

---

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

January 12, 2026



---

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — DECEMBER 2025

**Meeting.** The Iowa State Board of Education met on Thursday, December 4, 2025, in the State Board Room at the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines.

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

- The DE celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- The DE launched a new contest celebrating the United States' 250th birthday. Students in third through twelfth grades can share through an essay, poem, or video submission what the founding of America means to them. This contest is launched as part of the [Iowa America 250 Commission initiative](#).
- The DE and Iowa schools are partnering with author and professor [Angela Duckworth's](#) research team to survey and observe educators and administrators on support practices. Perspectives on implementation can be shared by families, educators, and administrators at [www.phonesinfoocus.org](http://www.phonesinfoocus.org).
- Computer science, data science, and artificial intelligence standards will enter the first stage of revisions and reviews. Standards on data science and artificial intelligence will be established for the first time. The final meeting for Iowa Early Learning Standards revisions will be held on January 8, 2026. After which, it will be open for public comment.
- The Division of Higher Education will release its next work-based learning webinar in February, focusing on construction and advanced manufacturing careers in partnership with Iowa Workforce Development.

**Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Paraeducator Preparation Program Report.** The Board received a report on the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (AEA) Paraeducator Preparation Program. A desk review of the Program was conducted, during which the AEA applied to offer an English as a Second Language (ESL) concentration. The review, conducted by an educator quality team and representatives from the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE), found that the Program meets the standards of the State and needs of the students. The Board approved the Program through the 2031-2032 school year.

**Morningside University Educator Preparation Report.** Morningside University presented a report on its [teacher internship](#) program. The Board granted temporary conditional approval to the University through December 2026.

**Career and Technical Education — Perkins Formula.** Current and alternative [Perkins V](#) funding formulas for funding splits were presented and discussed. Funding allocations between community colleges and school districts stem from federal and State funding. All secondary schools, under the Iowa [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), are expected to provide a career and technical education (CTE) or work-based learning program. At its June meeting, the Board discussed and approved Iowa's next Perkins V State Plan for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029. The Board reviewed funding allocations at that December meeting, with further data presentations and findings. In previous years, the Board approved a 50/50 split between K-12 districts and community colleges. For the new formula, the Board approved a 60/40 status quo funding formula and approved departure from the 60/40 formula starting July 1, 2026, utilizing an [alternative formula](#), a 55/45 split, for the next two years, and then reverting to the 60/40 formula for the third year.

---

**Special Education and Area Education Agencies Report.** The presentation included a Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) report from the Federal Office of Special Education (OSEP). A summary and breakdown of findings were presented. Concerns were reported and addressed. Future systemic changes were discussed to meet requirements outlined in 2024 Iowa Acts, [House File 2612](#) (Area Education Agencies Act).

**Citations and Compliance Report.** The Board received the annual [report](#) for citations and compliance. The report focused on K-12 accreditation, special education compliance, and school nutrition. Two school districts were found to have met the standards set forth in Iowa Code section [256.11\(10\)\(a\)\(4\)](#). Two school districts were found to not have fixed noncompliance items within 30 days and will continue to be monitored.

**Revised Social Studies Standards.** The Board conducted its first reading of the revised [social studies standards](#). The second reading will take place at the next Board meeting.

**2025 Condition of Education Report.** The Board received the [Condition of Education \(COE\)](#) report covering the 2024-2025 school year. Highlights include the following:

- Over the next year, the report will be published by each chapter for timeliness. Special education, early childhood, enrollment, and program chapters are available on the Board's website. Student performance, staff, and finance chapters will be published in January. Interactive data visualizations will also be available by January.
- The number of accredited nonpublic schools increased, and it is projected to continue increasing.
- Statewide projected enrollment decreased. Enrollment has been decreasing since 2014.
- There was a slight decrease in the number of teachers in the workforce from a little over 38,000 to 37,892. Over 75.0% of teachers were women.
- There was an increase in students taking Algebra 2 from 57.1% in 2010 to 81.9% for the class of 2025, with notable increases in the number of students taking chemistry, physics, and concurrent enrollment courses.

**Next Meetings.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026. Other upcoming DE meetings include:

- The Iowa College Aid Board of Commissioners meeting, scheduled for January 9, 2026.
- The Special Education Advisory Panel meeting, scheduled for January 9, 2026.
- The Child Development Coordinating Council meeting, scheduled for January 13, 2026.

LSA Staff Contact: Serenity Lo (515.281.5661) [serenity.lo@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:serenity.lo@legis.iowa.gov)

Doc ID 1594738