

**IOWA WINE AND BEER PROMOTION BOARD**

§15E.116

*Iowa Economic Development Authority, 200 East Grand Avenue,  
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<i>Name</i>	<i>Type</i>
Jenna Beary, designee of Economic Development Authority .....	Statutory
Nicole Eilers, designee of Iowa wine makers .....	Statutory
J. Wilson, designee of Iowa beer makers .....	Statutory

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Ch 256

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www.educateiowa.gov*

Ryan Wise, Director ..... Serves at Pleasure of Governor

The Department of Education and the State Board of Education provide oversight, supervision, and support for the state education system, which includes all public preschool, elementary, and secondary schools; nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation; area education agencies; community colleges; and teacher preparation programs. They also oversee the educational services of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, which 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. The department works in collaboration with the state system of public libraries and assists Iowa Public Television in its provision of educational 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 include improving access to quality preschool programs, providing professional development and technical assistance to improve teaching and learning, implementing new state and federal laws, and promoting innovation in order to address the needs of students in the 21st century.

The department director is appointed by the Governor to serve a four-year term, 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 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 Department of Education was created by the General Assembly in 1913 and was originally named 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, one-building schools 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 that diversity. 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 four divisions: Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation; Learning and Results; Policy and