

**AEA 9
SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETING
October, 2010**

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TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED FOR SITE VISITS

The Department of Education invites you to participate as a team member for one (or more) site visits. Participation in a site visit can broaden one's perspective of school improvement efforts and help form partnerships with other educators. In addition, it assists in understanding the site visit process as team members prepare for their own visit. Districts with visits scheduled during the 2011-2012 school year may wish to serve on a site visit team this school year. Following is the list of districts scheduled for a site visit during the 2011-2012 school year:

- Andrew CSD
- Davenport CSD
- Northeast CSD
- Preston CSD
- Wilton CSD
- John F Kennedy Catholic School (Davenport)
- Sacred Heart School (Maquoketa)
- St Paul the Apostle School (Davenport)

For more information and to sign up to participate as a team member on a site visit:

http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1558&Itemid=2342. Please sign up as soon as possible.

2010-2011 Site Visits: Team Members Needed

School/District	Site Visit Dates	Additional LEA Team Members Needed
Central Clinton CSD	November 16-18, 2010	2
Camanche CSD	January 25-27, 2011	2

MODIFIED ALLOWABLE GROWTH FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION

The on-line application for Modified Allowable Growth for Dropout Prevention will be available as soon as November 8. Minimal changes to the application were made in regards to thresholds for identifying populations and the service summary report information that is submitted. The purpose of these revisions is to assist districts in appropriately identifying potential dropouts and gather more precise programming data for the report provided to the legislature on January 15 of every year.

Superintendents will be receiving an email this week from Susan Walkup with more detailed information regarding these revisions. Please forward this email to anyone who assists in completing the application.

The on-line application will close at midnight on December 15. If staff have technical difficulties with the application and are concerned about meeting the December 15 deadline, please contact Susan Walkup immediately at susan.walkup@iowa.gov.

CONCERNING K-6 ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM TEACHER ASSIGNMENT AND BEDS REPORTING

Any teacher with a K-6 elementary classroom teacher endorsement may teach any and all content to their self-contained classroom. If a school or grade level(s) are departmentalized, a teacher holding a K-6 elementary classroom teacher endorsement may teach departmentalized content to students in the core content areas (math, English, social studies, science, reading) to student in grades K-6; however, teachers of other content areas, for example foreign language, gifted and talented, English as a second language, music, physical education, art, and special education, are required to hold the appropriate endorsement for the assignment for the grade level of students they are instructing.

ADMINISTRATOR MENTORING AND INDUCTION PROGRAM

If you have questions regarding an Administrator Mentoring and Induction Program, please contact School Administrators of Iowa or Matt Ludwig (matt.ludwig@iowa.gov) at the Iowa Department of Education. Districts are required to have a mentoring and induction plan for beginning administrators regardless of whether a district has a beginning administrator in any given year. A beginning administrator is defined by law as “an individual ... who is assuming a position as a school district principal or superintendent for the first time.”

HF 2432 – AN ACT RELATING TO A STUDY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECRUITING RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY TEACHERS

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa has been asked to take the lead on House File 2432, “An Act Relating to a Study of the Opportunities for Recruiting Racial and Ethnic Minority Teachers.” Gloria J. Gibson, Provost & Executive Vice-President, University of Northern Iowa, is the Chair of the House File 2432 Committee.

In order to investigate and address the issues present in the legislation, a state-wide committee has compiled the “Recruiting Racial and Ethnic Minority Teacher Survey.” The survey was sent to AEAs, LEAs, higher education institutions, and professional organizations, state-wide with responses received by October 8. The Iowa Department of Education has a representative on this committee. Findings from this survey will be incorporated into a report and submitted to the General Assembly of the State of Iowa. For more information, contact Mary Beth Schroeder Fracek at Marybeth.schroederfracek@iowa.gov.

IOWA TO RECEIVE \$14 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

Iowa will receive over \$14 million in federal funds over the next four years to support efforts that will help ensure all Iowa students attend and learn in a safe school.

Iowa is one of 11 states to be awarded Safe and Supportive School (S3) grants by the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is used to measure school safety at the building level and provide for interventions in those schools with the greatest needs. The ultimate goal of the grant is to create and support safe and drug-free learning environments and increase academic success for students in high-risk schools. The funds will be used at targeted high schools across the state to support programs, strategies, and a continuous improvement process for school safety and student support.

Grant activities will include the assessment of conditions for learning within individual schools. Surveys of students, staff, and parents will measure school safety, engagement, and the school's environment. Results will be used to develop School Safety Scores which will be publicly posted. Using this information, the Iowa Department of Education and other state agency partners will work in collaboration with participating schools to improve the learning environment within schools facing the greatest challenges.

School districts included in the grant proposal are:

- Cardinal
- Cedar Rapids
- Columbus Junction
- Council Bluffs
- Davenport
- Des Moines
- Dubuque
- East Greene
- Louisa-Muscatine
- Olin
- Sioux City
- Waterloo

For more information, contact Cyndy Erickson (cyndy.erickson@iowa.gov, 515-281-8514) or Barbara Ohlund (barbara.ohlund@iowa.gov, 515. 681-2310).

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1	Innovative Calendar Waiver Application (New and Continued) Deadline
November 1	School Board Officers Report
November 1	Special Education Student Weighting Calculated
November 1	Whole Grade Sharing – last day for public notice of board intent
December 1	Juvenile Home Requests for Educational Program Services
December 1	SBRC Application – Increased Enrollment, Open Enrollment Out & LEP
December 6	2009-2010 Dropout Verification Open
December 15	Dropout Prevention programs for MAG – last day to submit application
December 16	2009-2010 Dropout Verification Deadline
January 1, 2011	Chapter 12 Exemptions for the 2011-2012 School Year Due

A complete Iowa Department of Education calendar of events can be viewed at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/calendar/calendar.html>.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.). If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the Iowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, telephone number 312-730-1560, fax 312/730-1576, e-mail: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

