

# School of Education

Today is March 6, 2015

## Dates

March 9 J-term fair, from 3:30 to 6:30 in Parent's Hall in Olmsted.

March 16-20 Spring Break. Drake offices will be open.

Monday March, 23, 8 am. Midterm grades due.

They must be submitted for first year students and are highly encouraged to be submitted for all students. Associate Dean Catherine Gillespie will meet with anyone who gets a D or an F on their midterm grade report, so make sure to grade those folks at least (faculty can grade certain students and not others if pressed for time).

## Updates

Des Moines Public Schools has just started a weekly (Friday!) newsletter entitled TheWeek@DMPS...great idea..wonder who thought of that first...? To subscribe: <http://www.dmschools.org/community/the-week-at-dmps/>

## Spotlight

Poverty, Achievement Gap, & Education as they relate to students of color:

<https://storify.com/Citizenstewart/the-big-white-lie-in-education-crashes-on-a-saturd>

## Media - 8

### 1. Educators step lightly around political points as state considers new science standard

Department of Education gathers input on 26-state 'Next Generation' benchmarks

<http://thegazette.com/subject/news/educators-step-lightly-around-political-points-as-state-considers-new-science-standard-20150302>

### 2. New America comments of proposed changes in Teacher Ed

(Newsletter Editor Note: Drake has filed in opposition)

<http://www.edcentral.org/teacherprep/>

### 3. 3.3.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette Pilot program stresses mental health for students \$2.5 million bill passes Senate subcommittee

By Andrew Phillips, The Gazette

A \$2.5 million proposal for a pilot program that would offer mental health screenings in Iowa schools passed a state Senate subcommittee Monday.

The program was proposed by the state's Area Education Agencies, which provide schools with special education, professional development and technology services, among other things. The AEAs would run the program to give students mental health screenings, provide some basic counseling and refer more serious cases to community mental health providers.

### 4. House, Senate continue education funding negotiation, still far apart on the numbers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

March 03, 2015 - 12:08 pm EST [A](#)

DES MOINES, Iowa — Lawmakers from the Democratic-majority Senate and Republican-controlled House remain at odds over education funding.

A joint committee met Tuesday to try to hammer out a deal for a funding level for K-12 education for the upcoming academic year.

## Gov. Branstad announces department director, boards and commissions appointments

(DES MOINES) – Gov. Terry E. Branstad today announced appointments to fill Iowa's boards and commissions, and executive branch department directors. The following appointees' term begins on May 1, 2015, unless otherwise noted, and are subject to Senate confirmation. (Information severely truncated for your reading pleasure - Go Dr. Leuwerke!)

### Board of Behavioral Science

Ms. Amy Crow Sunleaf, Dubuque  
Ms. Sarah McElhaney, Ankeny  
Mr. Wade Leuwerke, Indianola

But the committee did not immediately reach a resolution. House Republicans have advanced a plan that would provide about \$100 million in additional funding, while Senate Democrats want to give schools over \$200 million in additional funding. Republican House Speaker Kraig Paulsen, of Hiawatha, says he'll consider more funding if Democrats would agree to modify arbitration rules for teachers. This committee cannot directly negotiate on that, but a bill proposing some changes received approval from a House subcommittee Tuesday. Democrats are unlikely to consider any change to union rules.

### 5. House committee passes anti-bullying bill

Brianne Pfannenstiel, [bpfannenst@dmreg.com](mailto:bpfannenst@dmreg.com) 10:30 p.m. CST March 2, 2015

A House committee approved anti-bullying legislation Monday, moving it one step closer to final passage following Senate committee approval last week.

The House version of the bill was approved 19-4 and would include \$150,000 for training programs and \$50,000 to fund a student mentorship pilot program.

The Senate version does not include that funding in the bill itself. It would have to move separately through the Appropriations Committee, which creates some risk that the bill would pass but the money would not.

Rep. Quentin Stanerson, R-Center Point, said he thought the funding was an important piece of the bill.

"We didn't want it to be seen as an unfunded mandate," he said. However, Tedd Gassman, R-Scarville, said the added funding strikes him as "completely out of the question." He voted against the bill.

Stanerson said everything else about the two versions of the bill will line up, but the House and Senate will need to come to an agreement about funding when the issue comes up for floor debate.

The legislation, which has been a priority for Gov. Terry Branstad, would make it easier for school officials to address incidents of bullying that happen off school grounds or over the Internet.

According to a recent Iowa Poll, 73 percent of Iowans say they support anti-bullying legislation and 23 percent say they are opposed to it.

### 6. FACT CHECK: Iowa Democrats mislead with statements on school funding

Jason Noble<<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/staff/8887/jason-noble/>>, [jnoble2@dmreg.com](mailto:jnoble2@dmreg.com) 12:05 p.m. CST March 1, 2015

Democrats in the Iowa Legislature say a Republican plan to increase state aid for K-12 schools by 1.25 percent is insufficient because Iowa already underfunds schools on a per-student basis. They say the state will drop from 35th in per-pupil spending to 40th under the Republican plan.

We rate these statements MISLEADING.

The Democratic assertions are based on data from one partisan source and flimsy projections from another. Data from the U.S. Census and the nonpartisan Annie E. Casey Foundation, meanwhile, show different — and more positive — assessments of

Iowa's education funding relative to other states.

#### CONTEXT

Education funding is a perennial fight in the Legislature. Democrats generally want more state spending on K-12 schools, while Republicans typically favor fiscal restraint and question the connection between additional funding and better educational outcomes.

So far, the Democratic Senate has advanced a 4 percent increase in state aid, while the Republican House has approved the 1.25 percent bump. Late this week, the two sides agreed to establish a conference committee, where they'll attempt to broker a compromise.

On several occasions, Democrats have said

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/iowa-school-aid-education/22808201/> that Iowa currently ranks 35th in the nation in per-pupil spending, and that Iowa schools receive \$1,600 less per

student <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/04/iowa-school-aid-spending/22853125/> than schools nationwide. The state has been dropping relative to other states, they say, and if the Republican proposal for a 1.25 percent increase becomes law, Iowa will drop to 40th nationally.

House Minority Leader Mark Smith, D-Marshaltown, made such assertions in his Jan. 26 newsletter to

constituents <http://interspire.iowahdc.info/display.php?M=181788&C=379e2a0e6e0547c2095d472a3ca2d9e2&S=8445&L=94&N=5595>:

"It's also important to remember Iowa per pupil funding has dropped steadily over the last decade and we are down to 35th in the nation at \$1,612 below the national average. If the Republican plan becomes law, we will drop down to 40th."

Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs, has used the same talking point repeatedly, including in a Jan. 22 news conference.

#### ANALYSIS

The spending disparity and ranking cited by the lawmakers come from data compiled by the National Education Association, which is the leading teachers union and a major supporter of the Democratic Party.

According to NEA data from the 2013-14 school year <http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/NEA-Rankings-and-Estimates-2013-2014.pdf>, expenditures on Iowa public schools totaled \$9,761 per enrolled student, while the national figure (50 states and Washington, D.C.) was \$11,373 — a difference of \$1,612. That \$9,761 figure placed Iowa 35th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

So, those numbers check out, albeit with big caveats: They come from a partisan source, and they're more pessimistic than figures from other, less partisan sources.

In the same report, the NEA calculates per-pupil spending a different way — based on average daily attendance rather than student enrollment — and ranks Iowa 29th nationally, with a disparity of just \$504 for the 2013-14 school year.

What's more, at least two other organizations — the U.S. Census Bureau and the Annie E. Casey Foundation — also track per-pupil spending, and Iowa ranks higher in their calculations.

According to 2012 census

data<<http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/12f33pub.pdf>>, Iowa ranks 27th in per-pupil spending at \$10,038, \$570 below the \$10,608 per-student spending nationally reported by the census. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, meanwhile, ranks Iowa even higher. As of 2012, the foundation's Kids Count initiative ranked Iowa 24th in per-pupil spending<<http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data/Tables/5199-per-pupil-educational-expenditures-adjusted-for-regional-cost-differences?loc=1&loct=2#ranking/2/any/true/868/any/11678>>, at \$11,929. That's \$194 per student above per-pupil spending across all 50 states and D.C., although the numbers are adjusted to account for regional cost differences.

#### **7. Branstad appoints three new members to Board of Regents**

Three current members of the Iowa Board of Regents were not on the list of gubernatorial appointees released Monday by Gov. Terry Branstad's office.

The governor, instead, named three other individuals to serve on the nine-member board that oversees the state's three public universities:

- Mary Andringa of Mitchellville.
- Patricia Cownie of Des Moines.
- Rachael Johnson of Sioux City.

The terms for current regents Bob Downer of Iowa City, Ruth Harkin of Cumming and Hannah Walsh of Spirit Lake expire April 30.

#### **8. Merville School Superintendent Says Iowa Lawmaker's Education Funding Plans Aren't Enough**

By Deborah Souverain

Video: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/playlist//5644626>

**Drake University School of Education** 3206 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311  
T 515-271-3726 W [www.drake.edu/soe](http://www.drake.edu/soe)



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