

system of public libraries and assists with the educational services provided by Iowa Public Television and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Although the department's scope of responsibility spans from prekindergarten through community colleges, one of its most important leadership roles is to set priorities for the state's educational system. Current priorities improving access to and quality of preschool programs, providing professional development and technical assistance for the improvement of teaching, implementation of new state and federal laws, improving the rigor and relevance of high school courses in an environment with caring relationships, and improving the transitions between grade levels to gain a more seamless, high-quality education system.

The department director is appointed by the Governor to serve a four-year term, subject to confirmation by the Iowa Senate. The director's role is to provide leadership for the department as it carries out the policies and programs prescribed by state law and the State Board of Education and to ensure department personnel are providing the necessary oversight and support for all schools, educators, and students to meet their academic goals. The director also serves as the executive officer of the board, a nonvoting role.

The board consists of 10 members — nine voting members who are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms and subject to Senate confirmation and one nonvoting student member who serves a one-year term, also appointed by the Governor. The duties of the board include adopting and establishing policies assuring quality education for students in the elementary and secondary schools and community colleges; prescribing and approving teacher preparation programs to assure all teachers are highly qualified; hearing appeals of local school board decisions and affirming, modifying, or vacating those decisions; and receiving and approving the department budgets.

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

§256.3, 256.9(12)

*Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building,  
Des Moines 50319; (515)281-3436*

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director of Education, Executive Officer

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Term Ending Date</i>
Gene E. Vincent, President .....	Carroll.....	April 30, 2008
Charles Edwards .....	Des Moines.....	April 30, 2006
Jude Fitzpatrick .....	West Des Moines.....	April 30, 2008
Sally Frudden .....	Charles City.....	April 30, 2006
Rosemarie Hussey .....	Mason City .....	April 30, 2010
Wayne Kobberdahl .....	Council Bluffs .....	April 30, 2010
Gregory D. McClain .....	Cedar Falls.....	April 30, 2006
Mary Jean Montgomery .....	Spencer .....	April 30, 2008
Max Phillips.....	Woodward .....	April 30, 2008
<i>Nonvoting student member:</i>		
Tara Richards .....	Indianola.....	April 30, 2006

The Department of Education was created by the General Assembly in 1913 and was originally called the Department of Public Instruction. The current name was adopted in 1986. In its early years, 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. This system of "local responsibility" — based on the belief that local residents have the greatest interest in assuring their children's success — continues today.

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 their teachers. Originally, the AEAs and community colleges shared the same service area boundaries. In recent years, however, several AEAs have merged to provide greater efficiency in regions with declining population.

The Department of Education employs approximately 210 people in three major divisions: Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation; Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education; and Financial and Information Services. Although the state libraries, vocational rehabilitation, and public television remain affiliated with the Department of Education, their operations have expanded and developed into independent entities with independent boards.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION DIVISION**

*Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; (515)281-8260*

Janice Friedel, Administrator

The Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation includes the Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education and is responsible for granting and monitoring the accreditation of the state's 15 community colleges. Division staff work directly with the community colleges to assure programs and structure meet state requirements for quality and equity.

The state's community colleges have an "open-door" admission policy that guarantees Iowans an opportunity for education and career development regardless of previous educational attainment. Each community college offers a comprehensive educational program in three major areas of instruction: college parallel coursework, preparatory career programs of vocational and technical education, and adult education. Community colleges are governed by locally elected boards of directors that consist of from five to nine members who are elected for terms of three years.

*Quick Facts About Iowa Community Colleges: 2004-2005*

Community Colleges.....	15
Counties Served .....	99
Unduplicated Fiscal Year Credit Enrollment.....	120,217
Only Arts and Sciences.....	71,588 (59.55%)
Only College Parallel/Career Option .....	6,362 (5.29%)
Only Career and Technical .....	38,004 (31.61%)
Combination of Program Types.....	4,263 (3.55%)
Annual Noncredit Enrollment.....	294,668

**EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION DIVISION**

*Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; (515)281-3333*

Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator

The Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education is comprised of the Bureaus of School Improvement Services; Instructional Services; Practitioner Preparation; Teacher Quality; Children, Family and Community Services; and Nutritional Programs and School Transportation. The division has the primary responsibility to monitor accreditation to elementary and secondary schools, provide guidance and oversight to the implementation of federal and state laws, and recommend approval of teacher and administrator preparation programs and area education agencies to the director. The staff works directly with the state's 367 local districts and 12 AEAs to assure their curriculum, teachers, administrators, facilities, policies, and school-related programs meet all requirements defined by the state as necessary for a quality education. The staff also provides research, technical assistance, and guidance when