

School of Education

Today is June 12, 2015

From the Dean

Yesterday I returned with professors Buckmiller and Grundmeyer from our first “June term” international field experience for graduate students. Prospective school administrators traveled to Toronto to work with teachers, administrators and officials from the Ministry of Education. They had a chance to observe teaching and learning in the world’s most international city schools where Inquiry Learning, fine arts and ESL methods were factors in dramatic increases in basic skills test scores. Look for a video journal later this summer!
Today I will be joining members of the Drake Board of Trustees at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Along with

Media - 6

1. Celebrating 50 Years of Head

Start <http://www.kcci.com/news/celebrating-the-50th-anniversary-of-head-start/33149066>

2. Faculty Focus: Are you a helicopter professor?

<http://ww1.facultyfocus.com/eletter/profile/1/299.html?ET=facultyfocus:e299:161320a:&st=email>

3. Senate Democrat leader open to special session to set second year of school aid June 11, 2015 By O. Kay Henderson

The top Democratic leader in the Iowa General Assembly says Democrats are willing to convene a special legislative session to vote on how much general state aid public schools will get for the 2016/2017 school year. “We’re quite open to that,” according to Senate Democratic Leader Mike Gronstal.

By law, that decision was to have been made in February, but legislators didn’t even make the final decision about how much money to send schools for the coming school year ’til last week, as the 2015 session concluded. Gronstal says Democrats are “quite open” to a special session — and they favor a 4 percent hike in per pupil spending for the following year.

“At this point, I’d say the governor can’t convince his colleagues in the House to even go along with his what we consider inadequate number of 2.45 percent,” Gronstal says. Republican Governor Terry Branstad made that recommendation in January and this past Monday Branstad would not rule out the idea of calling legislators back to Des Moines for a special session, to make the decision about school funding.

House Speaker Kraig Paulsen, the top Republican in the legislature, says House Republicans favor a slightly smaller, two percent increase. He’s less enthusiastic about the talk of a special session.

“I’m not sure the speculation is,” Paulsen says, with a laugh. “Let’s get through the next 30 days and figure out where we are.”

The governor, by law, has 30 days after the legislature adjourns for the year to sign or veto all the bills. Paulsen and Gronstal made their comments during taping of the “Iowa Press” program that airs Friday night on Iowa Public Television.

4. 6.9.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette

Schools still feel pinch of recession Report: Most states spending less per pupil than in 2008

By Renee Schoof,

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Only a few states that cut education funding during

Robyn Cooper, I will be hoping to seek final permission for the SOE to add two new strands to our doctoral program. Head Start leaders are working on the implementation of their new Day Care grant and preparations for a site change for one of their centers. Thanks for keeping up with phone and email during the summer. We are fortunate to have student inquiries throughout the year and I am noticing an uptick in calls, emails and visitors to the office.
Dr. Janet McMahon,
Dean

Reminder

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1. Open House Reception celebrating Mary Anderson's 10 years of service to Drake University on Tuesday June 16, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Dean's Conference Room, School of Education Building.
2. Please help to promote Drake's first ever Graduate Student Expo this Tuesday, June 16 in upper level Olmsted from 5 - 7. The Law School and Journalism Deans

the recession have increased it since the economic recovery, according to a report released Monday about how public schools are funded.

It also found that most states don't allocate extra education money to public schools with high concentrations of poverty.

'The nation as a whole, this report shows, is failing to provide the resources our students need,' said David Sciarra, executive director of the Education Law Center, an advocacy group for equal educational opportunity that produced the report. It covers the nation's 49 million students in public elementary and secondary schools.

The report measured states on per-student funding; funding distribution, meaning whether a state provides more or less funding to schools in high-poverty areas; how much 'effort' states show, meaning how much they spend on education compared with their overall economic situation; and the proportion of children in public schools and the income disparity between those in public and private schools.

It found that only New Jersey and Massachusetts did relatively well on all four. Missouri, Alabama and Virginia were marked as poor performers on all four fairness measures.

Iowa was in the top half in the two categories that were ranked - funding levels and public-private income disparities. The state ranked 18th and 13th, respectively, in those categories.

In the other two categories, states were given a letter grade. Iowa received a D for funding distribution and a C for its 'effort' in education funding.

The report defines fairness in education funding as meeting all student needs and offering additional funding for high-poverty schools to provide smaller class sizes and extra staff to address the needs of low-income students.

The report also found that since teacher salaries and benefits make up the bulk of school budgets, a fair funding system was needed to provide an equitable distribution of high-quality teachers in all districts. Other key findings:

- Most states aren't spending as much on education as they did before 2008, during the recession. Only Illinois, Wyoming, Connecticut and West Virginia are spending more than they did in 2008.
- The poverty rate of students grew from 16 percent to 21 percent between 2007 and 2012. Poor students were more likely to be isolated in high-poverty school districts.
- There are wide disparities in school funding among states. New York, with the highest spending per student (\$18,507), spent \$12,000 more per year than Idaho, with the lowest per student funding (\$6,369).

- Only 15 states spend more for students in high-poverty schools.

The report looked at data through 2012, the latest numbers available from the Department of Education. About 90 percent of education funding is controlled by states.

5. 6.9.2015 = Cedar Rapids Gazette

Branstad frets over one-time funding: Governor says he won't rule out special session

By Rod Boshart,
Gazette Des Moines Bureau

pushed for the marketing and support for this event and we will have a display area with our written materials and faculty representatives.

Course evaluation s evaluation

We just finished our first semester of all-online course evaluations in the SOE and are evaluating the merits (and costs) of moving to online. If you have thoughts about this, please let catherine.gillespie@drake.edu know by June 26.

Adult Literacy carnival

Help the ALC earn \$1000. Celebrate the 4th at a Carnival. Volunteer to staff the Firestone Employee Carnival. Times needed: Friday, 7/3 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. for set-up; Sunday, 7/5 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. to staff

DES MOINES - Gov. Terry Branstad said Monday he's not ruling anything in or out - including a special session - as he begins his 30-day process of wading through policy and spending decisions made in the closing days of the legislative session that ended Friday. Branstad said he would review within the context of his five-year budget projections the proposed \$7.175 billion in general fund spending in fiscal 2016 and an additional \$135 million in one-time surpluses earmarked for specific uses.

But he told reporters he's no fan of \$55.7 million in one-time money being used to resolve a dispute over state aid to K-12 school districts. And he preferred his proposed funding for regent institutions that would have ensured tuition for in-state undergraduates be frozen for a full year - not a half year - at Iowa's three public universities.

'I want to look at the entire budget and what is sustainable over the long term,' Branstad said during his weekly news conference. 'We're going to reserve judgment until we see all these bills and we get to project out what their cost will be in future years.' Branstad said he was disappointed lawmakers did not set supplemental state aid for schools in fiscal 2017, as is required by law. He said he has reservations about next fiscal year for education, which includes the onetime money.

However, he declined to say whether that piece could fall victim to his item-veto pen.

'I don't like the idea of one-time money,' said Branstad, who had signed a similar hybrid school funding compromise at the close of the 2013 legislative session.

'The problem with onetime money is you really can't use it for salaries because it's not going to be there for the next year.' He offered the possibility of holding follow-up discussions seeking 'new ideas and better ideas' for funding schools in a bipartisan approach that would avoid 'this constant fight' over education spending.

'I'm always open to looking at different ways to accomplish things, but I want to make sure that what we do provides stability and predictability and is sustainable and supports the education of our children,' he said.

Asked if that discussion might lead to a special session, Branstad said: 'I'm not ruling anything out; I'm not ruling anything in.' Branstad did not include money in his two-year budget plan to operate state mental health institutes in Mount Pleasant and Clarinda beyond June 30. He declined to say whether he would accept or reject the Legislature's bipartisan compromise to keep the Mount Pleasant facility operating and find a private company to operate the Clarinda facility by mid-December.

6. For Iowa Legislature in 2016, expect a sequel

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/06/08/iowa-legislature-issues-preview/28715925/>

[Brianne Pfannenstiel, bpfannenst@dmreg.com](mailto:Brianne.Pfannenstiel@dmreg.com) 11:39 p.m. CDT June 8, 2015

carnival booths.
Contact
anne.murr@drake.edu
if you can help.
PASS THIS ON TO
OTHERS (friends or
family or co-
worker) who would
like to contribute their
time to benefit adult
literacy. Thank you!

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