December 2025

## **Approved Paraeducator Preparation Programs & Certifying Official**

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
1. Buena Vista University	Generalist	Angela Hunter Director of Teacher Education Programs Associate Professor Education Buena Vista University 610 W 4th St, Storm Lake, IA 50588 712-749-1997 huntera@bvu.edu
2. Central Rivers AEA	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood Special Needs	Kay Schmalen Director of Professional Learning Central Rivers AEA 1521 Technology Pkwy, Cedar Falls, IA 50613 800-392-6640 or 641-329-4271 kschmalen@centralriversaea.org www.centralriversaea.org
3. Des Moines Area Community College	Generalist	Patsy Steffen Program Chair for the Education Department Education Instructor Des Moines Area Community College 2006 S Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023 515-965-7048 pesteffen@dmacc.edu
4. Grand View University	Generalist	Jaclyn Easter Associate Professor of Education Department Chair and Graduate Program Coordinator Grand View University, Education Department 1200 Grandview Ave, Des Moines, IA 50316 515-263-2973 jeaster@grandview.edu
5. Grant Wood AEA	Generalist	Brandie Gean Director of Continuing Education Grant Wood AEA 4401 6th St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 515-270-9030 www.gwaea.org bgean@heartlandaea.org
6. Great Prairie AEA	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood Special Needs English as a Second Language	Brandie Gean Director of Continuing Education Great Prairie AEA 2814 N Court, Ottumwa, IA 52501 515-270-9030 brandie.gean.@gpaea.org www.gpaea.org

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7. Green Hills AEA	Generalist	Brandie Gean Director of Continuing Education Green Hills AEA 22997 Hwy 92, Council Bluffs, IA, 51503 515-270-9030 bgean@heartlandaea.org www.ghaea.org
8. Hawkeye Community College	Generalist Early Childhood	Emily Knutson (Generalist) emily.knutson@hawkeyecollege.edu  Jane Even (Early Childhood Para) Associate Professor in Early Childhood Education Hawkeye Community College 1501 E Orange Rd, Waterloo, IA 50704 319-296-2320 jane.even@hawkeyecollege.edu  https://www.hawkeyecollege.edu/programs/paraeducator
9. Heartland AEA	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood Special Needs Library Media Tech English as a Second Language	Brandie Gean Director of Continuing Education Heartland AEA 6500 Corporate Dr, Johnston, IA 50131 515-270-9030 bgean@heartlandaea.org
10. Indian Hills Community College	Generalist	Amy Taylor Dean, Arts & Sciences Indian Hills Community College 525 Grandview Ave, Ottumwa, IA 52501 641-683-5111 x5154 amy.taylor@indianhills.edu www.indianhills.edu
11. Iowa Valley Community College District	Generalist	Ashtyn Beek Iowa Valley Community College 123 6th Ave W, Grinnell, IA 50112 641-269-2202 Ashtyn.Beek@iavalley.edu

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12. Iowa Western Community College	Generalist	Ashley Johnston Continuing Education Coordinator Iowa Western Community College 2700 College Rd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503 712-325-3265 ajohnston@iwcc.edu  Libby Woods Director of Community Education 712-256-7088 Iwoods@iwcc.edu https://www.iwcc.edu/ce/para-educator/
13. Keystone AEA	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood	Kay Schmalen Director of Professional Learning Keystone AEA 1400 Second St NW, Elkader, IA 52043 800-392-6640 or 641-329-4271 kschmalen@centralriversaea.org www.aea1.k12.ia.us
14. Kirkwood Community College	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood Special Needs English as a Second Language Career and Transition Vision Impairment Autism Spectrum Disorders Advanced Generalist	Patrice Becicka Para oversight Kirkwood Community College 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 319-398-4995 Patrice.Becicka@kirkwood.edu  Angela Gillis Associate Dean Kirkwood Community College 6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 319-398-1241 Angela.Gillis@kirkwood.edu
15. Mississippi Bend AEA	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood Special Needs Autism Spectrum Disorders School Library Media English as a Second Language	Kay Schmalen Director of Professional Learning Mississippi Bend AEA 729 21st St, Bettendorf, IA 52722 800-392-6640 or 641-329-4271 kschmalen@centralriversaea.org  Lacy Christner 563-344-6478 lchristner@mbaea.org https://www.mbaea.org/

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16. Mount Mercy University	Generalist	Paula Ganzeveld Associate Professor Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Licensing Official Mount Mercy University 1330 Elmhurst Dr, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 319-363-8213 x1388 pganzeveld@mtmercy.edu  Jennifer Lynn Rasmussen Professor of Education Education Department Chair Mount Mercy University 1330 Elmhurst Dr, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 319-363-8213 x8888 jrasmussen@mtmercy.edu
17. North Iowa Area Community College	Generalist	Joe Davis Dean of Business, Humanities & Human & public Services North Iowa Area Community College 500 College Dr, Mason City, IA 50401 641-422-4121 Joe.Davis@niacc.edu https://catalog.niacc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=16&poid=3448
18. Northwest AEA	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood Autism School Library Media English as a Second Language	Kay Schmalen Director of Professional Learning Northwest AEA 1520 Morningside Ave, Sioux City, IA 51106 800-392-6640 or 641-329-4271 kschmalen@centralriversaea.org https://www.nwaea.org
19. Northwest Iowa Community College	Generalist	Sarah Breems-Diekevers Associate Dean of Arts, Science, Business, and Transitions Northwest Iowa Community College 603 West Park St, Sheldon, IA 51201 712-324-5061 ext. 137 sbreems-diekevers@nwicc.edu
20. Prairie Lakes AEA	Generalist  Areas of Concentration: Early Childhood Special Needs English as a Second Language	Kay Schmalen Director of Professional Learning Prairie Lakes AEA 500 NE 6th St, Pocahontas, IA 50574 800-392-6640 or 641-329-4271 kschmalen@centralriversaea.org https://www.plaea.org/
21. Southwestern Community College	Generalist	Salina Chesnut Southwestern Community College 1501 W Townline St, Creston, IA 50801 641-782-1329 chesnut@swcciowa.edu

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22. University of Dubuque	Generalist	Chad Biermeier Head of Teacher Education Associate Professor of Education 301 Smith Hall University of Dubuque 2000 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001 563-589-3590 cbiermeier@dbq.edu  Jeff Haverland Associate Professor of Education 303 Smith Hall 563-589-3723 jhaverland@dbq.edu
23. University of Iowa	Generalist	Mark McDermott Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Educator Preparation 240 S Madison, Iowa City, IA 52242 319-335-5591 mark-a-mcdermott@uiowa.edu
24. Upper Iowa University	Generalist	Alex Hansen Teacher Education Chair Upper Iowa University 605 Washington St, PO Box 1857, Fayette, IA 52142 <a href="https://uiu.edu/academics/teacher-education/#paraeducator-certification">https://uiu.edu/academics/teacher-education/#paraeducator-certification</a> 563-425-5397 <a href="https://nansena828@uiu.edu">hansena828@uiu.edu</a>