

**Mississippi Bend AEA
SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETING
December 2011**

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TEAM MEMBERS ARE 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.

For more information and to sign up to participate as a team member on a site visit:
http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1558&Itemid=2342 Please sign up by September 15.

2011-2012 Site Visits: Team Members Needed

District/School	Site Visit Dates	Minimum Number of Team Members Needed
Sacred Heart Catholic School	January 10-11	2
St. Paul the Apostle, Davenport	January 17-18	1
John F. Kennedy Catholic School, Davenport	January 19-21	1
Wilton (Equity)	January 24-26	3
Preston	February 7-9	2
Andrew	March 13-15	2
Northeast	March 20-22	2
Davenport	April 16-20	2

Districts with visits scheduled during the 2012-13 or 2013-14 school years 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 2012-2013 school year:

2012-13		
Bennett	Columbus	Durant
North Scott	West Liberty	
2013-14		
Bellevue	Delwood	East Central
Maquoketa	Muscatine	

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST FEE

For the past thirteen years, the Department of Education has applied for and been awarded funding for Advanced Placement Test Fee Reimbursement Program for low income students. The USDE has not issued an RFP. As a result, the Iowa Department of Education will not have funds to reimburse school districts for low income student Advanced Placement exams in May 2012. If the status of this funding program changes, school districts will be notified. For more information please contact Rosanne Malek at 515-281-3199 or rosanne.malek@iowa.gov

VISITING TEACHERS FROM SPAIN

Would you be interested in hiring a qualified Spanish teacher through the Visiting Teachers from Spain program run by the Iowa Department of Education (IDE) and the Spanish Ministry of Education? Teachers from Spain bring a richness of international teaching experience and other skills that can benefit Iowa's students. In turn, Teachers from Spain say that their time in Iowa is one of their most rewarding experiences in teaching.

For over ten years, the members of the Iowa Department of Education interviews highly qualified candidates for Spanish or other teaching positions in Iowa schools. At the IDE, we lead the recruited teachers through the process for Iowa licensure, immigration realities, fingerprinting and background checks, and other issues that help the district and the teachers have a smooth transition from Spain to Iowa. If you are interested please contact John Scott at 515-281-3805 or john.scott@iowa.gov

I-ELDA TRAININGS

I-ELDA Training will be held on January 12, 2012. For additional information please contact John A. Scott at 515-581-3805 or john.scott@iowa.gov.

MODIFIED ALLOWABLE GROWTH FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION

Districts planning to levy modified allowable growth for dropout prevention services MUST complete the online application by December 15 as noted in the Iowa Code section below.

Iowa Code Section 257.40:

1. The board of directors of a school district requesting to use modified allowable growth for programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention shall submit requests for modified at-risk allowable growth, including budget costs, **to the department not later than December 15** of the year preceding the budget year during which the program will be offered. The department shall review the request and shall prior to January 15 either grant approval for the request or return the request for approval with comments of the department included. An unapproved request for a program may be resubmitted with modifications to the department not later than February 1. Not later than February 15, the department shall notify the department of management and the school budget review committee of the names of the school districts for which programs using modified allowable growth for funding have been approved and the approved budget of each program listed separately for each school district having an approved request.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Our district can't have another Board meeting before the application is due. Do we wait until the Board meeting happens and certify our application after December 15?
No, the due date of the application is in Iowa Code and cannot be altered. Example - Some districts have a first reading in November and a second in December, other districts do not have multiple Board meetings each month. Therefore, as long as the Board is on record as approving the request prior to the DE sending the requested amounts to the Department of Management and the SBRC (February 1st), it is okay.
2. We are attending the ISFLC conference on December 14-15 and won't be able to certify the application on the 15th. Do we just complete our application and certify when we return from the conference?

No, see previous answer.

3. Do we include all of our dropout prevention programming on the application?
No, this application should only include the targeted services provided for the identified population only. This application is for specific funding, not overall programming.
4. If our district had enough carry over and don't need to levy additional amounts, do we need to complete the application?
Yes, this application includes the service summary (Form 5) report that collects information to submit to the legislature each year (January 15). Secondly, if you are still planning on providing services next year with the carryover funding, the proposed services summary (Form 3) should be completed and the budget proposal (Form 4). The budget proposal would include a line item in the MAG calculation to enter the carry over amount (Line 2).

Questions should be directed to: magdop@iowa.gov

HEALTHY KIDS

Jodi Bullock, RD is available to make school visits and provide one-on-one technical assistance with Healthy Kids Act (HKA) compliance, starting December 12, 2011. Jodi begins work with the Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services on December 12, and is available to assist schools with HKA. Questions she will be able to address in her presentations include:

- Is your school interested in receiving some help with HKA, in an informal manner?
- Do you need HKA presentation for staff, parents, students or the school board?
- Does your School Food Service Director need assistance with HKA compliance?

To schedule an appointment please contact Patti Delger at patti.delger@iowa.gov.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

Iowans who want to learn about competency-based education but don't have a seat at a December 8 state conference in Des Moines can stay connected by computer.

A web site has been created to share information [about competency-based work in the state](#). It is available now and will be kept active after the Research to Action Forum, which is hosted by the Iowa Department of Education and sponsored by the Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest. Sign up for the site at <http://bridgeevent.ning.com/>. Also, join a live conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #IAcomped.

The December 8 conference will be videotaped and posted to the Department's website, www.educateiowa.gov, at a later date. Stay tuned.

ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER

The Iowa Department of Education is planning to apply for an ESEA Flexibility Waiver in February. To receive flexibility through the waivers, SEAs must submit a request to address each of the four principles:

1. College-and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students
2. State Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability and Support
3. Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership, and
4. Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden.

The Department will begin to meet with some stakeholder groups in December and will come out to all of the area education agencies in mid-to-late January to share the details of Iowa's waiver and get input. More details will be provided in the January School Leader Update and Superintendent Notes.

C-Plan UPDATE

Progress continues to be made with the Consolidated Plan, the Department's efforts to consolidate five annual district reports; the CSIP, APR, DDSDP, SINA/DINA , and Iowa Core plans. Your school improvement consultant will give an overview of the Consolidated Plan (C-Plan) at the January Superintendents meeting. Members of the C-Plan team are also available to provide overviews to other groups who are interested in learning more. Contact Karla Day, Title I consultant to arrange an overview. karla.day@iowa.gov or 515-281-7145

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