

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

*Fiscal Services Division*

May 17, 2017



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### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING — MAY 2017

**Meeting.** The State Board of Education met on May 11, 2017, in Des Moines, Iowa. The Board heard the Director's comments and a legislative update that focused on the end of the 2017 General Assembly and the actions taken by the Department of Education due to legislative changes. The Board also reviewed administrative rule changes. Comments on the end of the legislative session addressed the following:

- Student statewide assessments. The Department is in the process of completing the request for proposal as required by [SF 240](#).
- Pathways for high school equivalency diplomas. The Department is creating alternative pathways to high school equivalency diplomas as required by [HF 473](#). Representatives from the Department stressed that the focus is on maintaining a high level of rigor for high school equivalency degrees while removing the barrier of a high-stakes assessment.
- Removal of third grade retention and summer reading program requirements that were initially created by [HF 215](#) (2013 Education Reform Act).
- Budget changes in the Department.

**Social Studies Standards.** The Board heard a summary of the process of writing and reviewing the new statewide social studies standards. The Board approved the new standards and the three-year implementation plan.

**Other Business.** The Board also heard a review of a number of programs under the Department's purview, including:

- Changes to the [Early ACCESS](#) program to stay in compliance with updated IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) requirements.
- The [Visiting Teachers from Spain Program](#).
- The [21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants](#), which are funded through Title IV - Part B federal funds.

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