
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

September 26, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — SEPTEMBER 2025

Meeting. The Iowa State Board of Education met on Friday, September 12, 2025, at Gilbert High School.

Director's Report. Director McKenzie Snow provided the following updates on Department of Education (DE) news and activities since the last meeting:

- The social studies standards review and revision process is currently in the public comment stage. Iowa quality preschool standards are beginning the process of review and revision.
- The Division of Special Education has released three new professional learning networks and has launched a webinar professional development series.
- Competitive grants were awarded to 15 school districts through the Credentials to Careers Grant. The Grant helps schools pay for costs related to creating or expanding career and technical education (CTE) content area programs resulting in students earning an approved industry-recognized credential (IRC). A new competitive grant has been issued called [Credentials to Computer Science Careers](#), which will close on September 30, 2025, to support high school students earning in-demand technology credentials.

Administrative Rules. The Board approved the Notices of Intended Action amending the following Iowa Administrative Code chapters:

- [281 IAC Chapters 14](#) and [21](#), School Health Services and Community Colleges. Proposed rule changes relate to vaccine exemption communications.
- [281 IAC Chapter 37](#), Extracurricular Athletic Activity Conference for Member Schools. Proposed rule changes relate to the activities conference realignment committee.
- [281 IAC Chapters 12](#), [79](#), and [80](#), General Accreditation Standards, Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs, and Standards for Paraeducator Preparation Programs. Proposed rule changes relate to implementation of 2025 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 418](#) (Gender Identity, Civil Rights, Schools, and Public Records Act).
- [281 IAC Chapter 102](#), Procedures for Charging and Investigating Incidents of Abuse of Students by School Employees. Proposed rule changes relate to student abuse investigations.
- [281 IAC Chapters 12](#) and [32](#), General Accreditation Standards and High School Equivalency Diploma. Proposed rule changes relate to civics test requirements.
- [281 IAC Chapter 41](#), Special Education. Proposed rule changes relate to out-of-state placements under 2025 Iowa Acts, [House File 787](#) (Education, Teachers and Students Act).
- [281 IAC Chapters 41](#) and [120](#), Special Education and Early Access Integrated System of Early Intervention Services. Proposed rule changes relate to foster parent decision-making clarification.
- [281 IAC Chapters 12](#), [14](#), and [36](#), General Accreditation Standards, School Health Services, and Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition. Proposed rule changes relate to seizure response, career instruction, robotics, and online assessments.

Dordt University Educator Preparation Program. The Board received a [report](#) on the educator preparation program at Dordt University. The traditional teacher and principal preparation programs will continue, but Dordt University has decided to discontinue the Generalist Paraeducator Program with no students currently enrolled. Representatives from Dordt University were present and commented on the integration of the Science of Reading, student teaching opportunities, and supporting the special education teacher workforce. The Board unanimously awarded full approval of the Program through the 2031-2032 academic year.

Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress Results. An overview of the latest results from the spring 2025 Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress was provided to the Board. The presentation included information on advancements in early literacy, lower math proficiency in high schools compared to earlier grade levels, and advancements in science proficiency. Additional information was provided, and discussion was held on student achievement gaps. Results at a State level and district level can be found on the DE's [Iowa School Performance Profiles website](#).

Postsecondary Readiness Reports. The presentation included a summary of the information and changes in reporting and data provided. The reports and additional data can be found on the [Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Reports website](#).

Red Barn Schoolhouse Charter School Facilities Progress Report. Red Barn Schoolhouse, a charter school to be established in Crescent, provided an update on progress regarding facilities acquisition. The school is scheduled to open for the 2026-2027 school year.

Next Meeting. The next Iowa State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2025.

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