

Iowa Department of Education

Presentation to the House Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
Feb. 17, 2025

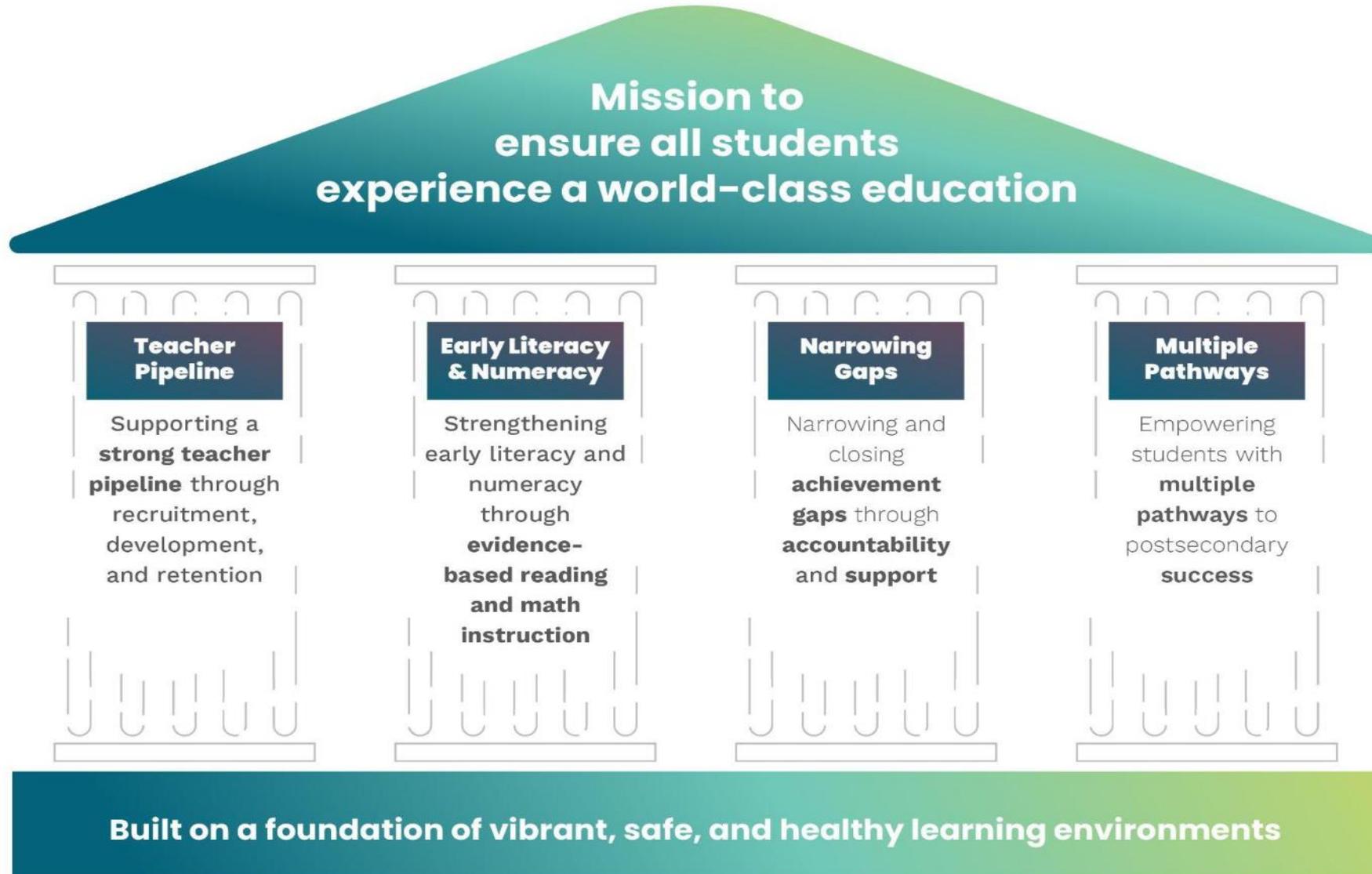


Department of Education

Requested Agenda

- I. Administrative and Legislative Actions to Advance **Iowa's Bold Education Vision**
- II. Department's **FY24 Budget Actuals** and **Governor's FY26 Budget and Recommendations**
- III. Department's **Division of Special Education** and **HF 2612 Implementation Updates**
- IV. **Iowa School for the Deaf** and **Board of Educational Examiners** Updates
- V. **School Choice and Innovation** in Iowa

Iowa's Bold Education Vision



Department Leadership Team



McKenzie Snow
Director



Deborah Elder
Chief Operating Officer



Sandi Hurtado-Peters
Chief Financial Officer



Heather Doe
Bureau Chief
Communications



Thomas Mayes
General Counsel



Eric St Clair
Legislative & Policy
Liaison



Tina Wahlert
Division Administrator
PK-12 Learning



Angelisa Fynaardt
Division Administrator
Special Ed. Regional
Continuous Improvement



Betsy Lin
Bureau Chief
Student & Family Special Ed.



Chris Kaftan
Superintendent
ISD & IESBVI



Julie Ntem
Bureau Chief
Accounting



Kassandra Cline
Bureau Chief
School Business Ops



Jillian Dotson
Bureau Chief
Federal Programs



Kala Shipley
Bureau Chief
Nutrition & Health



Kimberly Villotti
Bureau Chief
Early Childhood



Jay Pennington
Bureau Chief
Information & Analysis



Tom Wood
Bureau Chief
Learner Strategies &
Supports



Mike Cavin
Bureau Chief/Executive
Director
Board of Educational
Examiners



David Ford
Bureau Chief
Iowa College Aid



Christina Sibaouih
Section Chief
Iowa College Aid



Todd Brown
Section Chief
Iowa College Aid



Amy Gieseke
Bureau Chief
Community Colleges



Justin Lewis
Bureau Chief
Governor's STEM
Advisory Council



Kari Britain
Section Chief
Governor's STEM
Advisory Council



Bill Maffucci
Bureau Chief
Human Resources



Andrew Batt
Executive Director & GM
Iowa PBS

Administrative and Legislative Actions to Advance Iowa's Bold Vision



Department of Education

Actions to Support a Strong Teacher Pipeline

- Provide historic **teacher pay raises** for both new and experienced teachers.
- Expand the impact of Governor Reynolds's **Teacher and Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship** program.
- Expand the impact of **license reciprocity** and **multiple pathways to licensure**.
- Celebrate more teachers through **Regional Teachers of the Year**.
- Restore **Teachlowa** informed by feedback from the field.



Proposals to Support a Strong Teacher Pipeline



Gov. Reynolds proposes:

- Reinstating the **Teachlowa system** for the posting of all education-related jobs. (HSB147, SSB1100)
- Allowing **retired educators to return to IPERS-covered employment** and earn \$50,000 per year. (HSB147, SSB1100)
- Adjusting the **teacher intern pathway** and fully recognizing **work-based learning** in student teaching requirements. (HSB147, SSB1100)

The Department also proposes:

- Allowing any unspent funds in the National Board Certification program to support supplemental pay for individuals who attain the **Dyslexia endorsement**. (HSB43, SSB1075)

Actions to Strengthen Literacy through Evidence-based Reading Instruction

- Provide evidence-based LETRS **professional learning** to up to 6,600 educators.
- Support **teacher preparation programs** in aligning to evidence-based reading instruction.
- Empower **families and teachers** to best serve students in partnership, including through **Personalized Reading Plans**.
- Implement new **ELA standards** and support education leaders with information about **ELA high-quality instructional materials**.
- Provide **summer reading grants** and an intelligent, personalized **tutoring assistant (Amira)**, with 231 schools districts participating.
- Delivered **10 decodable books** to Iowa's nearly 38,000 first graders across 826 schools to advance early literacy everywhere.
- Awarded over \$24 million U.S. Department of Education competitive grant to **advance evidence-based literacy instruction** in partnership with families, educators, and schools across Iowa.



Proposal to Strengthen Numeracy through Evidence-based Math Instruction

The latest NAEP results show Iowa's ranking dropped in math.

- **Iowa rankings fell** significantly to 30th in the nation in grade 4 and 23rd in the nation in grade 8.

Gov. Reynolds proposes the Math Counts Act (HSB137, SSB1092) to support:

- **Early identification and progress monitoring** for students who are not or who are not on track to be proficient
- **Strong intervention structures and personalized math plans** for students in need of support
- **Evidence-based professional development** for teachers in schools most in need of support and **strong teacher preparation** in evidence-based math instruction
- **Family-centered resources** to support children's mathematics development at home
- **Comprehensive State Mathematics Plan** supporting evidence-based math instruction in across the state, districts and schools

Actions to Narrow and Close Achievement Gaps



- Implement Iowa's transparent, unified **accountability system** that informs continuous improvement and celebrates school success.
- Support education leaders with **school improvement supports, evidence-based professional learning** and information about and access to **high-quality instructional materials**.
 - Includes **intensive, district-wide supports** to districts with a concentration of comprehensive (CSI)-identified schools.
- Support **continuous improvement** in districts where students with disabilities experience significant achievement gaps, statewide special education **webinar series** and **family supports**.
- Implement a review and revision process for all **state content standards** at least every five years.

Proposal to Support Iowa's Early Childhood Continuum of Care (HSB145)

Gov. Reynolds proposes to:

- Strengthen Iowa's **Continuum of Care** by supporting local partnerships between providers in early care and education that provide **full-day care options** for families by:
 - Launching a **new grant** administered in collaboration with Iowa HHS and ECI Area Boards.
- The proposal would also support **high-quality** early childhood programming **focused on child outcomes** across new and existing preschool programs by:
 - Revitalizing child and program **standards** in both learning and development.
 - Embedding **specially designed instruction** into preschool opportunities.



Actions to Empower Students with Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success

- Update the **Postsecondary Readiness Indicator** to include Work-Based Learning and Industry-Recognized Credentials (IRCs).
- Launch the **Credentials to Careers** grant and the **Credentials to Child Care Careers** grant to support career and technical education (CTE) programs in aligning to IRC attainment.
- Expand access to impactful **Work-Based Learning**, including through the CTE Career Cluster Endorsement and new webinar series.
- Empower high school students to **earn academic credit** for CTE courses.



Proposals to Empower Students with Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success



The Department proposes:

- Establishing an **Industry-Recognized Credential Diploma Seal program** to promote and incentivize CTE participation and the attainment of an IRC. (HSB44)
- Embedding **career instruction in grades 5-7** to better support and prepare students for the Individual Career and Academic Planning activities in grades 8-12. (HSB44)
- Clarifying charter school student access to **concurrent enrollment coursework**. (HSB105)

Actions to Promote Vibrant, Safe and Healthy Learning Environments

- Reduce **chronic absenteeism** in partnership with students, families and teachers.
- Support **Therapeutic Classrooms** and **Stronger Connections** grants.
- Expand use of the **Safe+Sound** Iowa School Safety Reporting System.
- Provide statewide access to **Critical Incident Mapping** to inform emergency response.
- Support **disaster-impacted** school leaders and communities.
- Launched **Student License Plate Design Challenge**.



Proposals to Promote Vibrant, Safe and Healthy Learning Environments



Gov. Reynolds proposes:

- **Restricting student access to personal electronic devices** during instructional time. (HSB106, SSB1065)

The Department also proposes:

- Establishing a **Purple Star School program** to designate and recognize schools that provide special services and support to military-connected students and their families. (HSB45, SSB1067)
- Modifying the **definition of “grooming”** under the Board of Educational Examiners Code of Ethics to identify early any inappropriate behavior intended to exploit students. (HF167, SSB1066)

Proposals to Further Ensure Effective, Efficient Operations to Best Serve Iowans

The Department also proposes:

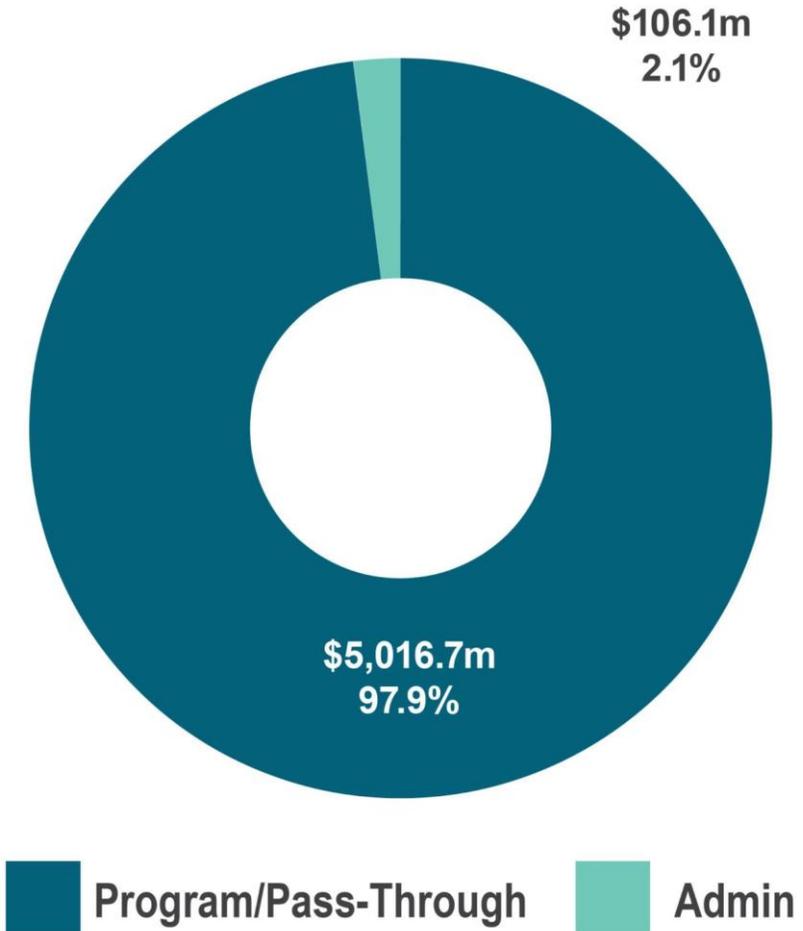
- Ensuring the superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf and Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired has appropriate **authority over school operations**. (HSB43, SSB1075)
- Establishing a **postsecondary authorization fee structure** to support the consumer protection operations of the Bureau of Iowa College Aid. (HSB48)
- **Streamlining** community college-related reporting requirements. (HSB43, SSB1075)



Budget Overview and Governor's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Recommendations

Iowa Department of Education

FY24 Actual Expenditures (in Millions) Program/Pass-Through vs. Administration



Total Expenditures = \$5,122.8m

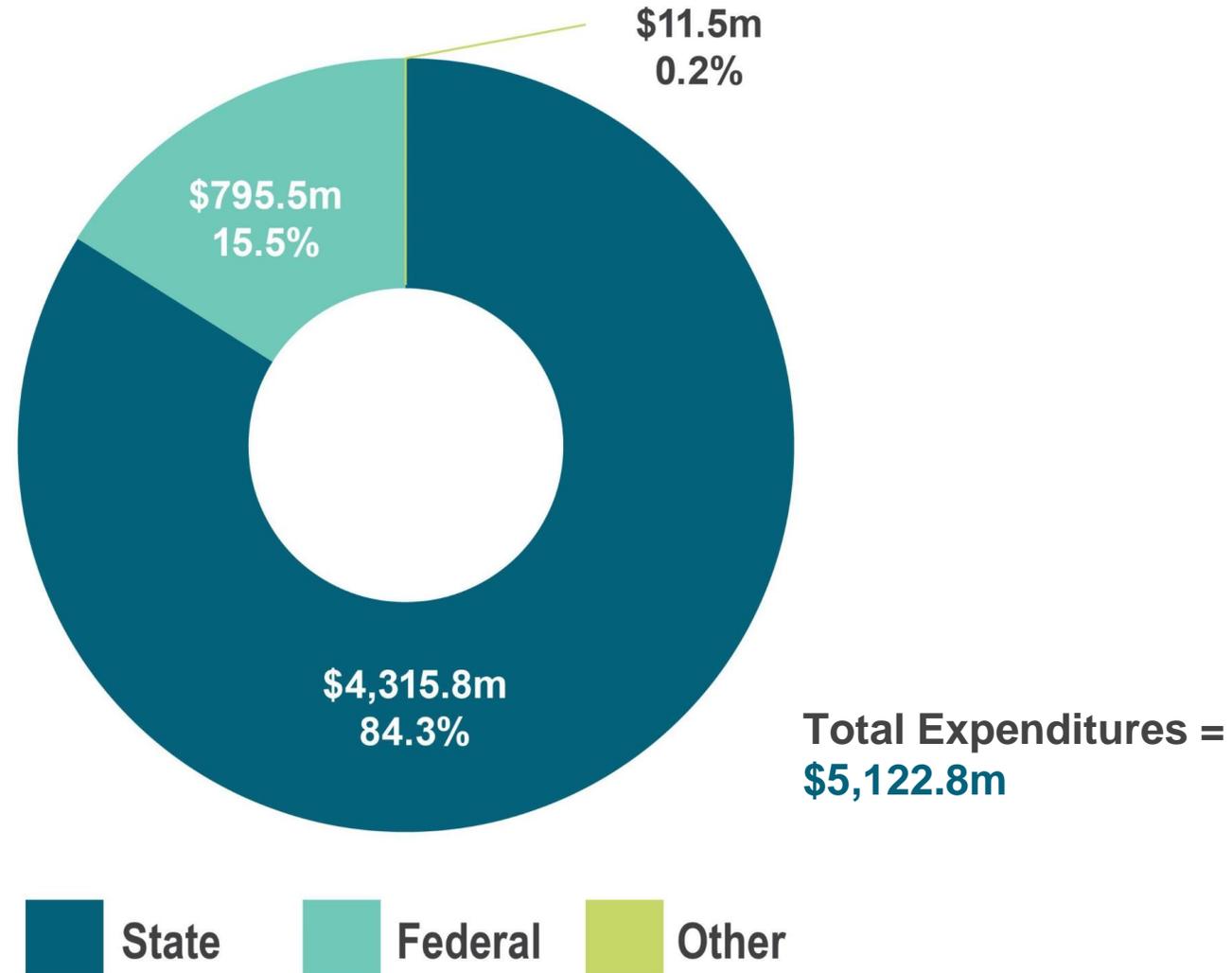
State Program/Pass-Through = \$4,272.7m (83.4%)
State Administration = \$43.1m (0.8%)

Federal Program/Pass-Through = \$737.5m (14.4%)
Federal Administration = \$58.0m (1.1%)

Other Funds Program/Pass-Through = \$6.5m (0.1%)
Other Funds Administration = \$5.0m (0.1%)

Iowa Department of Education

FY24 Actual Expenditures (in Millions)



Iowa Department of Education

Team Member Funding Source

Fund Source	Full-time Employees	Percent of Total
State	379.36	69.2%
Federal	142.81	26.1%
Other	25.68	4.7%
Total	547.85	

Proposed New Positions Recommended by the Governor

- **School Safety Education Program Consultant**
 - Coordinate supports for Iowa's schools, educators, and families across Governor's School Safety Bureau, DPS, HSEM and HHS
- **Executive ASL Interpreter**
 - Provide expertise of advanced certification and experience beyond existing interpreter job classifications



State of Iowa

General Fund Appropriations

FY2026 Governor's Recommendations

DESCRIPTION	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Current Year Budget	FY2026 Total Department Request	FY2026 Total Governor's Recommended
Education, Department of				
Child Development	10,524,389	10,524,389	10,524,389	10,524,389
Sac and Fox Indian Settlement Education	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Education Savings Accounts	129,078,537	218,048,012	308,461,790	314,649,945
Therapeutic Classroom Services	750,255	750,000	750,000	750,000
State Foundation School Aid	3,665,805,198	3,787,626,194	3,856,758,040	3,889,657,223
Charter Schools	2,437,772	5,200,000	3,200,000	19,671,014
Transportation Nonpublic Students	8,992,784	8,997,091	8,997,091	8,997,091
Vocational Technical Tuition Grant	1,750,185	1,750,185	1,750,185	1,750,185
Tuition Grant Program-Standing	51,421,531	52,707,069	52,707,069	53,761,210
Tuition Grant - For-Profit	108,000	110,700	110,700	112,914
Administration	5,893,672	6,922,250	6,922,250	7,293,356
Career and Technical Education Administration	598,197	721,779	721,779	733,066
School Food Service	2,176,797	2,176,797	2,176,797	2,176,797
Secondary Career and Technical Education	2,952,459	2,952,459	2,952,459	2,952,459
Community College State General Aid	228,858,161	235,858,161	235,858,161	240,575,324
Teacher Quality/Student Achievement	2,990,467	2,990,467	2,990,467	3,002,350
Jobs For America's Grads	9,146,450	9,646,450	9,646,450	9,646,450
Special Education Services Birth to 3	1,721,400	1,721,400	1,721,400	1,721,400
Midwestern Higher Education Compact	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
Iowa Reading Research Center	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Early Head Start Projects	574,500	574,500	574,500	574,500
Successful Progression for Early Readers	7,824,782	7,824,782	7,824,782	7,824,782
Attendance Center Performance/Website & Data System Support	250,000	250,000	250,000	254,727
Online State Job Posting System	-	-	-	265,000
Early Warning System for Literacy	1,915,000	1,915,000	1,915,000	1,915,000
LEA Assessment	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Computer Science Professional Development Incentive Fund	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Statewide Clearinghouse to Expand Work-Based Learning	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Summer College Credit Program	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Children's Mental Health school-Based Training and Support	3,383,936	3,383,936	3,383,936	3,383,936
Best Buddies Iowa	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000

State of Iowa

General Fund Appropriations

FY2026 Governor's Recommendations

DESCRIPTION	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Current Year Budget	FY2026 Total Department Request	FY2026 Total Governor's Recommended
Nonpublic School Concurrent Enrollment Payments to Comm Coll	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Therapeutic Classroom Incentive Fund Appropriation	2,351,382	2,351,382	2,351,382	2,351,382
Therapeutic Classroom Transportation Claims Reimbursement	500,000	500,000	500,000	-
Future Ready Iowa skilled Workforce Grant Program	275,000	425,000	425,000	425,000
Iowa Workforce Grant and Incentive Program	6,500,000	6,500,000	6,500,000	6,500,000
LEAD-K Program	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Special Education Division	-	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Professional Development	-	2,176,458	2,176,458	2,176,458
Education Support Personnel Salary Supplement	-	14,000,000	-	14,000,000
College Aid Commission	591,533	591,533	591,533	602,199
National Guard Benefits Program	6,600,000	6,600,000	6,600,000	6,600,000
All Iowa Opportunity Scholarships	3,229,468	3,229,468	3,229,468	3,229,468
Health Care Professional Recruitment	500,973	500,973	500,973	-
Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship Program	23,927,005	23,927,005	23,927,005	23,927,005
Mental Health Practitioner Loan Repayment Program	520,000	520,000	520,000	-
Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program	2,504,933	2,629,933	2,629,933	-
Teach Iowa Scholars	650,000	650,000	650,000	650,000
Health Care -Related Loan Program	500,000	500,000	500,000	-
Rural Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math	6,354,848	6,354,848	6,354,848	6,365,030
ISD-Iowa School for the Deaf	11,421,710	11,707,253	11,707,253	12,197,979
IESBVI	4,794,040	4,913,891	4,913,891	5,096,053
Health Care Professional Incentive Program	-	-	-	10,000,000
Court Reporter Forgivable Loan Program	-	-	-	50,000
Total Education, Department of	4,218,425,365	4,468,779,365	4,612,324,989	4,694,413,692
Iowa PBS				
Iowa PBS	7,943,538	8,116,032	8,116,032	8,214,440
Total Iowa PBS	7,943,538	8,116,032	8,116,032	8,214,440

FY2026 Governor Recommended Other Funds

Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund	
Iowa Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant	\$5,000,000
STEM Best	\$700,000
ACE Infrastructure	\$6,000,000
Workforce Training & Economic Development	\$15,100,000
PACE & Regional Sectors	\$4,800,000
GAP Tuition Assistance Fund	\$2,000,000
Workforce Prep Outcome Reporting System	\$75,000
Total Iowa Skilled Worker & Job Creation Fund	\$33,675,000

Technology Reinvestment Fund	
ICN Part III Leases/Maintenance	\$2,727,000
Statewide Education Data Warehouse	\$600,000
Total Technology Reinvestment Fund	\$3,327,000

Proposals to Cover Administrative Expenses through Fees and Interest

HSB48 authorizes the College Student Aid Commission to collect an annual fee from all postsecondary schools authorized to provide postsecondary education programs to lowans.

- If a fee is applied to all institutions—not just a subset—fees will offset the administrative cost of authorizing postsecondary schools to operate in Iowa.

Authorize several state financial aid programs to begin accruing interest and allow retained interest to be used for the operating costs for all state-funded financial aid programs.

- This proposal offsets costs to administer Iowa's state financial aid programs without the need for additional appropriations.

All reporting requirements are now published as one, streamlined report on all of the scholarship and grant programs.

Proposal to Strengthen Rural Health Care Pipeline Incentives

Program Title (Current Programs)	FY25 Appropriation
Health Care Professional Recruitment Program (DE)	500,973
Health Care Award Program (DE)	500,000
Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program (RPC) (DE)	2,629,933
Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (DE)	520,000
Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HHS)	214,000

- Multiple programs overlap in purpose and reach (duplication of occupations across programs)
- Eligible occupations are not responsive to regional workforce demands
- Varying criteria/requirements across programs (income bonus vs. loan repayment, community match, full-time vs. part-time work, years of employment required, etc.)

FY26 - Governor's Recommended Budget	
Health Care Professional Incentive Program	10,000,000

- Eligible health care occupations/areas identified by HHS; reassessed periodically
- 150% additional investment
- Consistency in criteria/requirements

Updates from Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) and the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE)

Implementation of LEAD-K for Family Mentoring Support *(Iowa Code sec. 256.106)*

- **A Family Support Mentoring Coordinator (FSM Coordinator) was hired in February 2024.**
 - Anne-Michelle Pedersen: Bachelor's degree in Deaf Education/Elementary Education from Augustana University.
 - 12+ years of classroom experience as a Teacher of the Deaf.
- **ISD launched three different mentoring programs (Inspire to Empower Mentor, Deaf Mentor and Family-to-Family Mentor) and a mentoring resources webpage:**
 - 14 team members are now certified to provide family-centered, home-based, and curriculum-led early education in homes.
 - 16 Deaf individuals completed the Deaf Mentoring training
 - ISD also hosted a camp for families of children aged 2-5 who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- **ISD also provided an ASL class online for Spanish-speaking families.**

Board of Educational Examiners Update

General Assembly updates:

- 90th: Added abuse as mandatory reporting, CTE clusters
- 89th: Removed processing fees for 10+ year and adv. degree renewal, Standardized Reference Form, report felonies for non-licensed staff, expand reporting areas for ethical violations.
- 88th: Created Work-Based Learning authorization, simplification of reciprocity for applicants from out-of-state.

Increase in number of complaints:

- CY 2024: **311**
- CY 2023: **235**
- CY 2022: **201**

Two newly appropriated investigators:

- William Rector - Former U.S. Dept. of Defense Background/Security Clearance Investigator
- Matthew Barron - Former Norwalk and Clive Police Officer and Detective
 - Lori Lavorato - Former Des Moines Police Officer and SRO

Decreased investigation time from receipt of complaint:

- February 2025 - **125 days**
 - August 2024 to February 2025 - **Received 135 Complaints. Completed 184 investigations to Board.**
- August 2024 - **198 days**
 - August 2023 to Feb 2024 - **Received 115 Complaints. Completed 92 investigations to Board.**

Division of Special Education and HF2612 Implementation Updates



Department of Education

Regional Special Education Directors



**Amy Thoms Starr, MAE/ASC
Central Rivers & Keystone
AEAs**

Regional Director - 3 Years
Special Education Consultant - 19 Years
Special Education Teacher - 5 Years



**Lisa Glenn, M.A., M.S. Ed.
Grant Wood AEA**

District Exec. Director/Officer of Special
Education & Special Programs - 17 years
Building Principal - 1 year
AEA Special Education Consultant - 6 years
Special Education Teacher - 8 years



**Angelisa Fynaardt, Ph.D.
Great Prairie AEA**

AEA Special Education Director &
Asst./Assoc. Administrator - 13 years
Regional Director - 1 year
Professional Learning Lead - 5 years
School Psychologist - 5 years



**Ivan Gentry, Ed.S.
Green Hills AEA**

AEA Special Education Director - 3
years
LEA Special Education Director or
Coordinator - 5 years
Building Principal - 4 years
Special Education Teacher - 10 years



**Matt Cretsinger, Ed.S.
Heartland AEA**

LEA Special Services Director - 13 years
AEA Team Leader for Behavioral
Supports - 2 years
Professional Learning Lead - 2 years
School Psychologist - 5 years



**Janel Lesan, Ed.S.
Mississippi Bend AEA**

AEA Regional Administrator - 22 years
LEA Director of Special Education - 3 years
AEA Special Education Consultant - 5 years
Special Education Teacher - 7 years



**Seth Piro Ed.S.
Northwest AEA**

AEA Executive Director of Special
Education - 4 years
AEA Regional Director - 4 years
AEA School Psychologist - 9 years
Paraeducator - 1 year



**Molly Elston, MAE
Prairie Lakes AEA**

AEA Regional Director - 9 years
AEA Special Education Consultant - 3
years
Special Education Teacher - 15 years

Division of Special Education Staffing Update

Full Division

62 total FTE

- 27 hired/onboarding
- 35 vacancies

Regional Teams

49 total FTE

- 22 hired/onboarding
- 27 vacancies

Central Team

13 total FTE

- 5 hired/onboarding
- 8 vacancies

At this time, the Division is 44% staffed without yet having gone through a typical education hiring season (January-May).

Division of Special Education Initial Outcomes

Division formation and establishment of Department's general supervision responsibility and relationships in each region

- Refined and implemented general supervision responsibilities.
- Provided technical assistance to districts to improve and support system-wide compliance, program enhancements and use of evidence-based practices.
- Held AEAs and school districts accountable under federal and state law and regulation.
- Co-led discipline-specific alignment and improvement efforts for AEA-related service and Child Find providers with AEA leaders.

Additional implementation supports include:

- Forthcoming SDI packages on Math and Behavior
- Comprehensive Special Education Finance Document
- General Education Intervention Document
- Statewide Iowa Health Plan Template

Supported AEAs and school districts in common areas of noncompliance or inconsistencies with best practices through the statewide Policy and Practice Highlight webinars on:

- Shortened School Day (general, behavior and medical considerations checklists)
- Appropriate Exit from Identification (IEP team considerations, questions and checklist)
- General Supervision
- Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)

Systems improvements including:

- Developed and used general supervision tools (state complaints, due diligence investigations, focused monitoring, etc.) in ACHIEVE.
- Launching the ACHIEVE Family Portal.
- Launched Deaf and Hard of Hearing Database.

Completed the OSEP Differentiated Monitoring and Support site visit

AEA Accreditation

Program Audit

- Review of Department and AEA provided data and permanent products.

Virtual Clarification

- Department asks clarifying questions to identify strengths and areas of concern to target during on-site visit.

On-site Visit

- Department staff completes an on-site visit, including observations and interviews based upon the data review and analysis process.

Final Clarification and Verification

- Department staff review all of the quantitative and qualitative information, summarize it, and write a final report with recommendations regarding accreditation and continuous improvement.
- The final report is submitted to the Iowa State Board of Education, along with a recommendation for accreditation.

Timeline

- Oct - Dec: Designed the process
- January: Pilot in Great Prairie AEA
- February: Pilot in Mississippi Bend AEA
- March: Adjustments based on pilots
- April: Site visits in Grant Wood, Heartland, and Green Hills AEAs
- May: Site Visits in Central Rivers, Keystone, Northwest and Prairie Lakes AEAs
- July: Present to the Iowa Board of Education upon effective 7/1/25 date

AEA Professional Development

Iowa Code 256.9(36) and 273.2(3)b

AEAs submitted professional development offerings for approval to DE to ensure **consistent and high-quality professional development** offerings across the state that support the implementation and continuous improvement of Iowa's strategic priorities.

- Review Process
 - **Content expert teams** were created for each of the 11 priority areas, consisting of DE consultants and external experts from the priority area field.
 - Team members reviewed and scored assigned submissions using the **Professional Development Rubric**, which the DE developed and refined through extensive public input.
 - Teams then provided **final scores and feedback**.
- The approved list was posted **January 31, 2025**.
- A second round of submissions began February 3, 2025 and the second approved list will be posted **March 31, 2025**. This requirement goes into effect **July 1, 2025**.

AEA Budget Approval Process

- At the request of the State Board of Education, the Department created an AEA Budget Report and Request Template to support a structured process and uniform presentation that includes:
 - Stakeholders served: districts, students, teachers, and others
 - Staff Make-up: staff changes by program
 - Administrative Expenditures: statutorily required administrative reductions
- Each AEA's board-approved Budget Report and Request is due to the Department March 1 (Feb. 28). The Director has 10 days to consider the budgets.
- Budgets are scheduled to be considered by the State Board at the March 20 meeting. The State Board has until May 1 each year to approve or return the budgets with comments.
 - Unapproved budgets must be resubmitted to the State Board by May 15.

School Choice and Innovation

Open Enrollment, Education Savings Accounts, Work-Based Learning, Charter Schools



Department of Education

Choice and Innovation by the Numbers (2024-25 School Year)



Open Enrollment: 9% of Iowa's total public school certified enrollment

- More than 43,000 students open enroll into a public school of their choice
- 100% of districts have students open enrolling, both in and out of the districts

ESAs: 27,866 ESA participants in SY 2024-25

Work-Based Learning (WBL): 24,827 high school students in WBL during SY 2023-24

- Over 90% of public school districts offer WBL

Charter Schools: 17 total authorized charter schools

- 15 of 17 authorized since 2022, including 6 in 2024 and 6 in 2025
- 7 charter schools currently operational, serving 804 students

ESA Program Overview

Signed into law Jan. 24, 2023

- Established a framework and funding for ESAs

Eligibility:

- Must be an Iowa resident
- Must attend full-time K-12 programming at Iowa's accredited nonpublic schools

ESA funds may be used to pay:

- Tuition and fees at Iowa's accredited nonpublic schools
- Other statutory allowable educational expenses
- Remaining funds after tuition and fees are paid may be used to purchase qualified educational products and services in the established Marketplace (i.e. textbooks, software, instruments, computers)

ESA Application

- Each family may submit one application with one or more students included.
- Select application data is sent to Iowa Department of Revenue to verify eligibility against tax records.
- Eligibility for the majority of ESA applications is determined through this automatic process.
- Application eligibility unable to be determined through this process is subjected to additional review and documentation.

ESA Statistics

ESA Program	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3*
School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Income Requirement (based on federal poverty level)	300%	400%	N/A
Funding per Participant	\$7,635	\$7,826	\$7,826 + FY26 SSA
Appropriation	\$129m	\$218m	\$308m (requested)
Participants	16,757	27,866	TBD

*Year 3 application period is April 16, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

ESAs Generate Categorical Funding for Resident Districts

Students who receive ESAs also generate categorical funding for their resident districts that includes teacher leadership and compensation (TLC), early intervention (EI), professional development (PD) and teacher salary supplement (TSS).

Categorical	State Cost
TLC	\$377.74
EI	\$82.78
PD	\$76.00
TSS	\$671.05
Total	\$1,207.57

Minimum	Maximum
\$377.74	\$377.74
\$55.18	\$126.80
\$49.95	\$104.70
\$699.19	\$2,852.23
\$1,182.06	\$3,461.47

- Based on ESA participants in FY24, 262 districts generated \$21,850,719 for use in FY25.
- Based on ESA participants in FY25, 282 districts will generate \$36,310,198 for use in FY26.
 - This amount will increase by the SSA set by the legislature for FY26.

Iowa Charter Schools by the Numbers



17 charter schools authorized by the State Board



804 students currently enrolled in **7** Iowa charter schools



\$5.2M investment FY24



6 charter schools opening in fall 2025
4 charter schools opening fall 2026

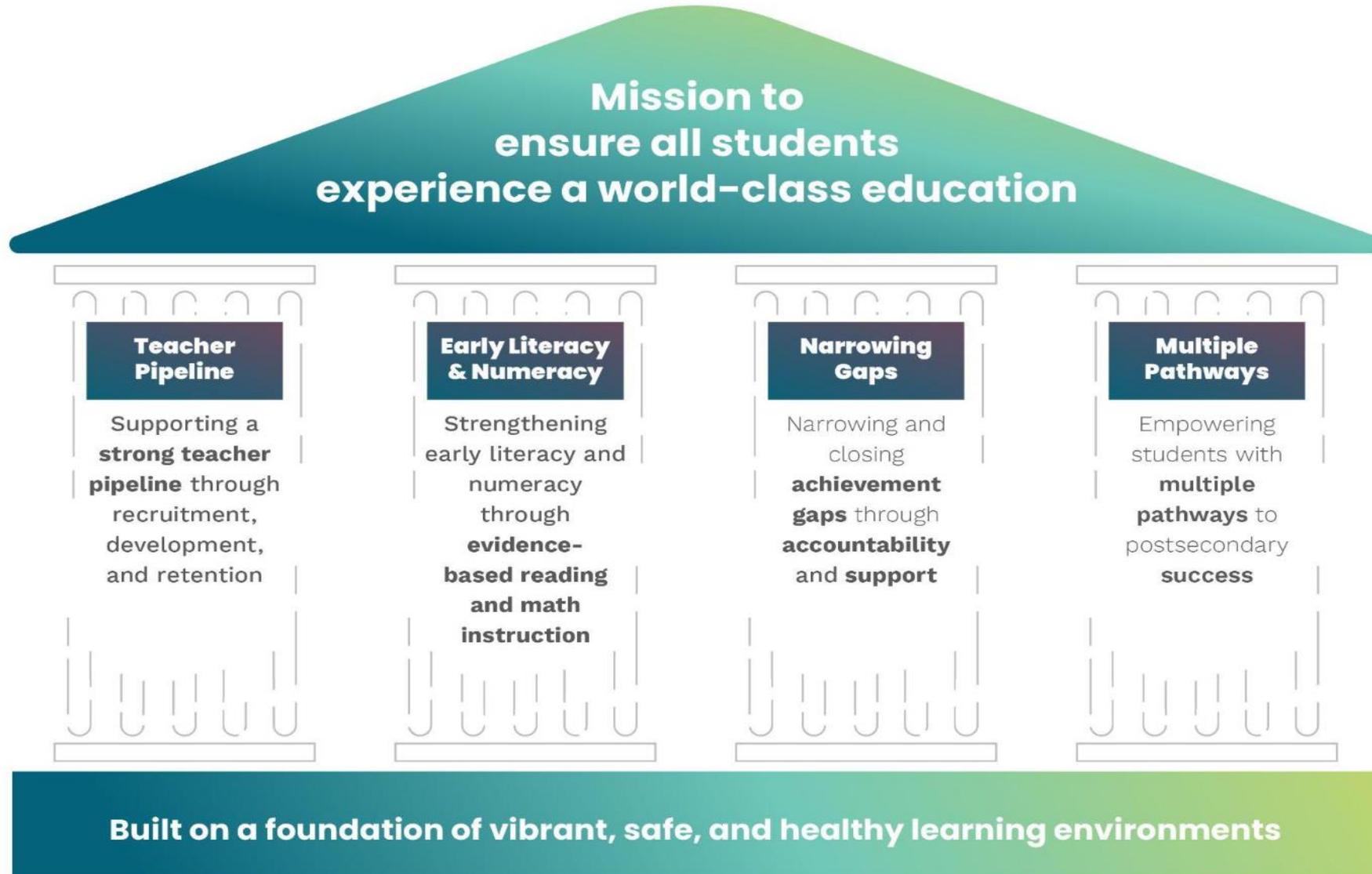
Authorizer Role–State Board

- **Maintain high standards**
- **Uphold school autonomy**
- **Protect student and public interest**

Authorizer Tools

- **Application Process**
- **Contract**
- **Performance Framework**
- **Renewal**

Iowa's Bold Education Vision



Thank You

