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### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING- SEPTEMBER 2016

**Meeting.** The State Board of Education met in Monticello, Iowa, at Kirkwood Community College on September 15, 2016. At the meeting, the Board heard the reading of public comments on the Notice of Chapter 62 Rules, addressed concerns over the coverage of the annual audit, noticed and adopted several rules, reviewed appeals, saw accreditation reports, and heard issue reviews on declining enrollment challenges, and Early Literacy Initiative and Teacher Leadership and Compensation Grant implementation practices.

**Public Comments.** Eight e-mailed or mailed public comments were read to the Board. All of the comments referred to the Notice of Rules Chapter 62, regarding retention for non-proficient readers after third grade and centered on concerns with the retention requirements.

#### **Director's Comments.**

- Annual Audit and The Des Moines Register's coverage:
  - Director Ryan Wise commented that the Department takes the audit very seriously each year, and the Department has already taken corrective steps to ensure that many of the improper signage processes will not occur in the coming year.
  - The Register also printed a correction that the newspaper had originally conflated the contract signage process and the contract bidding process.
- Early literacy system concerns:
  - The data system that teachers across the state are supposed to use to do their progress monitoring and store their FAST data has not been functioning correctly. Deputy Director Dave Tilly and the vendor for the program are working to ensure full usability going forward.
  - The Director reiterated that FAST is a screening tool, not a full diagnostic.

#### **Rules Review.**

- Chapter 56 (Notice of Rule Change): Brings Vocational Rehab Services in compliance with recent legislation and federal rules.
- Chapter 79 (Notice of Rule Change): Changes the standards for practitioner and administrator prep program rules so that they meet the recent changes to the Iowa Code, including the requirement that teacher preparation programs include identification of dyslexia; updates NTSC standards; and clarifies the requirement on classroom management for high-risk behaviors.
- Chapter 15 (Notice of Rule Change): Permits a school district to submit a one-year waiver to provide instruction for an "offer and teach" subject through an online course that is not available through Iowa Learning Online.
- Chapter 49 (Adoption of Rule Change): Adopts rules around the "Individual Career and Academic Plan," clarifying how a school may use its career information system to meet the minimum requirements.
- Chapter 62 (Notice of Rule Change): These rule changes are based on legislation that was passed in 2015; the changes update the rules to meet the requirements in that legislation. During the conversation and throughout the meeting, Deputy Director Tilly and Director Wise reiterated that, in the Department's interpretation of the legislation, third grade retention will not be based solely on a student's proficiency on a reading assessment and that the decision to retain a student will be made at the district level. The Department is working on comprehensive and clear guidelines on the retention clause of Chapter 62 rules.

**Accreditation Reports.** North Iowa Community College successfully presented its accreditation report. Green Hills AEA and Mississippi Bend AEA para-educator certification programs were re-approved.