
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING — MAY 2024

Meeting. The Iowa State Board of Education met on Thursday, May 9, 2024, in the State Board Room at the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines. Materials related to the meeting are available on the Department of Education's (DE's) [website](#).

Election of Officers. Director of Education McKenzie Snow presided over the election for President of the Board, and John Robbins was reelected President unanimously. President Robbins then presided over the election for Vice President of the Board, and Brooke Axiotis was reelected unanimously.

Director's Report. Director Snow provided the following updates on DE news and activities since the last meeting:

- The DE concluded its search for a Superintendent of the [Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) (IESBVI) and the [Iowa School for the Deaf](#) (ISD) and selected [Christopher Kaftan](#) for the role. Kaftan will start as Superintended for the IESBVI, and ISD on July 1, 2024.
- [HF 2618](#) (Literary Requirements, Students, and Teacher Preparation Programs Act), which pertains to elementary literacy programs, was signed into law by Governor Reynolds.
- The DE recently shared an [FAQ on Teacher Salaries](#) following the enactment of [HF 2612](#) (Area Education Agencies Act), which increased the State's minimum teacher salary.
- 236 nominations were received for the 2024 [Iowa Teacher of the Year Award](#), which exceeded the 111 nominations received for the 2023 award.

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Update. President Robbins shared that discussions are ongoing among the NASBE members regarding artificial intelligence's place in the classroom and the potential danger it can pose to students. He indicated that the NASBE may provide guidance on the subject in the future.

Administrative Rules Review. On January 11, 2023, the Governor signed [Executive Order No. 10](#), ordering State Executive Branch agencies to perform a comprehensive review of the existing Iowa Administrative Code (IAC). Agencies must review their respective portions of the IAC to rescind or rescind and readopt relevant IAC chapters. The Board unanimously approved the rescission and readoption of [Chapter 22](#), regarding Senior Year Plus Programs, and [Chapter 31](#), regarding private instruction and dual enrollment. The Board also unanimously approved the consolidation of [Chapters 77 and 79](#), which relate to standards for Teacher Intern Preparation Programs. The changes to Chapters 22 and 31 contain substantive changes, including dual enrollment standards. The majority of other changes to these chapters were largely nonsubstantive, brought the rules in line with statutory language, or removed duplicative language or processes.

Graduation Rates. The Board received a report from Jay Pennington, Chief of the Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, on the class of 2023 graduation rates. The 2023 graduation rate was 87.5%, a 0.1% increase from 2022. Mr. Pennington also updated the Board on the recent [news](#) that the Department had discovered an error in the graduation rate calculation code that had been used for the last 10 years. Corrected numbers have been published for 2021 and 2022. Iowa's 2022 graduation rate, which had been ranked 6th under the old formula, is now ranked 18th in the nation under the corrected formula.

English Language Arts Standards Revision – First Read. The Board received an initial report on new standards for English language arts. The Board will consider adopting the revised standards at its June 2024 meeting. The full report can be found on the DE [website](#).

Educator Preparation Program – Drake University. As a part of the Program’s regular review, the Board received a [report](#) from staff on the traditional teacher preparation, administrator preparation, and professional school counseling programs at the Drake University School of Education in Des Moines. Staff reported that Drake University provided evidence that all programs are in compliance with [281 IAC 79](#), which governs educator preparation programs provided in the State. The Board unanimously awarded full approval of the Program through the 2030-2031 academic year.

Iowa Valley Community College District (IVCCD) – Accreditation. The Board received an [interim accreditation report](#) from staff for the IVCCD. The report reviews several aspects of the District’s operations and highlights issues found during a site visit related to the documentation of faculty qualifications and the publishing of nondiscrimination statements. Anne Boyens, President of the IVCCD, and staff from the District provided a report to the Board on their efforts to address the issues noted by DE staff. The Board voted unanimously to provide continued accreditation.

Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budgets – FY 2025. Staff reported to the Board on the [community college certified budgets](#) for FY 2025. The Board unanimously approved the certified budgets as provided.

Great Prairie Area Education Agency (AEA) Budget Review. During the Board’s April meeting, the Board reviewed the Great Prairie AEA budget. The Board returned it with comments and requested a plan to balance the AEA budget. The Chief Administrator, Nathan Wood, and Chief Financial Officer, Dennis Gourley, of the Great Prairie AEA provided an updated budget for the 2024-2025 year. Mr. Wood noted that the updated budget reflects an expectation of an 18% to 20% reduction in filled staff positions due to an inability to fill roles. Mr. Wood also noted that after the signing of HF 2612 (Area Education Agencies Act), many school districts are planning to retain media services with the AEA. The updated budget was approved unanimously.

Staff Updates. The Board received reports from staff on the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#), an overview of [dyslexia support systems](#), and [GEAR UP Iowa](#). The Board also received updates relating to the conclusion of the 2024 Legislative Session and the School Budget Review Committee. There were no action items related to these reports.

Next Meeting. The next Iowa State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024.

LSA Staff Contact: Jacob Ludwig (515.725.0155) jacob.ludwig@legis.iowa.gov