



2015

Iowa Area Education Agencies Legislative Priorities



Early Literacy/Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Supports a state commitment of \$8 million for the AEA system to reach the goal of every Iowa child reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade, through implementation of early warning systems, formative assessments, provision of instructional coaches, technical supports, and professional learning programs. The statewide effort to implement the MTSS system, also known as RTI, through the collaborative efforts of Collaborating for Iowa Kids (C4K) supports the early literacy efforts. The only way that this literacy goal will be achieved is through the cooperation of the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa's Area Education Agencies and our local schools.

Restore Funding for Children with Special Needs

Fully funding AEA allocations as established by the school foundation formula honors the state's commitment to the most vulnerable of Iowa's children.

\$70 million of state funding has been reduced from the AEA system over the past 4 years.

These reductions have negatively impacted children that require special education.



For more information, contact AEA Executive Director Brent Siegrist at bsiegrist@gwaea.org

Teacher Leadership and Compensation Training

Supports a state commitment of \$2 million to provide training and technical support for implementation of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system by providing resources for grantees and future grantees for training and support of teacher leaders and administrators throughout the state.

School-based Mental Health Services

Supports a state commitment of \$2.5 million to provide pilot projects in each AEA for school based mental health services. The AEA school-based mental health services will be provided at the school site. Partnerships with local mental health providers will be established and referrals will be made for students that need more intense mental health counseling.

Personalized Learning

Supports a state commitment of \$2 million to continue the development and delivery of a robust system of personalized learning for all Iowa students.

As the business world continues to move toward personalized delivery of services, education must also evolve to deliver the content and rigor that each individual student needs.

It is important that Iowa's AEAs continue to play a vital role in supporting and expanding efforts to develop the following items of impact for Iowa students:

- 1 — A statewide framework for competency-based education (CBE). The work of the 10-district collaborative is moving into its second year of work to design a system of teaching and learning. Support for this work will allow the state to build on the previous investment, as opposed to watching successful implementations have no further impact.
- 2 — High levels of learning in every classroom by actualizing rigorous and well-implemented standards.
- 3 — High levels of student engagement through development of innovative personalized learning environments.
- 4 — Deeper connections to the real world by integrating and expanding STEM opportunities.

By increasing the college, career, and life success of students, each of these four items will positively impact not only student achievement, but will affect the state's economy.

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