

# Budget Unit Brief

## FY 2017



## Department of Education Administration

### Department History

The Department of Education (DE) was created by the General Assembly in 1913 and was originally called the Department of Public Instruction. The current name was adopted in 1986. Initially, the Department was charged with working with the many small, isolated school buildings to build a formal system of public education that included organized districts with defined duties and boundaries, as well as specific qualifications for teachers. While the state Department was established to provide oversight, local schools maintained the authority to set many of the rules and requirements for their own students.

As the state progressed over the decades with greater diversity in business, industry, and population, the public education system evolved to reflect and encompass those changes. In the mid-1960s, a system of 15 public, two-year community colleges was established to provide more students the opportunity for continued education and training beyond high school. In the mid-1970s, the system of Area Education Agencies (AEAs) was developed to provide regional support for local schools and teachers. Originally, the AEAs and community colleges shared the same service area boundaries. In recent years, several AEAs have merged to provide greater efficiency in regions with declining populations.

### Department Overview

The DE provides oversight, supervision, and/or support for the State education system, including all of the following:

- Public elementary and secondary schools
- Community colleges
- Area Education Agencies
- Educational supervision of elementary and secondary schools under the purview of the Department of Human Services
- Nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation
- Teacher preparation programs

The Department also oversees the educational services of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS). The Division assists students with disabilities in high schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, and Regent institutions in the State in their transition from educational settings to employment. Also, the Department works in collaboration with the State Library and assists with the educational services provided by Iowa Public Television.

The Department director is appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The director's role is to provide leadership for the Department as it carries out the policies and programs prescribed by law and the State Board of Education. The director serves as the executive officer of the board, a nonvoting role.

The State Board of Education consists of 10 members, nine voting members and one nonvoting student member. The voting members are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms and are subject to Senate confirmation. The nonvoting student member serves a one-year term and is appointed by the Governor. Duties of the Board include adopting and establishing policies assuring quality education for students in elementary and secondary schools, and community colleges; prescribing and approving teacher preparation programs; and hearing appeals of local school board decisions and affirming, modifying, or vacating those decisions.

The DE employs approximately 235 people in four major divisions: Division of Community Colleges, Division of School Finance and Support Services, Division of Communication and Information Services, and Division of Learning and Results. The State Library, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and Iowa Public Television (IPTV) are affiliated with the Department, but their operations have expanded and developed into independent entities with independent boards.

### More Information

Iowa Department of Education: <http://educateiowa.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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### **Funding**

The General Fund appropriation for administration funds the general operations of the DE, including salaries and benefits. During the 10-year period of FY 2008 through FY 2017, this General Fund appropriation averaged \$6.9 million per year. The current annual General Fund appropriation is \$6.1 million and authorizes approximately 82.0 appropriated full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

### **Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapter [256](#)  
[281](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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