
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2017

Board of Education Meeting. The State Board of Education met on September 14, 2017, in Marshalltown at Marshalltown Community College (Iowa Valley Community College District). Prior to the meeting, Board members toured Lenihan Intermediate School and listened to a presentation by the Marshalltown Community School District. At the end of the meeting, Board members toured the Marshalltown Community College campus.

Director Wise Honored by NASBE. During the meeting, the Board recognized Director of Education Ryan Wise for being named Policy Leader of the Year by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). He will receive the award in November at the NASBE Annual Conference in Buckhead, Georgia.

Review of Administrative Rules. The Board approved the following rules that are ready for adoption and filing:

- Chapter 41: Special Education.
- Chapter 14: School Health Services.

The Board approved changes to the following rules put forth under a notice of intended action:

- Chapter 32: High School Equivalency Diploma.
- Chapter 36: Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition.

Great Prairie AEA Paraeducator Program. The Board approved a revision to the Generalist, Level 1, Paraeducator Certification Program of Great Prairie Area Education Agency. The revision reflects changes made by the Board of Educational Examiners regarding competencies for the early childhood paraeducator certification. The revision extends the certification through January 2021.

Strategic Plan. The Board broke into small groups and worked with Department staff to discuss policy development priorities and goals in specific areas of the Board's strategic plan.

Work-Based Learning Intermediary Networks. The Board received a presentation on the status and work of the statewide Work-Based Learning Intermediary Network since its inception in FY 2014. Presenters from Iowa Valley Community College District and Northeast Iowa Community College shared information on programs established in their networks.

Federal ESSA Update. Department staff reported on the development of the State's plan to implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). (Note: The [final plan](#) was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) on September 18.) It was noted that high schools that graduate 66.0% or less of students are automatically put into the ESSA intervention plan. Currently, of the State's 321 high schools, 11 fall into that category; another 31 high schools graduate 85.0% or less of students. States may over identify schools for the intervention plan, but only those that meet the 66.0% federal guidelines will receive federally funded supports.

The USDE has 120 days after submission to respond to the State's plan. If clarification or additional information is requested, the State will have additional time to provide that. The plan will be approved when the USDE decides it meets the requirements of ESSA.

The next phase is to develop a plan, including guidance, support, and tools for school districts, to communicate with parents regarding ESSA. The State has one year to develop the communication plan.

Social Studies Standards Implementation. Stefanie Wager, Social Studies Consultant in the Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, reviewed the recently adopted standards and noted that implementation at the district level is planned to take three years. Districts determine the details of the curriculum, assessment, and instructional methods. The first year (FY 2018) will involve exploration, awareness, and capacity building. The second year (FY 2019) will involve a transition in practices in classrooms. The third year (FY 2020) will include leveraging partnerships, analysis, and development. Ms. Wager reviewed an implementation plan that addresses various audiences (teachers, students, schools, districts, and the State level) in each of the three years. She discussed current communication with districts, teachers, and parents, including information on the Iowa Core website. Ms. Wager also discussed the role of the Area Education Agencies (AEAs) in the implementation.

Board members discussed concerns about uniform implementation across the State, especially in light of already overburdened AEAs that do not have full-time social studies consultants. Director Wise assured Board members that additional resources will be available to assist in the implementation.

Iowa Sector Partnerships. Department staff and representatives of several organizations presented information on the current status and development of sector partnerships. The partnerships are intended to cut down on duplication of effort in a region through collaboration of employers within industries. The partnerships are facilitated and supported by staff from the Department of Education, Iowa Workforce Development, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The State-level Sector Partnership Leadership Council also oversees and supports the local partnerships. The latest survey of partnerships, completed in June, identified 60 partnerships statewide, covering 10 industries; this was an increase from 46 partnerships in 2015.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the State Board of Education is scheduled for November 15, 2017.

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