

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

§256.3, 256.9(12)

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

Jason E. Glass, Director, Department of Education, Executive Officer

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Term Ending</i>
Rosemarie Hussey, President	Clear Lake	April 30, 2016
Charles Edwards Jr.	Des Moines	April 30, 2012
Jude Fitzpatrick	West Des Moines	April 30, 2014
Eric Goranson	Des Moines	April 30, 2012
Michael Knedler	Council Bluffs	April 30, 2016
Valorie Kruse	Sioux City	April 30, 2014
Ana Lopez-Dawson	Pella	April 30, 2012
Max Phillips	Woodward	April 30, 2014
LaMetta Wynn	Clinton	April 30, 2014

Nonvoting student member

Brandon Bolte

Ankeny

April 30, 2012

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 225 people in the Office of the Director and three divisions: Community Colleges; Learning and Results; and School Finance and Support Services. Approximately 420 staff are employed in the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, which provides direct services to clients. Although the state libraries and public television remain affiliated with the Department of Education, their operations have expanded and developed into independent entities with independent boards.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES DIVISION

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

Roger Utman, Administrator

The Division of Community Colleges includes the Bureau of Adult, Career, and Community College Education. The division is responsible for granting and monitoring the accreditation of the state’s 15 community colleges. Division staff work directly with the community colleges and with