

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

Leading Edge Blog - Read the latest on federal activity regarding school meal waivers, advocating for a census collection extension, additional funding districts need for remote learning and more: bit.ly/aasablog.

Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools - The 52nd Annual PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools was released August 25 with a focus on Public School Priorities in a Political Year. Respondents were asked the importance of public education in their vote for president, education priorities ranging from teacher retention and college tuition to anti-discrimination efforts and PreK programs, and support for charter schools. This year's poll also explores views regarding testing, problems facing public schools, substance abuse, school vouchers, diversity, and approaches to reading and literacy. View the results at pdkpoll.org.

Update on New Standards - The State Board of Education met August 5 and voted to give notice of its intent to adopt new standards for Iowa's school leaders. A public hearing is set for September 15, and we anticipate an effective date of July 2021. The change would mean Iowa's Standards for School Leaders will be replaced by the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders.

A representative team of administrators from different levels and areas of the state along with colleagues from IASB and two of our administrator preparation schools has been meeting regularly for several years to study the current ISSL in light of the PSEL and to move this work forward. Several resources are available to support leaders in learning more about the new standards, including the rationale for change and tools to help facilitate implementation. The video at vimeo.com/442230551 provides the historical context and rationale for change, offers interviews with Iowa leaders involved in the process, and connects to additional resources at sites.google.com/view/new-issl, to which content is being added.

Executive Leaders - SAI's fall Executive Leaders event was scheduled for September 8-9, with training on the new state leadership standards. However, the State Board was unable to move forward this spring with any non-COVID related items, so implementation of the new standards is now delayed to July 2021. In light of that, and because this fall will likely be a very challenging time as you get schools up and running, we have decided to postpone the fall Executive Leaders meeting. Instead, we hope to hold an event in January that replicates what was planned for September, with the possibility of meeting again in the spring.

Fall District Meetings - Network and learn with your colleagues from across the state at this year's SAI district meetings. Learning this year will focus on Standard 8: Meaningful Engagement of Families and Community. You can participate in the fall virtual meetings on Oct. 29 (12:30-4:30 p.m.) OR Nov. 4 (3:30-7:30 p.m.).

As SAI continues to evolve to best meet your needs, we will be phasing out the credit component of the district meeting. School years 2020-21 and 2021-22 will be the final opportunities to earn credit through district meetings. You can bundle any four district meetings for a renewal credit.

Mentors for New Administrators - Mentor/mentee role-alike meetings will be held beginning this month. If you have an individual to enroll in the program, please do so immediately. If your district plans to use the SAI Mentoring and Induction Program for 2020-21 to meet the requirements of § chapter 284A.5, please confirm you have an agreement on file with SAI. Required forms are available online at sai-iowa.org/mentoring-and-induction.cfm. Contact SAI at 515-267-1115 with questions.

SAI Annual Conference 2021 - Reserve Aug. 3-5, 2021, on your calendar.

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

September

- 10 - Take 20 with Matt - virtual learning
- 11 - Leadership-life Fit Short Stack, session 1 of 3-part series — Sept. 11, Oct. 15, & Nov. 5 - virtual learning
- 17 - Statewide Mentoring Meeting for Elementary Principals - virtual learning
- 22 - Take 20 with Matt - virtual learning
- 28 - Statewide Mentoring Meeting for Middle Level and Secondary Principals - virtual learning
- 29 - Statewide Mentoring Meeting for Superintendents - virtual learning
- 30 - Statewide Mentoring Meeting for Assistant and Associate Principals and Deans - virtual learning

October

- 1 - Leading for Equity Short Stack, session 1 of 3-part series—Oct. 1 & 22, Dec. 1 - virtual learning
- 8 - Fall Legal Lab - virtual learning
- 27 - Teacher Evaluation and Assistance within a Supportive, Civil, and Professional Culture - virtual learning
- 29 - Fall District Meeting - virtual learning