
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 27, 2020



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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — MARCH 2020

Meeting. The State Board of Education met on March 26, 2020, using video conferencing. The Board welcomed Dr. Ann Lebo as the newly appointed Director of the Department of Education (DE). Director Lebo opened the meeting with comments about the Department's responses to COVID-19 and collaborative work being done with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Department of Human Services in sharing information and developing guidance.

Administrative Rules. The Governor's office has asked departments to suspend administrative rulemaking except for emergency rules related to COVID-19. In accordance with that request, three rulemakings that were on the agenda to be discussed were tabled until the May meeting.

COVID-19 Update. Director Lebo provided an update to the Board on the most current [guidance and information](#) provided by the DE on its website. Information being provided at the federal level is being incorporated into current State guidance as quickly as possible. A goal of the Department is to provide as much flexibility as possible to school districts while providing useful and effective direction. Updated guidance is being provided on several areas including free and appropriate education (FAPE), teacher preparation programs, school lunches, graduation requirements, and online learning. The Department has established a Continuous Learning Task Force that is working to provide additional information for online learning and addressing education needs when students return to school.

Assessments. The DE will be pursuing federal waivers for mandated assessments. The administration of the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) will be waived for the 2019-2020 school year. The administration of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) will be waived for the 2020 spring window. If school resumes for the 2019-2020 school year, the testing window will be closed for the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21). Further guidance on English language learner screening will be provided.

Practitioner Preparation Programs. The Board discussed changes to practitioner preparation programs including changes to online coursework and the inability to complete clinical hours because of school closures. Practitioner programs can still recommend licensure for graduating students based on clinical hours already completed.

Area Education Agencies Annual Budgets Approval. The Board was asked to review and approve the FY 2020-2021 annual budgets for the area education agencies (AEAs). The Board discussed the progress that has been made with Mississippi Bend AEA, which is currently under conditional accreditation. The Board approved the annual budgets as presented.

Board Recognition. The Board recognized exiting members Mike Bearden, Angela English, Mary Ellen Miller, and student member Fez Zafar for their service to the State Board of Education.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the State Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2020.

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