

## Approved Paraeducator Preparation Programs

Updated June 2025

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
1. Buena Vista University	Generalist	Angela Hunter Director of Teacher Education Programs 712-749-1997 huntera@bvu.edu Associate Professor Education Buena Vista University 610 West 4th St. Storm Lake, Iowa 50588
2. Central Rivers AEA	Generalist  <i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood Special Needs	Angie Gansen agansen@centralriversaea.org 319-268-7616 Central Rivers AEA 1521 Technology Parkway Cedar Falls, IA 50613  Kay Schmalen Director of Professional Learning Central Rivers AEA 9184 265th St. Suite B Clear Lake IA 50428 Phone: 800-392-6640 or 641-329-4271 Cell Phone: 641-529-1219 <a href="mailto:kschmalen@centralriversaea.org">kschmalen@centralriversaea.org</a>  <a href="http://www.centralriversaea.org">www.centralriversaea.org</a>
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 <a href="mailto:pesteffen@dmacc.edu">pesteffen@dmacc.edu</a>
4. Dordt University	Generalist	Dr. Abby De Groot Assistant Professor of Education Teacher Preparation Program Director

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
		Dordt University 700 7th St. NE Sioux Center, IA 51250 712.722.6325 <a href="mailto:abby.degroot@dordt.edu">abby.degroot@dordt.edu</a>   <a href="http://www.dordt.edu">www.dordt.edu</a>
5. Grand View University	Generalist	Dr. Jaclyn Easter Associate Professor of Education Department Chair and Graduate Program Coordinator Grand View University, Education Department 1200 Grandview Ave. Des Moines, IA 50316 Associate Professor 515-263-2973 Rasmussen 238 <a href="mailto:jeaster@grandview.edu">jeaster@grandview.edu</a>
6. Grant Wood AEA	Generalist	Julie Stoneking Professional Learning Coordinator Grant Wood AEA 4401 Sixth Street SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 Office: 319.399.6517 <a href="mailto:jstoneking@gwaea.org">jstoneking@gwaea.org</a>
7. Great Prairie AEA	Generalist  <i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood Special Needs English as a Second Language	Brandie Gean Director of Continuing Education 515-270-9030 <a href="mailto:brandie.gean.@gpaea.org">brandie.gean.@gpaea.org</a> Great Prairie AEA 2814 N. Court Ottumwa, IA 52501 <a href="http://www.gpaea.org">www.gpaea.org</a>
8. Green Hills AEA	Generalist	Michelle McKinney Professional Development Coordinator Green Hills AEA Halverson Center 24997 Highway 92 Council Bluffs, IA 51503 Office: 844-366-0503 <a href="mailto:mmckinney@ghaea.org">mmckinney@ghaea.org</a>

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
9. Hawkeye Community College	Generalist Early Childhood	Emily Knutson (Generalist) emily.knutson@hawkeyecollege.edu  Jane Even (Earlychildhood Para) Associate Professor in Early Childhood Education 319-296-2320 Ext. 1431 <a href="mailto:jane.even@hawkeyecollege.edu">jane.even@hawkeyecollege.edu</a> Michael Leary Interim Dean <a href="mailto:Michael.leary@hawkeyecollege.edu">Michael.leary@hawkeyecollege.edu</a>
10. Heartland AEA	Generalist  <i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood Special Needs Library Media Tech English as a Second Language	Brandie Gean License Renewal Coordinator Heartland AEA 6500 Corporate Drive Johnston, IA 50131 Office: 515-270-0405 ext. 14459 bgean@heartlandaea.org  Andrea Krier Professional Learning Registrar Heartland Area Education Agency 6500 Corporate Drive Johnston, IA 50131 Direct Phone Number: (515) 473-6845 akrier@heartlandaea.org
11. Indian Hills Community College	Generalist	Amy Taylor Dean, Arts & Sciences Indian Hills Community College 525 Grandview Ave. Ottumwa, IA 52501 641-683-5111 x.5154 <a href="mailto:amy.taylor@indianhills.edu">amy.taylor@indianhills.edu</a> <a href="http://www.indianhills.edu">www.indianhills.edu</a>
12. Iowa Valley Community College District	Generalist	Ashtyn Beek Iowa Valley Community College 123 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue West Grinnell, IA 50112 641-269-2202. <a href="mailto:Ashtyn.Beek@iavalley.edu">Ashtyn.Beek@iavalley.edu</a>
13. Iowa Western Community College	Generalist	Joni Ahrenholtz Education Coordinator

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
	<i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood	Business & Community Education 712.325-3275 <a href="mailto:jahrenholtz@iwcc.edu">jahrenholtz@iwcc.edu</a>  Mr. Matt Mancuso Executive Director of Business and Community Education 712.325.3434 <a href="mailto:mmancuso@iwcc.edu">mmancuso@iwcc.edu</a>
14. Keystone AEA	Generalist  <i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood	Tesha A. Moser-Zimmerman Associate Administrator/Director of Educational Services Keystone Area Education Agency 1400 Second Street NW Elkader, IA 52043 Office: <a href="tel:800-632-5918">800-632-5918</a> Cell: 563-214-9949 <a href="http://www.aea1.k12.ia.us">www.aea1.k12.ia.us</a>
15. Kirkwood Community College	Generalist  <i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood Special Needs English as a Second Language Career and Transition Vision Impairment Autism Spectrum Disorders Advanced Generalist	Ms. Patrice Becicka Para oversight Kirkwood Community College 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW 319-398-4995 <a href="mailto:Patrice.Becicka@kirkwood.edu">Patrice.Becicka@kirkwood.edu</a>  Mrs. Angela Gillis Associate Dean Kirkwood Community College 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 Office: 319-398-1241 <a href="mailto:Angela.Gillis@kirkwood.edu">Angela.Gillis@kirkwood.edu</a>
16. Mississippi Bend AEA	Generalist  <i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood Special Needs Autism Spectrum Disorders School Library Media	Mrs. Heather Whitman Focus Area Consultant: Media Staff Development Specialist Mississippi Bend AEA 729 21 <sup>st</sup> Street Bettendorf, IA 52722 Office: 563-344-6526 <a href="mailto:hwhitman@mbaea.org">hwhitman@mbaea.org</a>  Lacy Christner <a href="mailto:lchristner@aea9.k12.ia.us">lchristner@aea9.k12.ia.us</a>

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
17. Mount Mercy University	Generalist	<p>Dr. Paula Ganzeveld Assistant Professor Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Licensing Official Mount Mercy University 1330 Elmhurst Dr. Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 319-363-8213 x1388 <a href="mailto:pganzeveld@mtmercy.edu">pganzeveld@mtmercy.edu</a></p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Lynn Rasmussen Professor of Education Education Department Chair Mount Mercy University 1330 Elmhurst Dr. Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 319-363-8213 x8888 <a href="mailto:jrasmussen@mtmercy.edu">jrasmussen@mtmercy.edu</a></p>
18. North Iowa Area Community College	Generalist	<p>Joe Davis Division Chair Business, Humanities &amp; Human &amp; public Services North Iowa Area Community College 500 College Drive Mason City, IA 50401 BC217 641-422-4121 <a href="mailto:joe.Davis@niacc.edu">joe.Davis@niacc.edu</a></p>
19. Northwest AEA	<p>Generalist</p> <p><i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood Autism School Library Media</p>	<p>Judy Sweetman License Renewal Coordinator Northwest AEA 1520 Morningside Avenue Sioux City, IA 51106 Office: 712-222-6088 <a href="mailto:jsweetman@nwaea.org">jsweetman@nwaea.org</a></p> <p>Katherine (Katy) Evenson, Ed. S. Executive Director of Educational Services <a href="mailto:kevenson@nwaea.org">kevenson@nwaea.org</a></p>

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
20. Northwest Iowa Community College	Generalist	<p>Leah Murphy Dean—Arts &amp; Sciences/Business &amp; Health Northwest Iowa Community College 603 W. Park St Sheldon, IA 51201 (712) 324-5066 x118 <a href="mailto:lmurphy@nwicc.edu">lmurphy@nwicc.edu</a></p> <p>Sarah Breems-Diekevers Associate Dean of Arts, Science, Business, and Transitions 712-324-5061 <a href="mailto:sbreemsdiekevers@nwicc.edu">sbreemsdiekevers@nwicc.edu</a></p>
21. Prairie Lakes AEA	<p>Generalist</p> <p><i>Areas of Concentration:</i> Early Childhood Special Needs English as a Second</p>	<p>Linda Ankeny License Renewal Coordinator Prairie Lakes AEA 23 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Spencer, IA Office: 712-346-5005 <a href="mailto:lankeny@plaea.org">lankeny@plaea.org</a></p>
22. University of Dubuque	Generalist	<p>Chad Biermeier Ed.D. Head of Teacher Education Associate Professor of Education 301 Smith Hall University of Dubuque 2000 University Ave. Dubuque, IA 52001 Office: 563.589.3590 <a href="mailto:cbiermeier@dbq.edu">cbiermeier@dbq.edu</a></p> <p>Jeff Haverland Associate Professor of Education 303 Smith Hall 563-589-3723 <a href="mailto:jhaverland@dbq.edu">jhaverland@dbq.edu</a></p>

Organization	Programs	Certifying Official
23. University of Iowa	Generalist	Dr. Mark McDermott Associate Dean and Clinical Professor N201H Lindquist Center Iowa City, IA 52242 319-335-5591(work) 319-331-8321 (cell) <a href="mailto:mark-a-mcdermott@uiowa.edu">mark-a-mcdermott@uiowa.edu</a>
24. Upper Iowa University	Generalist	Dr. Billie Jo Cowley Andres School of Education, Dean Professor of Education Upper Iowa University 605 Washington St. Fayette, IA 52142 Office Phone: 563.425.5845 <a href="mailto:cowleyb@uiu.edu">cowleyb@uiu.edu</a>
25. Southwestern Community College	Generalist	Salina Chesnut Southwestern Community College 1501 W Townline St. Creston, IA 50801 641.782.1329 <a href="mailto:chesnut@swccia.edu">chesnut@swccia.edu</a>