
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 26, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — NOVEMBER 2018

Meeting. The State Board of Education met on November 14, 2018, in Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting opened with public comment and a report from Director Ryan Wise. The Director's report included recognizing the 2019 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Christopher Burke, a math teacher at Dubuque's Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School.

Approval for Administrative Rules. The Board adopted administrative rules regarding career and technical education and individual career and academic plans. Approval for Notice of Intended Action was given for administrative rules regarding school health services, use of online learning and telecommunications for instruction for schools, open enrollment, supplementary weighting, financial management of categorical funding, and the Senior Year Plus program.

School Health Services. The Area Education Agencies (AEAs) are supporting implementation of the required one-hour teacher training on suicide prevention, identification of adverse childhood experiences, and strategies to mitigate toxic stress. The AEAs are making available an additional eight-hour training online.

Open Enrollment. The Board discussed allowing students enrolled in online education to participate in cocurricular or extracurricular activities in their resident school district.

Practitioner Preparation Program. University of Northern Iowa (UNI) provided a report detailing its Practitioner Preparation Program. The Board discussed and commended UNI for the 40-hour requirement for faculty to be in a local school setting. Comments were given by the Board about taking the issue of diversity seriously. UNI responded that the university has elevated this issue.

Paraeducator Preparation Program. Heartland AEA was given approval for its paraeducator preparation program. The AEA was given high marks on efforts to bring more paraeducators into school districts. The Board raised questions about how to encourage people to enter the program. Discussion followed about how cost has become an issue for potential applicants.

Davenport School District. An update was given on the Davenport Community School District (DCSD) and efforts to correct serious problems identified in the district's Special Education programs. After the presentation by Amy Williamson, Chief of the Bureau of School Improvement within the Department of Education, the Board directed staff to proceed with a Phase 2 visit to be scheduled for early 2019 and required that a referral be made to the appropriate authorities for any ethics violations. In addition, the DCSD is required to report to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) in December to address the district's negative unspent balance and provide a negative unspent balance corrective action plan.

Children's Mental Health Strategic Plan Update. Jerry Foxhoven, Director of Iowa Department of Human Services, presented an update on the progress of the Children's Mental Health Strategic Plan. Director Foxhoven commented that the schools are diverting resources to deal with mental health issues and noted that the children's mental health system will be a coordinated effort between the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Education.

Every Student Succeeds Act Update. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides for a number of national programs that support "leveling the playing field" for disadvantaged children in

obtaining high-quality education. In Iowa, an accountability index has been developed. The process began in the fall, and identifications of schools will be made in December. An evidence-based school improvement process is in place and ready to support schools when the scores are released.

Implementing Iowa's Academic Standards. Professor Steve Dunbar and Professor Cathy Welch from the University of Iowa presented information on the student standardized assessment process. Director Wise commented that this has been a Board priority for a long time, and the effort is a collaboration between the Department of Education, Iowa Testing Programs, and Pearson Corporation. Administration of the new assessment process will start in the spring of 2019, with scoring and standard-setting set for the summer of 2019. Lead developers of the assessment have reached out to schools to check for technology readiness to support the possibility of completing testing online. Iowa teachers have been involved in the development of the assessments, and it was noted that diversity was sought in building the development group. The lead developers expressed hope that this will be a successful assessment experience for schools.

National Safety Grant Update. Rob Olsen, consultant with the Bureau of Finance, Facilities, Operation, and Transportation Services, within the Department of Education spoke on the required high-quality emergency operations plans that are to be reviewed annually for schools. An invitation has been given to law enforcement to be part of the process to encourage coordination of plans. The plans developed by the individual schools are considered confidential and are not considered public record. Nine statewide training sessions have been offered along with eight webinars and five regional tabletop exercises to test district plans. The Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and Iowa High School Athletic Association are also looking to become part of the process because of the need for emergency planning outside of normal school hours. There was discussion of the potential need for a full-time equivalent (FTE) position to support the ongoing efforts.

2018 State of Educator Preparation Report. Statistics were provided regarding teacher retention and teacher diversity. The Board asked if the need for teachers was being met in Iowa. The staff responded that there are supports in place with Iowa Teacher Grants and ESSA partnerships. There are, however, geographic shortages. Alternative licensing programs were discussed as being a help to rural communities in filling teaching shortages.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the State Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

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