



No Child Left Behind—What Does It Mean for Students with Disabilities? by David Quinn

No Child Left Behind is the result of Federal legislation that was passed and signed into law in 2001. The law intends to encourage schools to improve the academic achievement of all students—including students with disabilities.

The main feature of No Child Left Behind is its requirement that all students, again including those with disabilities, be proficient in reading, math and science within the next ten years. What is proficient is determined by each state, but must also be approved by the Federal Department of Education. In Iowa, proficient for most students means scoring at the 41st percentile on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) for 4th and 8th graders or on the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) for 11th graders. The 41st percentile means the individual student scored better than 41 percent of those who took the test at a previous time.



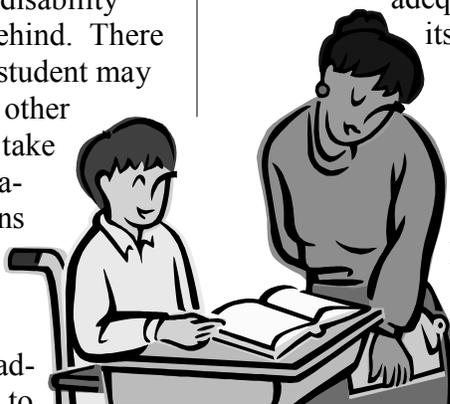
The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team decides how a student with a disability will participate in No Child Left Behind. There are three possible ways. First, the student may take the ITBS or ITED just like all other students. Second, the student may take the ITBS or ITED with accommodations. Examples of accommodations are more time to complete the test, another person records the student's answers and parts of the test are read to the student. The reading subject area test cannot be read to

the student. The third way a student may participate in No Child Left Behind is through the Alternate Assessment. The Alternate Assessment is for students whose disabilities are so severe or profound that taking the ITBS or ITED is not appropriate. The Alternate Assessment involves the student's teacher developing a portfolio to demonstrate the student's achievement. Only 1% of a school's students may count toward proficiency through the Alternate Assessment.

Schools and school districts must make prescribed progress toward 100% proficiency over the course of the ten years.

When a school or school district does not make the prescribed progress for all of its students or for each of its subgroups of students (one of which is students with disabilities) then sanctions apply. One of the more publicized sanctions is the designation of School in Need of Assistance. After a school is designated as a School in Need of Assistance, there is a sequence of sanctions that are applied if the school or school district does not then make adequate progress toward each of its students being proficient.

For more information about No Child Left Behind and what it means for students with disabilities, contact Dave Quinn, Director of Special Education at 344-6201 or 1-800-947-2329, extension 6201.



Early Childhood Parent Surveys

This year, the Parent Educator Connection Facilitators will be involved with a project called Parent/Family Survey Development Project which is part of the overall mission of the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring. The Center has established a Parent Involvement Workgroup and charged the group with providing guidance on the development of a set of survey instruments designed to encourage families to report on their involvement in the process as well as their perceptions of the services provided. It is the intent of the Center to make these survey instruments available to agencies and other entities that wish to use them to monitor and improve programs for young children and their families.

The Center believes that parents and families should be involved in every stage of development of the process. This is where we all fit into the picture. Beginning on September 15, 2004, the Parent-Educator Connection Facilitators at Mississippi Bend AEA will be contacting randomly chosen families to ask them to help us rate the surveys. This is very meaningful and important work for family members. The information that we receive from the surveys that we do will be used to produce a final product that states throughout the country can use to evaluate how well agencies are involving parents and families in the early childhood process.



The families chosen will be contacted by the Parent Educator Facilitator in their area and spend approximately one hour doing the survey. This process should be on a face-to-face basis so the facilitator can help to clarify any questions that participants may have. There will be Spanish versions as well as English and Spanish speaking people to help to facilitate.

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and families to have real input into what happens in the world of parent involvement. Your help is essential. The state of Iowa has assured us that we will have feedback on the information that is submitted. This in turn will help the Parent-Educator Connection better address the needs of parents in AEA 9.

If you have any questions about the survey and your potential part in the work, please contact your Parent-Educator Connection Facilitator.



What's NEW

in the Parent-Educator Library?



There are several new books in the Parent-Educator Connection Library that you might be interested in. Two are about Attention Deficit Disorder. The *Sourcebook for Children with Attention Deficit Disorder, A Management Guide for Early Childhood Professionals and Parents* by Clare B. Jones, Ph.D. discusses current research, treatments and solutions and suggests activities to use in the classroom and guidance for parents at home. There are both English and Spanish reproducible handouts to send home to parents. An extensive reading list is provided for those who desire more information.

Parent Articles About ADHD, edited by Clare B. Jones and co-edited by H. Russell Searight and Magda A. Urban, contains articles written by experts in their fields that can be reproduced to send home to parents or used as handouts during inservices and workshops. It also contains a glossary of terms.

Several more books are:

The Rett Syndrome Handbook by Kathy Hunter & Families. We have copies of this book in English and in Spanish in our Muscatine Office.

Teen Torment, Overcoming Verbal Abuse at Home and at School by Patricia Evans.

The Magic Toy Box by Deanna R. Lingenfelter. The author of this book has cerebral palsy and wrote this book to help children understand various disabilities.

Two videotapes have also been added:

Cultural Perspectives on Parenting, Part 1 and Part 2 are about understanding the influence of culture on parenting.





Back-to-School A time for health insurance

Before the school year begins, Covering Kids & Families (CKF) is launching its annual Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign to encourage parents with uninsured children to put enrolling them in *hawk-i* at the top of their back-to-school checklists.

“Kids who have health-care coverage are better prepared to learn in school,” said Beth Jones, CKF project coordinator, “That’s why enrolling uninsured children in *hawk-i* should be a top priority for parents as they prepare to send their kids back to school. The coverage offered through *hawk-i* means health security for kids and peace of mind for parents.” A recently released report by the University of Iowa’s Public Policy Center, Health Insurance Coverage of Children in Iowa/Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey concluded that in 2000 there were about 46,000 children in Iowa uninsured and another 43,000 children were uninsured at some point during the year. Eighty percent of these children could qualify for either the *hawk-i* program or Medicaid. To find out more about this extensive study go to:

<http://ppc.uiowa.edu/iowachild2000/>

Many families are not aware that their children may qualify for coverage. In Iowa, a family of four can earn up to \$37,700 a year, or more, and qualify for *hawk-i*. Eligibility is based on family size and income. Health-care providers play an important role in helping families put health insurance on their back-to-school checklists. As kids go back to school they get needed immunizations and annual checkups, both easier when children have health insurance.

Covering Kids & Families in Iowa and *hawk-i* outreach coordinators throughout the state will be stepping up their efforts to increase the number of children enrolled in *hawk-i*; they will host several health fair events, exhibit at county fairs and school registrations, release media campaigns statewide, and hold many more events.

These efforts are part of a nationwide campaign launched by CFK, a national initiative of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to connect uninsured children and adults with low-cost and free

Kids with health-care coverage are better prepared to learn

- Most children in America’s classrooms who are uninsured are eligible for low-cost or free children’s health insurance.
- Uninsured children are 70 percent more likely than children with health insurance not to get care for common conditions.
- Uninsured children are less likely to receive proper medical care for sore throats, earaches, and asthma—common childhood illnesses that are often the cause of school absences.

health care coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

“The comprehensive coverage offered through *hawk-i* helps keep Iowa’s kids healthy,” said Angie Doyle Scar, state *hawk-i* outreach coordinator. “We need health-care providers to encourage parents to find out if their kids are eligible.”

Source: Beth Jones. (Reprinted with permission from the August 2004 issue of *Iowa Health FOCUS* and Customer Satisfaction Survey: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/do/focus.asp>).

A Practical Guide to Universal Home Design



“Universal design” or UD is a way to make a home open to everyone. UD makes the home comfortable and easy for different people at different stages of their lives. The changes are common sense. Make your home a more accessible place to live now and avoid costly changes in the future. An average home is designed for a healthy, fit man of average height. UD uses simple ideas to make any home open to people who may have special needs.

The Iowa Program for Assistive Living (IPAT) has created a new guide to work with a contractor to build a new house or remodel your existing home. The booklet shows essential ways to adapt your home on limited resources.

The booklet is free. Download a copy at: www.uiowa.edu/infotech/universalthomedesign.htm Or you may call Iowa Compass at 800-779-2001 to receive a print copy.

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My Future...My Plan **Transition Workshops**

The Parent-Educator Connection will once again be presenting “*My Future...My Plan*” Transition Workshops in selected high schools throughout Mississippi Bend AEA. These workshops are provided for families and students who will be transitioning from high school to work or post secondary education. Topics for the workshops include work, college and other post secondary options, housing and other personal supports.

This year Carol Aden, who is the Parent-Educator Facilitator in the Bettendorf office, will be presenting at Central and North High Schools in Davenport, and North Scott High School in Eldridge. Kathy Anson, in the Clinton office, will be offering workshops at Clinton High School, Northeast High School, Bellevue High School, Calamus-Wheatland High School, and East Central/Andrew High School. Cindy Laughead, in the Muscatine office, will be presenting at Muscatine High School, Columbus Junction High School, Durant High School and Wilton High School. There will be Spanish workshops at both Muscatine and Columbus Junction High Schools.

Families—don’t be caught off guard! It is never too early to start planning for the future. The workshops are presented in English and also Spanish where applicable.

For more information please contact the Parent-Educator Connection Facilitator in your service center.

Carol Aden, Bettendorf 563-344-6287 or 1-800-947-2329

Kathy Anson, Clinton 563-242-6454

Cindy Laughead, Muscatine 563-263-8476

my Future
My Plan

Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability in its educational programs, services or employment practices. Inquires concerning application of this statement should be addressed to: Tom Wirtz, Equity Coordinator, 729 21st Street, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722. Telephone: (563) 344-6410

The mission of the Mississippi Bend Area Education agency is to improve teaching and learning for all students through active partnerships and assertive leadership in a climate of mutual respect.

Check It Out

Join Us at the 20th Iowa Parent-Educator Connection Conference

February 6 - 8, 2005

Scheman Center

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

This year there will be an Early Childhood emphasis, but information for older children, K-12, will also be included within the sessions.

Conference Topics Include:

Positive Behavioral Supports—What it Takes for Success in the Classroom

Myths of Suspension and Expulsion

Assistive Technology Display—Hand's on Opportunity to Check out Resources

Couples panel—How do we work it all out?

Resolution Facilitation—Educators and Families Resolving Conflicts

No Child Left Behind information

Literacy across the ages....

Birds-of-a-Feather Discussion groups

Youth Leadership Forum—Iowa Kids Become Leaders!!

How to Deal with Bullying and Harassment

Computer Lab with Great Technology Information!

Welcome to my world!

A book fair with lots of good literature and books to add to your personal collection! . . . and lots, lots more!

Pre-registration is required.

Contact Kathy Anson 563-242-6454 or kanson@aea9.k12.ia.us

for registration information.

Sponsored by: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services and the Parent-Educator Connection Program

Transition to Success!

FREE ICN SERIES



Tuesday, November 16, 2004
9:30-10:30 AM
It's Your Life -
How to Make it Happen!

Tuesday, January 25, 2005
9:00 - 10:00 AM
Hot Jobs in the Labor Market

Tuesday, March 8, 2005
9:30-10:30 AM
College - READY? Or Not?

Who's invited? High School students with IEPs, their parents, teachers, and others interested.

Registration: Classroom teachers should work with the ICN Site Coordinators listed below to get students registered. Space is limited at all ICN sites, so advance registration is required. Registration for each session will be handled separately. Parents and others interested may register directly with the Site Coordinator listed below or contact: Jane Rock, Transition Specialist, Mississippi Bend AEA, 563-344-6288 or 1-800-947-2329 or jrock@aea9.k12.ia.us

ICN Sites and Site Coordinators

Note: These sites have only been confirmed for Nov. 16, 2004

Bellevue HS - Rick Casel
Bennett HS - Dawn Sievertsen
Bettendorf HS - Pauline VenHorst
Bettendorf AEA Office - Jane Rock
Calamus-Wheatland HS - Pam Dierickx
Camanche HS - Marti Swan
Clinton Comm. College GATCI Center -
Contact Kathy Anson (563-242-6454)
Clinton HS - Pauline Carr
Columbus Junction Library -
Contact Pam Braun (319-728-2231)
Davenport Central HS - Julie Amendt
Davenport North HS - Barb Saathoff
Davenport West HS - Jim DeReus

Davenport Kimberly Ctr - Cathy Bosco
DeWitt Central HS - Kathy Schatz
Durant HS - Victoria Fairbrother
Louisa-Muscatine HS - Dot McKasson
Maquoketa HS - Luanne Huckstadt
Muscatine HS - Brenda Leza
North Scott HS - Stacie Kintigh
Northeast HS, Goose Lake - Karen Daniels
Pleasant Valley HS - Gina Weaver
Scott Comm. Coll. (CC1) -
Contact Carol Aden (563-344-6287)
West Liberty Library - Contact Harry
Christofferson (319-627-2115)
Wilton HS - Steve Kelly