

for the nation.

The director of the department is appointed by the governor with confirmation by the Senate. The director is responsible for supervising Iowa's system of public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, area education agencies, and community colleges. The policy-making body for the department is the State Board of Education. Eleven lay people appointed for six-year terms by the governor with confirmation by the Senate constitute the board. The director serves as the board's executive officer.

To accomplish its mission, the department employs approximately 600 staff members in five major divisions: Community Colleges; Instructional Services; Planning and Accountability; Professional and Administrative Support; and Vocational Rehabilitative Services. Through these divisions, the department conducts a variety of activities to fulfill its major functions of leadership and service, with some regulatory duties as well.

The leadership function includes long-range planning for the education system, coordinating reform efforts, and consulting with school staff to solve problems and improve programs. In this function, the department acts as a catalyst for positive change.

In its service function the department uses its resources as a statewide base for activities, such as conducting research and disseminating information; providing advisory services on all phases of school programs and operations; developing innovative programs; distributing state and federal funds to Iowa's schools; and providing vocational rehabilitation services to individual Iowans.

By setting minimum standards and ensuring that public schools meet those standards and by monitoring federal education programs, the department is performing its regulatory function.

Although the scope of the department's responsibility is from prekindergarten through the two-year community colleges, one of its most important leadership roles is to set priorities for the state's educational system. Current priorities are teacher education, improving teacher salaries, development of educational leaders, the organization and structure of schools, school finance, a process to accredit schools, school effectiveness, new learning technologies, standards for schools, programs for students at risk of school failure, and efforts to improve instructional programs.

Educational Examiners, Board of

Dr. Orrin Nearhoof, executive director; Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515/281-5849

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The Board of Educational Examiners exclusively licenses the state's education practitioners who do not hold or receive a license from another professional licensing board. Authority of the board includes establishing criteria for the licenses, including but not limited to: issuance and renewal requirements; creation of application and renewal forms; creation of licenses that authorize different instructional functions or specialties; development of a code of professional rights and responsibilities, practice, and ethics; and the authority to develop any other classifications, distinctions, and procedures which may be necessary to exercise licensing duties.

The board enforces its adopted rules through revocation or suspension of a license or other disciplinary action. Appeals are heard by the board regarding application, renewal, suspension, or revocation of licenses.

The board is made up of 11 members: two members from the general public and the remaining nine must be licensed practitioners. Members of the board shall be appointed to terms of four years. The director of education or the director's designee serves until the director's term of office expires.