
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

December 2, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — NOVEMBER 2019

Meeting. The State Board of Education met on November 20, 2019, in Des Moines. The meeting opened with the Board recognizing Board President Brooke Axiotis being named chairperson of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Nicole Proesch, legal counsel for the Department of Education (DE), was also recognized for receiving the Doug Bates Distinguished Service Award from the National Council of State Education Attorneys (NCOSEA).

Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition Rules. The Board approved giving public notice for proposed rule changes regarding extracurricular activities. Currently, a student may serve a 30-day period of ineligibility for a sport activity and a second ineligibility period for another extracurricular activity, often called “double jeopardy.” Under the proposed rule change, one 30-day period of ineligibility for one activity would be served and multiple periods of ineligibility for a failing grade would be eliminated. An additional proposed rule change would allow the State sports associations to establish a summer period of up to 14 calendar days when coaches would not be allowed to have contact with students.

Seclusion and Restraint Rules. The Board received public comment from Daniel Zeno, Policy Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Iowa, about concerns for the proposed new rules on seclusion and restraint. The Board also received a summary of the work with stakeholders and the feedback and public comments received at six regional meetings that were held statewide. Although there is consensus on a large majority of the proposed new rules, three areas of disagreement remain: the use of “bodily injury” versus “serious physical injury” to determine when safety precautions should be taken; timing requirements for parent notification; and implementation time frame of new rules. The Board also discussed training and collection of data on actual usage of seclusion rooms. The Board approved giving public notice for proposed rule changes, and a public hearing is scheduled for January 7, 2020, where additional public input can be received.

Iowa Community Colleges. Jeremy Varner, Administrator for the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, gave a presentation to the Board on highlights of 2019 fall enrollment for Iowa community colleges. He also provided an update on the Last-Dollar Scholarship program, including 5,800 students being awarded a scholarship for an average of \$1,100 per student. He noted a 3.2% increase in enrollment in high-demand occupation programs.

Educator Preparation. The 2019 [Report](#) on the State of Educator Preparation in Iowa was presented to the Board. The report includes information on the diversity of new teacher candidates admitted to teacher preparation programs, declines in the number of enrolled teacher candidates, declines in the number of teacher program completers, and endorsements earned for specific teaching areas including teacher shortage areas.

Davenport Community School District. Davenport Community School District was placed on conditional accreditation in May 2019. An update was provided of the district’s continued progress toward meeting all conditions of its accreditation. Superintendent Robert Kobylski spoke about a refocus on school safety and implementation of a violence and crisis intervention action plan. An update was also provided on the district’s October appearance before the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC). The SBRC received the district’s progress report on its corrective action plan and denied the request for a modified supplemental amount of \$11.9 million for the 2017-2018 school year. The district is scheduled

to present before the SBRC again in December to discuss its review of programs, and it then will present an updated corrective action plan at a special hearing before the SBRC in January.

Diagonal Community School District. Diagonal Community School District has been working to address citations and corrective actions issued by the DE to maintain accreditation. Disability accessibility is nearly complete and work is progressing in the preschool area. Meeting offer and teach requirements continues to be a concern, and the DE recommends exploring whole-grade sharing with nearby school district Mt. Ayr as a possible solution. The DE recommended and the Board approved granting continued accreditation with intensive monthly monitoring.

Iowa Statewide Assessment. The new Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) was administered in spring 2019, and the Board approved the proficiency scoring in September. Assessment results have now been shared with school districts along with additional reporting resources. Each school district will have its own plan for releasing results to students and families. Feedback on the new assessment is being received and a peer review process will be completed with improvements to be in place before the next testing period, which will be March 16, 2020, to May 15, 2020. With the new online testing, school districts will have assessment results within 10 days.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the State Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2020.

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