

Critical Department of Education due dates - Each month's important deadlines are posted at bit.ly/dedeaddlines.

Schedule a trip to the Capitol - Now is a great time to check your calendar and plan a visit to the Iowa Capitol to visit with your locally elected representatives about legislation and issues facing your school. Bring along local community leaders, and have a plan of action for topics you'd like to address. Take some pictures while you're there, legislators love to use them in their communication back to constituents, and remember to thank them for their time and commitment. With this being an election year, it's especially important to connect with them and ask them to commit to fund public schools at appropriate levels!

Federal FY20 Funding Bill Is Finalized - On December 16, Congress released H.R. 1865, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY20. The bill and its provisions fund the federal government for FY20 which runs from Oct 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020. FY20 dollars will be in schools during the 2020-21 school year. Specifics on funding for K-12 programs, early education and policies beyond the labor-health-education bill are available at <http://bit.ly/FedFY20>.

Executive Leaders – The next Executive Leaders meeting is Jan. 16-17 on Thursday evening and Friday morning at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. Thursday attendees will have the opportunity to review a website drafted by Evan Abbey, AEA PD Online director, that will be a one-stop informational outlet for school mental health services in Iowa. Participants will be able to provide feedback and input prior to the site going live sometime this spring. Following comments by Director Wise, DE representatives will talk about the new SEL competencies and how they will serve as a guide for districts. Friday morning, attendees will continue learning about the new leadership standards. A portion of the morning will focus on 2020 legislative session advocacy. Sign up is available under the event listing at bit.ly/SAlevents.

Getting to Know Upcoming New Standards for Iowa School Leaders - In anticipation of Iowa's adoption of the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders as Iowa's new standards for school leaders in July 2020, a stakeholder group continues to meet to design and develop tools and resources as well as to update current materials to support implementation of the new standards. The team has been working on drafts of leadership frameworks for principals and superintendents aligned to each standard. The article "Positive School Leadership" was read by the group as an overview of the spirit and intent of the standards. It reminds us that the PSEL provide an optimistic view of leadership and build upon a strengths-based model of school improvement. If you're looking to deepen your understanding of the context for the PSEL, it's a fitting and brief read: kappanonline.org/murphy-louis-smylie-positive-school-leadership.

SAI Annual Conference 2020 - Reserve Aug. 4-6, 2020, on your calendar.

Professional learning opportunities - register online and find more information at bit.ly/SAlevents

January

16 & 17 - Executive Leaders

February

11 - School Law Conference

20 - Building a Contagious Culture

March

12 - Building a Contagious Culture