



AEA 9 Superintendents' Meeting December, 2009



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SENIOR YEAR PLUS HANDBOOK

The Senior Year Plus Guide for Educators and Educational Administrators is now available. The 44-page guide provides the requirements for Senior Year Plus programs in Iowa Code and administrative rule along with guidance, frequently asked questions, and other information related to college credit opportunities for high school students.

The guide is posted on the Senior Year Plus section of the department's website:
http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1856&Itemid=2596

For more information, contact Tom Cooley at tom.cooley@iowa.gov or Jeremy Varner at jeremy.varner@iowa.gov.



PROJECT CITIZEN – EXPERIENTIAL BASED CIVIC LITERACY



- Project Citizen is a curricular program for middle and high school students. The program focuses on research skills, problem solving, and cooperative learning.
- Students and teachers select a local (community or state) issue, research the problem, generate solutions, and propose a solution to local or state government. Examples include such topics as hog confinement smell, dangerous intersection, pollution in local lake, etc.
- Materials are free, but require a teacher's signature indicating commitment to utilize the curriculum.
- Project Citizen promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. It is designed to develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy.
- Students may (not required or essential to program) participate in a showcase on April in Des Moines. Expenses are covered by the program.
- Project Citizen is funded by the U.S. Department of [Education](#) by act of Congress.

For additional information, contact Linda Martin at lmartin@aea267.k12.ia.us.



UPDATED CHAPTER 12 MATRIX

The Chapter 12 Matrix has recently been updated. The document can be found on the DE website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1558&Itemid=2342 . Scroll about a third of the way down the page to the heading, "Public School District Site Visit Documents (2009-2010)". The matrix is towards the bottom of the list of documents and is entitled "Chapter 12 Matrix Nov 2009."

For more information or to provide comments regarding the Chapter 12 matrix, contact Tom Cooley at tom.cooley@iowa.gov.



BOOKSHARE Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) requires states to provide timely access to required books and textbooks in accessible formats. In order to move farther forward with compliance with this legal requirement, the Iowa Department of Education has decided to launch a membership drive, encouraging 100% of the districts in our state to sign up students with qualified print disabilities with Bookshare.

Bookshare is **free** for qualified U.S. schools and students through a \$32 million award from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), so this program will not incur any additional costs for your district. Bookshare will serve your students with print disabilities, such as blindness, low vision, a physical disability, or reading disability that is based on an organic dysfunction. Qualified students will have access to tens of thousands of books including textbooks from the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Center (NIMAAC), educational reading, reference materials, fiction, and newspapers and magazines. In addition, Bookshare offers free software applications that read digital books.

Bookshare will also help your district obtain digital textbooks from the NIMAC. The Iowa Department of Education has named Bookshare as one of our Authorized Users of the NIMAC. If a book is in the NIMAC and not yet in Bookshare, and your teachers seek a digital accessible format for students, your teachers will be able to go directly to Bookshare and request the book. Bookshare will have the book ready for your students within a couple of days.

The program is scheduled to begin with training for Joint AEA Directors (Chief Administrators, Special Education Directors, Media Directors, and Instructional Services Directors) on November 12th. All AEAs will then be available to support districts with the sign-up process and use of Bookshare. In latter November and early December, Bookshare is offering a series of three online trainings for district personnel to help with the sign up process and with use of Bookshare. Invitations to participate in these webinars will be sent to all district Special Education Directors and AEA Media Directors. If your staff members wish to attend these webinars, please click on the following links:

Webinar 1 – Tuesday, November 17 at 3pm CT - <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=ismgkvkvi9nw>

Webinar 2 – Wednesday, December 2 at 3pm CT - <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=7he8kh80e5x9>

Webinar 3 – Thursday, December 10 at 3pm CT - <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=3h6983bl86m5>

Personnel can contact Kristina Cohen of Bookshare at KristinaK@Benetech.org if they miss the webinar and she will send them the link to these archived webinars. The recorded webinars are web based so the slides and audio will come through the computer.

Please contact Steve Maurer at steve.maurer@iowa.gov or 515-281-3576 or Kristina Cohen for further information.



DATES TO REMEMBER

December 15	Dropout Prevention programs for MAG - last day to submit application: December 15 is the last day to submit an application for the following year's Dropout Prevention programs for modified allowable growth (MAG). The School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) will take official action on the requests for modified allowable growth (MAG) for the returning dropout and dropout prevention program at its March meeting. Applications are submitted on the Department of Education's secure data collection website. Questions may be directed to: Susan.Walkup@iowa.gov , 515-281-5718
December 16	2008-2009 Dropout Verification Deadline
December 30	Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program (Harkin Grant) applications for fire safety and construction must be postmarked or received at the Iowa Department of Education by 4:30 p.m. on December 30, 2009.
January 1, 2010	Due Chapter 12 Exemption--Effective for the 2010-2011 School Year.
January 1, 2010	Reorganization or Dissolution effective on next July 1 - last day to notify Dept of Ed
January 13, 2010	Iowa State Board of Education Meeting

You can view a complete Iowa Department of Education calendar of events at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/calendar/calendar.html>