
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET HEARING — IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Budget Hearing. On November 26, 2018, Governor Kim Reynolds held a budget hearing for the Iowa Department of Education. Department Director Ryan Wise presented the budget request for FY 2020. The budget request included an increase of \$300,000 for the Statewide Assessment to cover the cost of nonpublic schools that choose to use the assessment. For FY 2019, the Statewide Assessment received a General Fund appropriation of \$2.7 million.

Iowa Learning Online (ILO): The Department is requesting an increase of \$500,000 for the Iowa Learning Online Initiative (ILO). The Initiative provides online classes and is especially important to rural districts that have difficulty finding teachers to offer in foreign language and other courses. The Initiative received General Fund appropriations of \$1.5 million each year in FY 2015 and FY 2016 for development but has received no further appropriations. Participating school districts support the Initiative through course fees. Director Wise said current fee revenue is not sufficient to sustain ILO.

Other Highlights. During the presentation, the Director highlighted three areas of focus for the Department, including:

- **Early Literacy Initiative (ELI):** The number of Iowa students in kindergarten through third grade who have met or surpassed benchmarks used to measure statewide progress in reading has climbed nearly 7.0% since 2015. The Department's budget request included status quo funding of \$7.8 million, which is distributed to schools to be used in a variety of ways. The budget request also includes status quo funding of \$1.9 million for the early warning system to promote early intervention for struggling students. The Department is also requesting status quo funding of \$1.3 million to fund the Iowa Reading Research Center. The Center is a collaborative effort with the University of Iowa. The Center has developed a Blueprint of Best Practices.
- **Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC):** The TLC program focuses on four goals, all of which have shown progress in the past year. Eighty-nine percent of school districts have fully or mostly met their teacher attraction and retention goals. Eighty-four percent of school districts have fully or mostly met their professional growth goals. Eighty-eight percent of school districts have fully or mostly met their collaboration goals. Fifty-six percent of school districts have fully or mostly met their achievement goals. The budget request includes status quo funding of \$600,000 for ongoing implementation of TLC.
- **Future Ready Iowa (FRI):** The goal of FRI is for 70.0% of Iowa's workforce to have education or training beyond high school by 2025. The first meeting of the new Work-Based Learning Advisory Board has been held, and a coordinator for the Iowa Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning has been hired. There has been a full distribution of funds to 49 school districts to expand their computer science curriculum. The budget request includes status quo funding of \$500,000 for the Computer Science Professional Development Fund. The Department is also requesting status quo funding of \$250,000 for the Statewide Work-Based Learning Clearinghouse.

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