
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 8, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — MAY 2020

Meeting. The State Board of Education met on May 7, 2020, using video conferencing. The Board welcomed new Board members Brian Kane, John Robbins, Georgia Van Gundy, and student member Hannah Groos. Brooke Axiotis was reelected as Board President and Bettie Bolar was elected as Vice President.

Director's Report. Director Ann Lebo provided an update to the Board on the Department of Education (DE) response to COVID-19 and funding that has been provided under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([H.R. 748](#)). Director Lebo discussed the collaborative work being done by State agencies to issue guidance and highlighted the DE [COVID-19 guidance and information](#) that has been provided. Director Lebo also spoke about the upcoming support to schools as they submit "Return to Learn" plans that will help in planning for the next academic year. The Board discussed online learning, the need for statewide broadband access, allowing lead time for future decision making, addressing public concerns about students and educators returning to schools in the fall, multi-tier systems of supports (MTSS) for struggling students, and the support of special education students. Director Lebo concluded her report by speaking about the need for flexibility and fluidity in responding to ongoing challenges related to COVID-19.

Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget Report. The Board was presented with and approved the Iowa Community Colleges Certified Budget [Report](#) for FY 2021. The Board discussed the impact of COVID-19 on community college budgets with representatives from Kirkwood Community College who said they were estimating a \$500,000 net impact on Kirkwood Community College. The representatives stated that Kirkwood Community College may be in a better position than other community colleges that would be losing on-campus living revenue. They also said they were looking at scenarios ranging from a 10.0% decline in credit enrollment to a 15.0% increase. The potential increase could come from students staying closer to home, students choosing a less expensive option for a year, or students choosing colleges with more established online platforms.

Teacher of the Year. Chris Burke, the 2019 Iowa Teacher of the Year, discussed his work during the past year and spoke about the value of relationships in education.

Davenport Community School District. Davenport Community School District was placed on conditional accreditation in May 2019. An update was provided on the district's continued progress toward meeting all conditions of its accreditation and the work being done to develop and implement a Crisis Response and Violence Prevention plan. On January 28, 2020, the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) approved the district request for a modified supplemental amount of \$9.3 million as detailed in a [Fiscal Update Article](#) published on January 30, 2020. Superintendent Robert Kobylski spoke about additional budget cuts and organizational changes to maintain a positive unspent balance moving forward. These changes include reductions and changes in staffing, work load changes for high school teachers, keeping sixth-grade students at the elementary school level, and the closing of Keystone Academy. Superintendent Kobylski also emphasized the need for a change in culture to be looking for ongoing continuous improvement across the district.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the State Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020.

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