



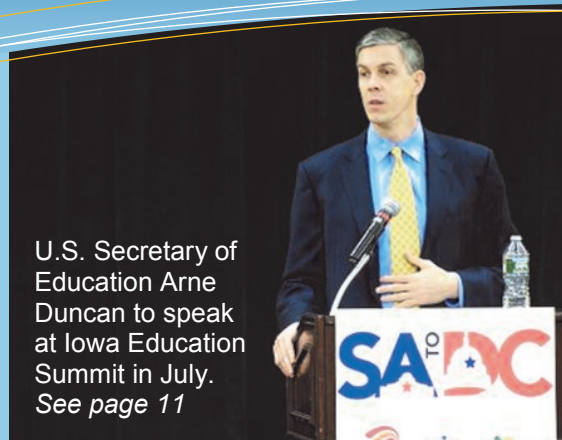
A MONTHLY JOURNAL  
FOR IOWA EDUCATORS

# School Leader Update

March 2011

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U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to speak at Iowa Education Summit in July.  
*See page 11*

## IOWA'S GRADUATION RATE INCREASES

The graduation rate for Iowa's Class of 2010 increased over the previous year, according to figures released today by the Iowa Department of Education.

In fact, all but one student subgroup saw an increase in its graduation rate, with significant increases among both English-Language Learner and Hispanic students.

"We have very strong foundation here in Iowa from which to improve and innovate our schools, and to make sure every student has access to the best possible education," said Jason Glass, director of the Iowa Department of Education.

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## THE DEPARTMENT'S CREED FOR IOWA

Over the past several weeks, I've had the opportunity to meet many amazing people across Iowa who care deeply and passionately about the education of our children. That includes the staff here at the Iowa Department of Education, who work each and every day to support the teachers, schools, districts, AEAs, community colleges and everyone who helps provide a great education to students across the state.

As the new director of the Department of Education, I know this department has the ability to lead a transformative effort in education and in government. To bring focus to such an effort, I'd like to share with you my proposal for this department's creed based on the values of Leadership, Innovation, and Service.



*Jason Glass, Director*

Creating a culture built on such a creed helps to enable us to face the challenges and opportunities in education, both today and in the future, and provides a moral imperative for this organization.

Budgets, rules, leaders, and issues will come and go – but shifting an entire organization to be centered on these three values will be an enduring change that involves and transcends us all.

I'm pleased to share our creed with you, as together we not only work but also lead, innovate and serve in the interest of helping preparing our children for their future.

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## Iowa State Offers Summer Financial Literacy Workshop

A 3-day summer workshop on Family Economics and Financial Education will be held July 13-15, 2011, at the Scheman Building at Iowa State University (ISU). The workshop is centered around the semester-long middle/high school Family Economics and Financial Education (FEFE) curriculum that is supported by the Norton School of Family & Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona. The workshop was presented last year to a capacity registration of 75 teachers and had an overwhelmingly positive response. The registration limit again this year is 75.

Generous sponsorship by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission and the Iowa Insurance Division has allowed the full registration fee of \$645 to be reduced to \$125 for school counselors or educators who are licensed and teaching in Iowa. The fee includes four curriculum binders. Counselors or educators who include career planning in their curricula will receive first preference. Others interested in attending will be placed on a waiting list and if space is available, may register at the full workshop fee.

In addition to many hands-on activities, the workshop will feature three keynote presentations by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission staff, Craig Goettsch, Director of Investor Education and Securities Counsel, IID and Dr. Jeanne Hogarth, Manager of the Consumer Education and Research Division, Federal Reserve Board (and the 2009-10 ISU Helen LeBaron Hilton Endowed Chair).

This is a non-credit offering, but arrangements can be made for teacher licensure renewal credits and/or grad or undergrad HDFS credit for those who want those credits. The ISU Extension registration website is at <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/feife/home.html>.

The College of Human Sciences and Extension to Families are pleased to provide this professional development opportunity to Iowa educators. Please spread the word to Iowa teachers and counselors who are responsible for teaching financial literacy skills to middle school and high school students.



## Iowa Teacher of the Year Nominations

The Iowa Teacher of the Year Award was established in 1958 and is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education through an appropriation from the Iowa General Assembly. The award provides an opportunity to recognize an Iowa teacher who motivates, challenges, and inspires excellence; who is respected by students and peers; who is a dedicated professional that helps nurture hidden talents and abilities; who is a creative, caring individual; who takes teaching beyond textbooks and blackboards; and who is an exceptional teacher helping to redefine American education.

The nomination form is available [here](#). April 1, 2011, is the deadline to nominate outstanding teachers for the Iowa Teacher of the Year Award. For additional information, Contact Deborah Humpal at 515-822-3472 or [deborah.humpal@iowa.gov](mailto:deborah.humpal@iowa.gov).



## “Best of the Best” Transportation Competition

The Iowa Department of Education, in association with the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association and the school bus dealers in Iowa, will again be sponsoring the “Best of the Best” competition on April 16, 2011. This is a program to help recognize school bus technicians/mechanics for the important role they play in school transportation.

The competition will include both a written knowledge exam plus a hands on competition to determine the “Best of the Best” in Iowa. The winner of this competition will proceed on to the national competition to be held later in the year. The national winner will receive an award at the national transportation conference next fall.

For information on how to get your school bus technicians/mechanics entered in this event, contact Max Christensen at 515-281-4749 or [max.christensen@iowa.gov](mailto:max.christensen@iowa.gov) or click [here](#) for a registration form.

# Iowa: A Leader in Supporting Education for Military Children

Iowa was the fourteenth state to sign on to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses perceived inequities facing schoolchildren of military parents when they are required to relocate across state lines. Specifically, it allows the laws of the “sending” state to apply to transferring students from military families in the schools of the “receiving” state for such policies as graduation requirements, Advanced Placements (AP), and age of student enrollment.

The Interstate Compact applies to the children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty pursuant to 10 U.S.C §1209 and 1211;
- Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement;
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty for a period of one year after death.

The Interstate Compact addresses such issues as the eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation requirements. For example, if the “sending” state has a lower graduation requirement than the “receiving” state (e.g. course requirements), then, depending on the terms of the Interstate Compact, the requirements of the “sending” state would apply to a transferring high school student. The provisions would most likely have a more significant impact on public schools near military bases that have students transferring from other states. However, all school children of military families would be covered, regardless of their proximity to military installations.



## The Creation of Iowa’s Interstate Compact Commission

The compact establishes an independent compact operating authority, the Iowa Interstate Commission, which is authorized to address future interstate problems and issues as they arise. The Interstate Commission is authorized to create and enforce rules governing the compact’s operation and promote training and compliance with the compact’s requirements. The Interstate Compact Commission provides a formal venue for solving interstate issues and disputes.

The Iowa Commission is comprised of Mr. Tom Beasley and Mr. Del Hoover, Iowa Department of Education; Ms. Suzanne Orr, mother of military dependents; Mr. Patrick Coen, Superintendent Winfield- Mount Union School District, and one member of the Iowa legislature.

The Iowa Commission will look to develop rules to address a process for resolving disputes and controversies that include both mediation and arbitration, and identify a broad range of authorities and flexibilities extended to local school districts regarding enrollment eligibility, course placement, educational program placement, placement flexibility, absence related to deploying activities, and eligibility for enrollment. The goal is for the rules to grant authority and broad flexibility to local school districts regarding tuition waivers when non-custodial parents live in a different district than the parents, graduation requirements, course placement, educational placement, and extended absences related to deploying activities.

## Implications for Other State Laws

There may be implications for other state laws including immunization, privacy laws specific to health records, enrollment ages, state powers of attorney, state finance formulas, graduations requirements, and state exit examinations. Iowa’s Compact Commission will meet regularly to consider any implications other state laws and report our findings to the Iowa Department of Education Director.

*Continued on page 4*

### **The Military Child Development Program**

Although each branch of the military has its own program, all are based on the same DoD instructions, which set out the requirements and standards for care of infants, toddlers, and preschool and school-age children. The instructions outline in great detail the expectations for areas such as health and safety; curriculum for each age group; interactions among staff, children, and families; staff qualifications and training; and background-check procedures.

### **School-age programs**

Programs for children ages 6 to 12 are designed to "complement rather than duplicate" school. They are usually open before and after school, on holidays, and for summer day camp. They may use space in CDCs, but more often are in youth centers or schools. The military has formed partnerships with organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) and 4-H clubs, expanding the possibilities for activities and programs.

School-age programs try to create a familiar, safe place for children to be when they aren't in school. They may reinforce values that children learn at school - teamwork, responsibility, self-confidence -- but usually through recreation, or as one set of guidelines says, by reinforcing "lifelong leisure skills" in a "warm and home-like atmosphere." Children have many of the same choices they have at home, but with trained supervision and a planned curriculum and in a setting with other children. They may have a snack, work on their homework in a quiet area, do arts and crafts, or work on their free throws. They may also be able to learn particular skills by participating in classes offered by the youth program, such as gymnastics or computer skills.

### **Youth Programs**

Youth programs are open to children ages 6 to 18. Children under 12 might participate in a chess club or a dance program a few times a week in addition to their regular after-school care arrangement. Programs for youths ages 12 to 18 offer less structure than school-age programs, more choices, and more open recreation. They allow teenagers to come and go once they have permission to be home alone. Youth programs offer places to go after school, evenings, weekends, holidays, and during summer vacation.

The military has a wide range of youth programs. Sometimes an on-installation youth center organizes the team sports for the entire community. At another installation, the youth center may attract younger teens, while older teens play on their high school's teams. DoD is in the process of developing more consistent models and policies for youth programs to follow. Installations are increasing their partnerships with organizations like 4-H, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and the YMCA of Greater Iowa. The goal is to offer opportunities for physical fitness, leadership and career training, volunteerism, arts and recreation, as well as mentoring and support.

### **Military School Liaisons**

Mr. Jeremy VanWyk is the Iowa National Guard's School Liaison Officer for Iowa's military youth population in Iowa K-12 schools. Mr. VanWyk also serves the Iowa National Guard as the State Youth and Teen Coordinator. If you have a military child in your classroom in need of assistance, please contact Mr. VanWyk who in turn can marshal an array of services, benefits and assistance. Mr. Jason Follett is the Army Reserves School Liaison Officer and is also available to assist any military child in a K-12 school. Like Mr. VanWyk, Mr. Follett can also marshal assets on behalf of a military child in need.

While Jeremy technically serves Iowa's Army and Air National Guard youth, and Jason serves the USAR, both men regularly meet with the other service Youth Coordinators and can refer families to these people if necessary. Additional information may be found at The Military Teens on the Move website at [www.dod.mil/mtom](http://www.dod.mil/mtom).

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### **Military One Source**

Whether it's help with child care, personal finances, tax preparation and filing, emotional support during deployments, relocation information, or resources needed for special circumstances, Military OneSource is available at no cost... 24/7/365! The Military OneSource interactive Web site includes locators for education, child and elder care, online articles, access to free educational books and CDs, referrals to military and community resources, financial calculators, live online workshops called Webinars, an option to "Email a consultant" and much more.

Military OneSource is provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status) and their families. It is a virtual extension of installation services. Military One Source can provide *Resource and referral services* guides to parents of military children. Iowa's Military One Source Consultant for Iowa is Ms. Imogene Wilkerson. She has an office at Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa.

### **Iowa's Military and Family Life Consultants**

Iowa participates in the Military and Family Life Consultant Program. The program provides workshops and non-medical, short-term counseling services to help military members and their families cope with stressful situations created by deployments and reintegration. The program is conducted by licensed clinicians with master degrees or higher. Communication with the consultants will be anonymous except when state, federal and military reporting requirements dictate otherwise for protection of personnel. Additionally, consultants will have cell phones making them accessible to military members or their family members for individual support. For Central and Western Iowa Mr. David Brown, PhD is the Military and Family Life Coordinator. For Eastern and Central Iowa Ms. Tanja Duffy is the Military and Family Life Coordinator. Iowa Educators may contact the Military and Family Life Consultants directly, or may email the Iowa Department of Education's School Military Liaison Officer, Thomas Beasley, at [thomas.beasley@iowa.gov](mailto:thomas.beasley@iowa.gov).

### **THE DEPARTMENT'S CREED FOR IOWA ... continued from page 1**

#### **Leadership**

Leadership is the confrontation of important problems in creative ways. Real leadership is not a title and it is not conveyed via formal authority. Rather, it comes from those willing to seize the moments to make things better that pass most of us by every day. Our leaders are throughout this organization and push at the edges of their formal authority, stepping out to confront what needs to be done and enlisting others to join in the effort.

#### **Innovation**

Innovation happens when people take reasonable risks toward a greater goal and are willing to fail. But just trying and failing does not lead to innovation. We must be dedicated enough to learn, adapt, and try again until we succeed. Fear is the innovation killer. Fear paralyzes our creativity and our ability to function at our best. We must have the courage to risk in spite of our fears. In the long run, failing to grow and adapt is the most significant and persistent threat we face.

#### **Service**

This department's highest value is service to others. We hold ourselves accountable to treating all those with whom we interact with dignity, respect, and love. Our paradigm is to build capacity and work with people to help them accomplish more than they could alone. Our role is not to oversee, but rather to be in service of. Real service is neither authoritarian nor enabling - it is empowering.

## Data & Reporting

### Iowa Alternate Assessment

All Rating Scale items for each student participating in the Iowa Alternate Assessment must be entered into the online system by March 31, 2011. Building administrators or designees will receive an automated email notification with an access code to complete the assurance process, after all rating scale items are received for each student in their building.

All assurance forms should be submitted online by the building administrator or designee by April 8, 2011. Iowa Alternate Assessment process webinars, documents, and timelines are available for viewing on the Iowa Department of Education IAA webpage [here](#).

If questions arise or assistance is needed to complete the Iowa Alternate Assessment 1% Process, please contact Emily Thatcher at 515-281-3500 or [emily.thatcher@iowa.gov](mailto:emily.thatcher@iowa.gov)

## Student Health and Nutrition

### Medicaid Billable Claims

The recent Date Span guidance reported in the February School Leader Update resulted in questions about medication administration. Schools reported that some days would not require the full 15 minutes to allow billing a single unit of service and asked what elements or actions in the administration are considered billable.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) reminds schools that a single 15 minute unit is billable if at least 8 of the 15 minutes occur in the activity. A Registered Nurse Reviewer from Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) Program Integrity referred to the Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health and the five rights of oral medication administration: (1) Right patient; (2) Right time and frequency of administration; (3) Right dose; (4) Right route of administration; and (5) Right drug.

IME also recommended that for local education agencies, the following activities are in conjunction with those five rights: (1) Unlocking the cabinet; (2) Finding the cup and water; (3) Getting the medication out; (4) Administering the medication; (5) Replacing the medication; (6) Locking the cabinet; and (7) Observing for any reaction.

The DE School Nurse and School Health Services consultant reminds schools of the importance of greeting to determine how the student is feeling and of documentation after administration. DE guidance Medication Management in Iowa Schools can be found online [here](#).

Please remember that invoices for the state share of January and February claims payments will not be available until March. The goal of the DE Bureau of Student and Family Support Services to eliminate achievement gaps for students with disabilities by 2020 is assisted by Medicaid reimbursement for Individualized Education Plan (IEP) services. For more information, contact Jim Donoghue, Medicaid consultant at 515-281-8505 or [jim.donoghue@iowa.gov](mailto:jim.donoghue@iowa.gov).

### Authentic Intellectual Work Intent to Apply Deadline is Near

The Iowa Department of Education, in conjunction with the Area Education Agencies, is working to develop a statewide plan to support schools that join the Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW) initiative in 2011-2012. At this time, we do not know if we will be able to add districts for the 2011-2012 school year.

However, to assist in planning purposes, should AIW funding become available, interested schools must complete the "AIW Intent to Apply" form by March 9, 2011. The form is available by clicking [here](#).

Contact Deborah Humpal at 515-822-3472 or [deborah.humpal@iowa.gov](mailto:deborah.humpal@iowa.gov) with any questions.

## Student Health and Nutrition continued

### School Dental Screening Audit

Elementary and high school nurses are currently participating in the [required](#) school dental screening audits. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) appreciates your cooperation and asks that you please note the following changes from last year:

- The only grades that need to be audited are Kindergarten and 9th grade. (Out-of-state transfer students in grades 1-6 and 10-12 are no longer included in the requirement.)
- There is a revised record review (audit) form that includes Kindergarten and 9<sup>th</sup> grade only.
- Out-of-state providers are allowed; however, the IDPH Certificate of Dental Screening is still the only accepted form.
- A recorder (i.e. any authorized screening provider, such as DDS, RDH, MD/DO, PA, RN/ARNP) can complete the IDPH Certificate of Dental Screening using information from another health document.
  - The other health document must include all the information required for the Certificate form.
  - The previous yellow IDPH dental cards would not be appropriate for transferring because they do not contain the necessary information.
  - A physical/sports physical form for a 9<sup>th</sup> grader would not be appropriate for transferring because a physician or nurse/nurse practitioner is not an acceptable dental screening provider for high school.
- The deadline for a screening to be completed is 4 months after the start of the school year (e.g. December 2010); however, IDPH is allowed to make exceptions to that timeline and has determined that any screening forms that are on file at the school at the time of the audit can be included.
- The audits are now due May 31 (previous deadline was June 30).

#### *Reminders:*

- The local I-Smile™ Coordinators play a key role in coordinating the audit process. If you have not been in contact with your coordinator or have questions about the school screening requirement or audit process, please contact your coordinator. Contact information is available on the interactive map at the IDPH website: [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/oral\\_health\\_ismile.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/oral_health_ismile.asp)
- A checklist is available to use as a tool to help assure accurate completion of the audit form.

For more information contact Sara Schlievert, BS, CPH, Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems, at 515-281-7630 or [sschliev@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:sschliev@idph.state.ia.us), or I-Smile™ [www.ismiledentalhome.org](http://www.ismiledentalhome.org).

## Early Childhood Preschool Programs

### Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Update

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) understands that in the current legislative session, districts are uncertain of the future of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP). Districts are encouraged to monitor the legislative process by linking to the Iowa Legislature website at <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/> or the DE Legislative Information page [here](#). In the meantime, the DE will continue to support implementation of SWVPP and complete scheduled verification visits to assure programs are meeting quality standards.

For more information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children, please contact Judy Russell (515-281-4705 or [Judy.Russell@iowa.gov](mailto:Judy.Russell@iowa.gov)) or Penny Milburn (515-281-7844 or [Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov](mailto:Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov)).

## ***IOWA'S GRADUATION RATE INCREASES ... continued from page 1***

Added Glass: "But while the graduation rate is moving in the right direction, we need to continue the hard work to maintain this momentum so that all students succeed in school and are prepared for their next step in life."

The four-year completion rate for the Class of 2010 is 88.8%, an increase of 1.5% over the 87.3% graduation rate for the Class of 2009. In fact, most student subgroups saw an increase with the largest gains among English-Language Learners as well as Hispanic students. African-American students had a very slight decrease of 0.1%.

In addition, the Iowa Department of Education released figures on the five-year completion rate for students who were part of the Class of 2009 but took an additional year to complete their high school diploma:

"At the end of the day, what matters is that more and more students successfully complete their high school education, even if it means some students take longer than others," added Glass. "With more than 90% of our high school students getting their diploma in five years or less, we are in a position to move forward and accomplish great things on behalf of our students."

Iowa Department of Education officials point to several factors that contribute to the state's strong graduation rate, including:

- English-Language Learner Programs: Initiatives that do everything from involving parents to assuring competency of educators
- Modified Allowable Growth: Funding mechanism to assist districts in providing targeted services and programs for returning and potential dropouts
- Iowa Rapidly Improving Schools: Program to provide specific focus on improving academic and social achievement of struggling learners.
- Learning Supports: A framework that covers a range of strategies, programs and services to remove barriers for students facing challenges in school.
- Credit Recovery Programs: A flexible system that helps students finish their high school coursework by learning content from courses they had previously failed or not completed.

This is the second year the Iowa Department of Education is using a cohort graduation rate formula. A cohort formula requires a state to assign each student a unique state identification number, a sign of a state's success in its ability to collect educational information. In Iowa, school districts have used student identification numbers since 2004, which allows school districts to keep careful accounting of each ninth grader as they progress through high school. This also helps determine when a student graduates, even if they moved to a different school district in the state during their high school career. Iowa's class of 2009 was the first group of students to have had an assigned statewide ID number for five years.



*Jay Pennington of the Iowa Department of Education describes the graduation rate formula to the media as Director Glass looks on.*





## Legal Lessons

The contact for all Legal Lessons items is Carol Greta ([carol.greta@iowa.gov](mailto:carol.greta@iowa.gov) or 515-281-8661).

# Lunch, Cell Phones, Athletic Eligibility

### **What Staff Get to Know Who Gets a Free/Reduced Price Lunch?**

The Family Policy Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education – that’s the office that regulates the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) – has issued a ruling that it is not a violation of FERPA for a building principal to share names of students who receive free or reduced price (F/R) meals to school staff for the purpose of helping those students improve their academic achievement.

There is an exception in FERPA for sharing information without consent of the parent with “other school officials” who have “legitimate educational interests, including the educational interests of the child.” Helping students improve classroom performance is just one “legitimate educational interests” that can be relied on by a school administrator to share SES information with staff. The Family Policy Compliance Office also stated that “other school officials” includes not just administrators and teachers, but also board members, clerical staff, nurse and health staff, counselors, transportation staff, food service staff, etc.

The bus driver has no legitimate educational interest in the F/R status of a child, but *does* need to know the special needs of the students riding in the bus driver’s care. The substitute teacher needs to know the peculiar proclivities of the students in his/her care. This is not a blank check; for instance, a first grade teacher has no legitimate educational need to know information about students in upper elementary grades, assuming the teacher will have no contact with those students.

If the educational interests of a student will benefit by having information about that student with staff, do so.

### **Student Cell Phones – Confiscation/Searches**

There seems to be a lot of misinformation in the field about how and when schools may confiscate and search student cell phones. School officials certainly may confiscate and even search cell phones, but the extent to which that is true depends on the language in the school’s policies about student behavior.

A good policy informs students what is and what is not acceptable, and states possible consequences. Included as unacceptable uses could be the following:

- Use of cell phone during class for any reason
- Taking pictures in locker room
- Taking any picture of another person for the purpose of ridiculing the other person (falling asleep, chewing food with mouth open...it doesn’t have to involve nudity)
- Use of cell phone or any device to cheat
- Use of cell phone or any device to harass another person

The consequences of unacceptable use could include notice of the following:

- Device shall be confiscated
- Duration
- May be turned over to law enforcement
- Subject to search
- Other discipline (suspension from class/from activities)
- Parents shall be informed

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## Legal Lessons *continued*

A policy that merely prohibits “possession” of a cell phone at school only provides school officials with authority to seize the phone, not to search it. If a school’s policy lists unacceptable behavior and there is an allegation that a student has engaged in such misbehavior, a school official may search the phone.

Two final points:

1. Always involve local law enforcement upfront (i.e., before searching through the phone), especially if the allegation involves pornography. This will prevent accidental destruction of evidence and will protect the school official from allegations that the school official “possessed” the pornography.
2. Keep a drawer of batteries to thwart students who take the battery out before handing over the offending device.

### **Athletic Eligibility – Reorganizations, Whole Grade Sharing, Dissolutions**

Because we are having (for Iowa) a bumper crop of new reorganizations and whole grade sharing agreements, school administrators are facing a bumper crop of questions from high school students and their families. Inevitably, the question of athletic eligibility is one of the first questions asked.

Officials from the Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Girls’ High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU), and Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) have put together a document that answers every scenario we could think of. If a question is not covered by the document, please let Carol Greta know. The document is available on the IGHSAU website at <http://www.ighsau.org/general/eligibilitydrwgrade.pdf>; on the IHSAA website at [http://www.iahxaa.org/resource\\_center/Eligibility\\_Forms\\_Information/Athletic%20Eligibility\\_Dissolutions\\_Reorganizations\\_Whole%20Grade.pdf](http://www.iahxaa.org/resource_center/Eligibility_Forms_Information/Athletic%20Eligibility_Dissolutions_Reorganizations_Whole%20Grade.pdf), and on the DE’s website [here](#).

### **Making Up Snow Days**

Schools that need to make up snow days that occurred during the 2010-11 school year may NOT do so by adding instructional time to remaining school days.

It is not standard guidance, to be used every year, from this agency to allow schools to add instructional time to remaining school days, absent extraordinary circumstances.

Snow days are to be made up as whole days.

### **New Teacher/Principal Evaluation**

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) requirements, all states must collect and report aggregate information about teacher and principal evaluation systems used by districts. Iowa is going to meet this new requirement by adding this collection to Spring Basic Educational Data Survey (BEDS). For more information about this requirement you can visit the Iowa Department of Education (DE) webpage [here](#).

It is important to note that the DE will not collect individual evaluation information. The DE is required to collect and report aggregate information. The DE will send out more specific information about this collection to Superintendents, and BEDS contacts in each district in the near future. This collection will be part of the BEDS training to be held this Spring.

## SECRETARY DUNCAN TO ATTEND IOWA EDUCATION SUMMIT

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan will be the keynote speaker at Governor Terry Branstad's Iowa Education Summit to be held Monday, July 25, and Tuesday, July 26, 2011 in Des Moines.

The goal of the summit is to build a consensus for how Iowa can once again become a top-performing state in education and assure Iowa's young people are globally competitive.

More details will be made available in coming weeks.

## Calendar

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 1  | • Last day to file a timely application for open enrollment for grades 1-12 for the 2011-2012 school year         |
| March 1  | • AEA Budget— last date for public hearing  |
| March 7  | • Special Education balances finalized  |
| March 9  | • AIW Intent to Apply deadline  |
| March 30 | • Open Enrollment Deadline for receiving district to act on timely Filed open enrollment application 281-17.0(2). |
| March 31 | • State Board of Education meeting<br>• Annual Audit submission / extension request                               |
| April 1  | • Teacher of the Year nomination deadline   |
| April 9  | • SBRC Hearing Requests due   |

[Click here for a complete Iowa Department of Education Calendar](#)

*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](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)*



[www.iowa.gov/educate](http://www.iowa.gov/educate)

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