

**IASB & Related Organizations  
Description of Programs & Entities  
April 2010**

There has been some confusion during discussions at the Government Oversight Committee about the number of legal entities related to the Iowa Association of School Boards, versus programs that are offered under those entities. Some people have asked about 17 entities, although in reality, there are only six existing legal entities. This document attempts to provide a clearer explanation.

**Entity: Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB)**

**Programs:**

Skills Iowa Program (Grant Funded)

Skills Iowa participating schools receive two Web-based technology tools and the training to implement those tools for students in third through 12th grades at no cost to the school. Both tools can be used wherever students have access to the Internet--at school, at home and in community libraries, just to name a few. Assessment Center, developed by the Princeton Review, is an online diagnostic assessment tool. It provides a bank of test questions in the subject areas of reading comprehension, mathematics, and language arts conventions. Educators develop assessments to inform them about student performance and receive results at their desk tops. The results are organized into useful reports that educators can use, in addition to other assessments they already collect, to plan for instruction. Skills Tutor provides online tutorials in the areas of reading comprehension, vocabulary, mathematics, grammar and informational skills. This program provides lessons for students lasting anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes in the listed content areas that can be used for remediation, acceleration and reinforcement.

Iowa Medicaid Education Disbursement Program (IMED)

IMED assists school districts and area education agencies (AEAs) in obtaining Medicaid reimbursement for students who are Medicaid eligible and receiving special education services. IASB has contracted with ClaimAid, a health-care consulting service, to provide this program to IASB members.

Iowa Playground Surfacing Program

The Iowa Playground Surfacing Program (IPSP) is designed to provide rubber tile surfacing for Iowa school playgrounds. IASB has partnered with the National Safe Surfacing Initiative to arrange interest-free loans to make this surfacing available to all schools in Iowa. IASB also administers a grant to schools for use in developing safe and compliant school playgrounds.

Safety Group Insurance Program

The Safety Group Program provides Iowa schools with a comprehensive insurance program covering property and casualty, errors and omissions, automobile, worker's compensation, general liability, commercial liability and

other insurance services. The IASB Safety Group Insurance Program works with local insurance agents to provide unmatched insurance coverage to meet the unique risk management needs of schools at competitive, stable insurance prices. Equipment breakdown insurance is also available.

Iowa Schools Telecommunication Consortium (ISTC)

ISTC is a telecommunication program designed to save schools money on telecommunication services. Through provider Carrier Access Inc. and Qwest, schools can receive long distance rates as low as 4 cents per minute. ISTC also provides local services through Analog and T1, long distance switches, dedicated lines and web conferencing, Voice IP services and internet/data services

Lighthouse Multi-State Project: Board Leadership for Student Achievement (2006-present): (Grant Funded)

A five-year national study will replicate the Lighthouse approach developed in Iowa to test its effectiveness in five states and compare its effectiveness with best practices of state school board associations for developing board leadership for improving student learning in three additional states. (Jen, this was unclear to me... I can also ask Mary D.)

Comprehensive School-Improvement Assessment (CSA)

The CSA is a constructive, diagnostic service to help school districts study themselves in relation to specific conditions and beliefs associated with continuous improvement and higher levels of student performance.

IGrowth

IGrowth is a suite of tools that analyze student achievement growth. IGrowth will identify areas of strength and needed improvement to set improvement goals. The tools study five-year trends to enable districts to determine whether all individuals and subgroups are growing at least one year each year. Results also facilitate cost-benefit analysis and evaluation of programs and improvement initiatives.

Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) Service

QZAB is a debt instrument that was created by Section 226 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. QZABs allow certain qualified schools to borrow at nominal interest rates for costs incurred in connection with the establishment of special programs in partnership with the private sector. All fifty states and US possessions have individual allocations of QZABs based on poverty levels in those areas. Very low interest rates of under 2% are very possible and, under certain circumstances, interest-free loans can sometimes be obtained.

**Entity: Local Government Services Inc (LGS)**

**Programs:**

PaySchools

PaySchools is an online payment processing system that allows schools to receive payments by e-check or credit card, giving parents flexibility and control over paying their school-related fees.

Give2Schools

Give2Schools is an online payment processing system, a sister program to PaySchools, that allows school foundations to receive payments and donations by e-check or credit card, giving parents and donors flexibility and control over making donations online.

GASB 45 Compliance Service

This program with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (GBS), offers Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Number 45 actuarial and consulting services including calculation of all liabilities and providing the actuarial certification that will be required for the district's annual audit. IASB members will receive a substantial discount, and participants of the Iowa Schools Employee Benefits Association (ISEBA), which is a joint partnership between IASB and the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA), will receive an even deeper discount due to efficiencies in collecting their data.

Employee Background Investigation Service

In partnership with One Source Background Check Company, IASB/LGS created the Employee Background Investigation Service. The service provides school districts with the ability to check multiple background-information sources with a single service.

Iowa Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

IDATP assists school corporations, nonpublic schools and contractors transporting students to economically and efficiently comply with state and federal drug and alcohol testing requirements for drivers. IDATP also has a variety of online educational training tools.

Iowa Construction Advocate Team (ICAT)

ICAT helps districts of all sizes take advantage of these funds to create the best possible learning environment in all our schools across the state. The objective of ICAT is to ensure that every penny is spent improving the learning environments shared by our teachers and students. ICAT offers services throughout all phases of construction, from developing your Revenue Purpose Statement through your final walk-through. ICAT was originally offered through LGS contractors Duane Van Hemert and Sam Harding, then has been in transition to move to a partnership with Estes Construction. No contract currently exists on this program.

Check Recovery Service

*Paytek Solutions* provides an automated service to recover bounced checks.

Edulog Transportation Service

School transportation routing and related computer software has become more powerful, easier to use and more affordable for school districts of all sizes than ever before with Edulog.

**Entity: Iowa School Boards Foundation (ISBF)**

**Programs:**

Promoting Student Success (formerly CLIK)

To promote effective policy and best practice resulting in the early literacy development of all Iowa children, the Promoting Student Success (formerly known as CLIK) project serves educational policy makers, business leaders and other key stakeholders with credible research, information and tools related to quality early literacy and early childhood issues.

Iowa Statewide Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC)

Iowa Parents.org is a joint effort between the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI), the Iowa Department of Education (DE), and Area Education Agency 267 (AEA 267). PIRC is committed to increasing parent and educator knowledge about effective parent involvement strategies aimed at increased student achievement.

Qwest Grant

The Iowa School Boards Foundation receives \$50,000 from the Qwest Foundation to be awarded to Iowa educators proposing innovative classroom uses of technology. The goal of the mini-grant program is to provide support to educators who utilize technological tools to deliver instruction based upon rigorous curriculum expectations and increase the development of higher order thinking skills for all students.

Other projects of ISBF are funded, paid, and accounted for as part of IASB.

**Entity: Iowa Schools Joint Investment Trust (ISJIT)**

ISJIT assists school corporations in safely increasing their investment income. ISJIT offers several investment alternatives such as Diversified and Direct Government Obligation (DGO) to meet participants' cash management needs plus other services such as money market funds, flex term CDs, and now full checking services.

**Entity: Iowa School Cash Anticipation Program (ISCAP)**

ISCAP allows school corporations to pool their temporary cash flow management needs in a safe, cost-effective program. ISCAP allows schools to cooperatively issue warrant certificates to finance cash flow deficits until revenues from property taxes and state foundation aid are received. When ISCAP funds are not being used, they are invested in a guaranteed investment contract. Earnings from this investment help offset the costs of the program for each participant.

**Entity: Iowa Schools Employee Benefits Association (ISEBA)**

ISEBA is fully insured for medical, prescription drug, vision, dental, life and disability insurance coverage. Voluntary program benefits like long-term care, supplemental insurance, critical illness, and medical bridge benefit plans are also available to all Iowa school employees. Providers/partners include Iowa Farm Bureau of Iowa, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Delta Dental, Avesis, UnumProvident.

ISEBA is a separate but related entity governed by a board of directors appointed by the Iowa Association of School Boards and the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA). The day-to-day administration of the program used to be managed by Local Government Services but is now managed by Reynolds & Reynolds.

**Entity: Iowa Joint Utility Management Program (IJUMP) - Dissolved**

IJUMP is designed to assist school district with lowering energy costs and providing budget stability. IJUMP's utility partners—Alliant Utilities, MidAmerican Energy, Aquila and United Cities Gas Co.— developed IJUMP pilot programs and adjusted tariff requirements to increase savings for school districts.

Entity was dissolved on 6/2009 after transferring all of its assets to Seminole Energy Services. IJUMP is now a passive sponsorship program under the IASB entity.