a music consultant at the Iowa Department of Education, sees music in everything, from math to nature. Music is, Malek says, central to life – and academics. Read more about Malek and the national recognition she received by clicking [here](#).

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## Calendar

March 1 • AEA Budget, last date for public hearing