



December 2019

## Central Rivers AEA Superintendent Notes

### Destiny Eldridge

School Improvement Consultant

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### School Bus Inspections

Revisions to the Department's school bus rules (Iowa Administrative Code 281-44), which went into effect on October 2, 2019, clarify that Type III vehicles used to transport students in a school-related context are subject to school bus inspections per Iowa Code and rule requirements. Type III vehicles are those that carry a maximum of 12 or fewer people, including the driver, and weigh 10,000 pounds or less. This includes vehicles such as cars, pickups, vans, and SUVs used to transport students, whether for a route or for student activities. Multifunction school activity buses (MFSABs), which are now allowed in Iowa, are also subject to inspection.

The Department's school bus inspectors will expect these vehicles to be presented for inspection beginning with the second half inspection period, which starts in January. Some districts have already been including their Type III vehicles during inspections; however, others have not. If your Type III vehicles have not been included previously, please make sure they are entered into the Vehicle Information System within the EdPortal prior to your inspection date.

For questions, contact [Max Christensen](mailto:Max.Christensen@iowa.gov) at [max.christensen@iowa.gov](mailto:max.christensen@iowa.gov) or 515-281-4749, or the inspector for your region: Joe Funk (east) 515-669-4987, Tom Simpson (west), 515-326-1022, Verlan Vos (central) 515-669-4994.

### Leading, Teaching, Learning Services

#### Early Childhood

Shared Visions preschool program competitive grant applications are now available. Instructions for the FY21 Shared Visions Preschool Program grant application are available on the [Shared Visions Preschool Program web page](#) in the *Application* section. To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted to the Department through the online grant application system, [IowaGrants.gov](http://IowaGrants.gov). Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis contingent upon the annual state appropriation.

Iowa Department of Education guidance should be viewed as advisory unless it's specifically authorized by state statute, according to Iowa Code section 256.9A. This does not apply to administrative rules, declaratory orders, or materials required by federal law or courts.

Additional information regarding the application process and program requirements may also be found on the [Shared Visions Preschool Program web page](#). Questions regarding the competitive grant process and application must be submitted in writing to Amy Stegeman at [Amy.Stegeman@iowa.gov](mailto:Amy.Stegeman@iowa.gov) by January 6, 2020. All submitted questions will be addressed in a *Frequently Asked Questions* document available on the [Shared Visions Preschool Program web page](#).

## Fine Arts

As the school year is in full swing, please remember the Iowa Fine Arts Standards course and modules available on AEA Learning Online, which were released last fall. These modules, or self-paced online courses, were built by Iowa's Statewide Fine Arts Leadership Team.

The modules provide various entry points into learning about and applying Iowa's Fine Arts Standards to your context and practice:

1. Introducing Iowa's Fine Arts Standards
2. Understanding Iowa's Fine Arts Standards
3. Applying and Connecting Iowa's Fine Arts Standards
4. Assessing Iowa's Fine Arts Standards
5. Iowa's Fine Arts Standards: Resources for Implementation

The modules can be studied individually or bundled together with additional coursework for a license renewal credit. The modules are free for Iowa educators if no credit is desired. To go through the modules or to register for credit, go to: <https://training.aealearningonline.org>.

Module 5, the resources module, which is essentially a clearinghouse for resources to support Iowa's Fine Arts Standards is being **updated throughout the year** to include links to Google folders with tools, templates, and Iowa Model Cornerstone Assessments, or curriculum-embedded assessments for each of our fine arts disciplines - dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts - at varying grade levels, written by Iowa fine arts educators. Looking through these Model Cornerstone Assessments, one can see how Iowa's Fine Arts Standards are currently being implemented in classrooms across our state. For additional information, please contact Angela Matsuoka at [angela.matsuoka@iowa.gov](mailto:angela.matsuoka@iowa.gov).

## Physical Education

There is new [guidance](#) to support the new Iowa Standards for Physical Education on the Department website. Iowa's State Board of Education passed recommended statewide standards for physical education and health education in March 2019. Based on the PE and Health Standards Review Team's recommendations, Iowa adopted the national Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) America standards and grade-level outcomes (a.k.a grade-level standards) for physical education and the Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards and performance indicators for health education. Additional resources are being developed to support schools in implementing the physical education and health education standards. For additional information, please contact Lyn Jenkins at [lyn.jenkins@iowa.gov](mailto:lyn.jenkins@iowa.gov).

## Mathematics

Do you have coaches that are looking to increase their capacity to coach mathematics? See the 2020 NCSM Annual Conference information below. NCSM is the national professional organization for mathematics coaches and mathematics leaders.

Four strands for our 2020 NCSM Annual Conference represent areas of interest to a large number of our members and we hope that by focusing on these topics you will learn deeply about issues that are of immediate and lasting importance to you.

1. Build Mathematical Capacity
2. Construct Impactful Mathematics Coaching
3. Design Systemic Structures within the Mathematics Education Community
4. Monitor Evidence of Equitable Mathematics Learning

Participating in the conference is an incredible way to expand your own personal knowledge and become inspired. The conference will be held in, Chicago, March 30 - April 1, 2020, <https://www.mathedleadership.org/events/conferences/IL/index.html>. For additional information, please contact April Pforts at [april.pforts@iowa.gov](mailto:april.pforts@iowa.gov).

Any questions for Leading, Teaching, Learning Services, please contact Erika Cook, Ph.D. at [erika.cook@iowa.gov](mailto:erika.cook@iowa.gov).

## Online Offer and Teach

[Iowa Code 256.11\(5\)](#) and 281-IAC 12.5(5) requires school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to offer and teach the following courses each year:

- English-language arts: 6 units;
- Social studies: 5 units (½ unit of United States government and 1 unit of United States history);
- Mathematics: 6 units;
- Science: 5 units;
- Health: 1 unit;
- Physical Education: 1 unit;
- Fine Arts: 3 units;
- World Language: 4 units;
- Vocational education: 12 units (nonpublic 5 units).

Public districts and nonpublic schools may meet up to two of their [offer and teach requirements](#), without a waiver, via an online course. This includes a district developed online course or Iowa Learning Online. For more information on approved private providers please refer to the [Department's Online Learning page](#). For more information please contact your School Improvement consultant.

# Open Enrollment for Pervasive Harassment or Severe Health Need

## **Process 281-IAC 17.5(1)(2)**

- 1) The **board of the resident district** shall act on the request within 30 days of its receipt.
  - If the request is **denied**, the parent/guardian shall be notified by the district superintendent within 3 days following board action. Parents may appeal to the Iowa Department of Education within 30 days of the denial.
  - If the request is **approved**, the district superintendent shall forward the approved application form to the receiving district within 5 days following board action and shall notify the parent/guardian within 3 days of this action.
  
- 2) The **board of the receiving district** shall act to approve or deny an open enrollment request within 30 days following receipt of the notice of approval from the resident district.
  - If the request is **denied**, the parent/guardian shall be notified by the district superintendent within 3 days following board action. Parents may appeal to the Iowa Department of Education within 30 days of the denial.
  - If request is **approved**, the receiving district superintendent shall provide notification of either approval or denial of the request to the parent/guardian and to the resident district within 15 days of board action.

## **Common procedural mistakes**

- Superintendent will approve or deny without taking to the school board.
- Board not acting within 30 days.
- Receiving district acting before the resident district. Receiving district only if resident district approves.

## **Criteria**

### **What constitutes pervasive harassment?**

**Answer:** The resident district determines if the applicant qualifies under the criteria of repeated and pervasive harassment. The following guidelines are used to determine if an applicant qualifies under the "good cause" provision. A parent or guardian who files an application for open enrollment after the March 1 deadline and alleges repeated acts of harassment is entitled to a hearing before the resident school board to prove the application should be granted. In re [Hannah T., 25 D.o.E. App. Dec. 26 \(2007\)](#).

- The harassment must have occurred after March 1 or the student or parent is able to demonstrate that the extent of the harassment could not have been known until after March 1
- The harassment must be specific electronic, written, verbal, or physical acts or conduct toward the student which created an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
  - Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
  - Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
  - Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.
  - Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.

- The evidence must show that the harassment is likely to continue despite the efforts of school officials to resolve the situation.
- It can be reasonably anticipated that the changing of the student's school district will alleviate the situation.
- The school board must be provided with the facts and circumstances of the case before making a decision.

**What constitutes a severe health need?**

**Answer:** An applicant may qualify under the severe health need provision if all of the following exists. An official in the **resident** district determines if the applicant qualifies under the criteria of severe health need. In re [Anna C., 24 D.o.E. App Dec 571 \(2015\)](#).

- The serious health condition of the child is one that has been diagnosed by an appropriate healthcare provider, and the diagnosis has been provided to the district of residence.
- The serious health condition is neither short-term nor temporary.
- The district has been provided with the specifics of the child's health needs caused by the serious health condition and knows, or should know, what specific steps its staff must take to meet the child's needs.
- School officials, upon notification of the serious health condition and the steps to be taken to meet the child's needs, must have failed to implement such steps or, despite the district's efforts, its implementation of the steps was unsuccessful.
- A reasonable person could not have known before March 1 that the district could not, or would not, adequately address the child's health needs.
- It can be reasonably anticipated that a change in the child's school district will improve the situation.

Each case is to be decided on its own merits, keeping in mind that 282.18(5) is the one subsection of the Iowa Code in which the Legislature has specifically admonished districts and the State Board to act "in the best interest of the affected child." Where there is doubt, the benefit of that doubt is to be accorded to the child.

For additional information please contact:

Sara Nickel, (515)281-3778, [sara.nickel@iowa.gov](mailto:sara.nickel@iowa.gov) or Carla Schimelfenig, (515)242-5612, [carla.schimelfenig@iowa.gov](mailto:carla.schimelfenig@iowa.gov).

**Annual Notices and Deadlines for Public and Nonpublic Schools –  
December**

Date	Topic/Subject Matter	State/Federal Law	Contact
First Monday in December.	National Lunch Program (NSLP) Verification Collection Report due.	7 CFR 245.7	Deb Linderblood <a href="mailto:deb.linderblood@iowa.gov">deb.linderblood@iowa.gov</a> Patti Harding <a href="mailto:patti.harding@iowa.gov">patti.harding@iowa.gov</a>

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Dec. 1	Last day to submit online School budget Review Committee (SBRC) Applications for Modified Supplemental Amount (MSA) for increased enrollment, open enrollment out, excess costs to provide instruction to limited English proficient students above the costs of regular instruction, and unusual need to continue funding beyond five years of weighting for students in a limited English proficient program.	281 IAC 60.6(2)"b", 289 IAC 6.3(3)"h"	Carla Schimelfenig <a href="mailto:carla.schimelfenig@iowa.gov">carla.schimelfenig@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 1	First semester parental claim forms for non public transportation reimbursement due from parents to district.	Iowa Code 285.3	Max Christensen <a href="mailto:max.christensen@iowa.gov">max.christensen@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 4	National School Lunch Program (NSLP) hawk-i submission due.	283A.2(3)	Deb Linderblood <a href="mailto:deb.linderblood@iowa.gov">deb.linderblood@iowa.gov</a> Patti Harding <a href="mailto:patti.harding@iowa.gov">patti.harding@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 13	Dropout Verification Date.		Margaret Hanson <a href="mailto:margaret.hanson@iowa.gov">margaret.hanson@iowa.gov</a> Rachel Kruse <a href="mailto:rachel.kruse@iowa.gov">rachel.kruse@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 15 by 3 p.m. (or next workday if 15th is on a weekend/holiday)	National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal claims must be entered.		Patti Harding <a href="mailto:patti.harding@iowa.gov">patti.harding@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 15	Local Education Agency (LEA) Area Education Agency (AEA) and Nonpublic School Improvement Universal Desk Audit Items due. The second part of the Preschool Universal Desk	IAC 218-12 and IAC 281-72	<a href="#">School Improvement Consultant</a> Preschool Contact: Jennifer Adkins <a href="mailto:jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov">jennifer.adkins@iowa.gov</a>

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	Audit is also part of this collection.		
Dec. 17	December School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) hearing.	Iowa Code 257.31	Kassandra Cline <a href="mailto:kassandra.cline@iowa.gov">kassandra.cline@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 24	Driver Education Report Due to Iowa Department of Transportation.	IAC 761-634.4	Lacy Lawrence <a href="mailto:driveredreport@iowadot.us">driveredreport@iowadot.us</a> <a href="mailto:lacy.lawrence@iowa.gov">lacy.lawrence@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 30	First Quarter Claims due for Secondary Perkins Grants.		Pat Thieben <a href="mailto:pat.thieben@iowa.gov">pat.thieben@iowa.gov</a>
Dec. 31	Between December 15-31 districts, submit a report of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) standards and accomplishments via BEDS.	Iowa Code 19B.11	Shelly Neese <a href="mailto:shelly.neese@iowa.gov">shelly.neese@iowa.gov</a>

## Annual Notices and Deadlines for Public and Nonpublic Schools

### [Annual Notices](#)

#### **Non-Discrimination Statement:**

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, 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 complaints 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, 400 E. 14th Street, 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 60661-4544, telephone number: 312-730-1560, FAX number: 312-730-1576, TDD number: 877-521-2172, email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)

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