

2025-26 List of Approved AEA Professional Development

In accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code 256.9(36) and 273.2(3)b, the department requested AEAs to submit professional development offerings for approval. The goal is to ensure consistent professional development offerings across the state that support the implementation and continuous improvement of Iowa's strategic priorities. AEAs are authorized to provide the professional development on this list in the 2025-26 school year. A second submission window opens January 31, 2025 and the final approved list will be published March 31, 2025.

Iowa Education Priorities

Below are the eleven strategic priorities. All priority areas with available courses offered by one or more authorized AEAs are hyperlinked to its course offerings found starting on page 2 of this document.

1. [Narrow and Close Achievement Gaps for Students with Disabilities](#)
2. Narrow and Close Achievement Gaps for Students who are English Learners
3. [Improve and Transform Low-Performing Schools through Continuous Improvement Leadership](#)
4. Develop a Strong Teacher Pipeline
5. Implement High-Quality Instructional Materials
6. [Provide Structured Literacy Instruction Aligned with the Science of Reading](#)
7. [Support Evidence-based Instructional Practices for Math](#)
8. [Support Evidence-based Instructional Practices for Science](#)
9. Support Evidence-based Instruction for Students who are Talented and Gifted
10. Strengthen College and Career Pathways
11. [Strengthen Systems for Behavioral and Mental Health Support](#)

Course List by Strategic Priority Area

Narrow and Close Achievement Gaps for Students with Disabilities

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
ACHIEVE	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	<p>The courses and modules within the ACHIEVE System for Special Education (ages 3-21) will provide professional learning opportunities delivered in real-time instruction and/or Zoom-led, and may also include modeling and practicing some of the components outlined in the ACHIEVE User Guide at a more comprehensive level. Professional Learning may also include a focus on best practices.</p>
DE SDI Module: K-6 SDI Literacy	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	<p>Aligned to the SDI Framework, this professional development initiative is aimed to develop and implement tools and processes to aid teachers in delivering effective specially designed instruction to improve the literacy outcomes for learners with disabilities.</p>
DE SDI Module: Preschool SDI Literacy	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	<p>Aligned to the SDI Framework, this professional development initiative is aimed to develop and implement tools and processes to aid teachers in delivering effective specially designed instruction to improve the literacy outcomes for learners with significant cognitive disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide educators foundational knowledge and skills to expand language, communication, and comprehensive literacy skills for early emergent readers and writers. • Support IEP teams in developing their interprofessional collaboration knowledge and skills in order to diagnose, design, and deliver high quality, specially designed language, communication and literacy instruction.

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
DE SDI Module: Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	Aligned to the SDI Framework, this professional development supports teachers and providers in diagnosing, designing, and delivering effective specially designed instruction through the use of evidence-based tools and processes to improve the outcomes of preschool learners in inclusive settings.
DE SDI Module: Secondary Transition	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	Aligned to the SDI Framework, this professional development initiative supports secondary school teams in diagnosing, designing, delivering effective specially designed instruction through the use of evidence-based practices and predictors to improve the postsecondary outcomes for learners with disabilities.
SWD Explicit Instruction	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	Explicit instruction is a structured, systematic approach to teaching that involves clear, direct teaching of concepts and skills. The evidence for providing explicit instruction in the areas of literacy and math is extensive for all students, including students with disabilities. The Explicit Instruction course will enable educators to unlock the power of clear, structured teaching.

Improve and Transform Low-Performing Schools through Continuous Improvement Leadership

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
The Formative Assessment (Instructional) Process	Central Rivers AEA	Members of our team have been supporting districts and schools in the formative assessment process for over 10 years. This process has a direct relationship to all the MTSS conceptual areas. Many of the districts and schools who have requested this professional learning have self-identified as underperforming and many have targeted this learning in an action plan that was developed as a result of their ESSA designation. For all of the practices targeted in the professional learning of the formative assessment process, there is a very robust evidence base.

Provide Structured Literacy Instruction Aligned with the Science of Reading

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
Advanced Language for Structured Literacy	Keystone AEA	This course addresses the most intensive needs in the secondary school setting. This includes students with characteristics of Dyslexia, where data suggests a need for individual/small group, intensified instruction, such as special education services. This course covers advanced phonics of multi-syllable word reading, morphology, spelling, and vocabulary-building using evidence-based practices to remediate students 5th grade and beyond. A structured literacy approach is the primary focus of the course.
Intensive Structured Literacy	Keystone AEA	This course is designed to address the most intensive needs in your school building, including students who have a diagnosis and/or characteristic of Dyslexia, where data suggests a need for intensified instruction, which may include special education services. Instruction will focus on students who need intensified decoding, encoding, and fluency instruction at the most foundational level. A structured literacy approach will be used to teach intentional lessons based on student need.
LETRS for Early Educators	Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Keystone AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	LETRS® For Early Childhood Educators professional learning provides deep knowledge of literacy instruction for the youngest learners. The more children know about language and literacy before they begin kindergarten and first grade, the better equipped they are to succeed in literacy learning and beyond. The course will define early literacy and language, the processes involved, and the developmental sequences by which these skills develop; describe strategies and learning activities that are engaging, effective, and developmentally appropriate; and discuss how assessment procedures and data can be used to plan and implement instruction for the youngest learners.

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
LETRS for Elementary Educator	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	Lexia LETRS® For Elementary Educators provides a professional learning course of study based in the science of reading for elementary educators. The course teaches the how, what, and why of literacy acquisition to improve instructional practice and achieve long-term systemic change in literacy instruction. This course will distinguish between the research base for best practices and other competing ideas not supported by scientific evidence and demonstrate how language, reading, and writing are related to one another. Participants will learn to make instructional decisions and program choices with reference to scientific research evidence, strategic use of assessments, and observations of students; deliver comprehensive, integrated language and literacy instruction as defined by standards and by research for a given grade, age, or ability level; facilitate early identification and intervention with reading challenges, including dyslexia; and provide an educator experience that validates and affirms diverse experiences and promotes an inclusive understanding of the world.
Science of Reading	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	This professional development is designed to deepen educators' understanding of the Science of Reading, providing them with the knowledge and skills to implement structured literacy instruction effectively. Educators will explore the foundational skills essential for literacy development, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Through explicit instruction, modeling, and reflection on the "five big ideas" of literacy, participants will develop a clear understanding of how to support students' reading development. Emphasis will be placed on using assessment data—such as screening and formative assessments—to inform and differentiate instruction, ensuring alignment with core instructional practices.

Support Evidence-based Instructional Practices for Math

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
8 Effective Mathematical Teaching Practices	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	This professional development opportunity will focus on the Eight Effective Mathematics Teaching Practices, designed to strengthen instruction and support teachers in delivering high-quality math learning experiences. By the end of this professional development, teachers will be equipped with strategies to deepen students' mathematical understanding, enhance problem-solving skills, and support equitable access to rigorous math content. This training will empower educators to lead in building a culture of excellence in math instruction.

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
Numeracy Project 2.0	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	This professional learning on the Numeracy Project is designed to support teachers, teacher leaders, administrators, and consultants in understanding the progression of foundational numeracy skills. It offers a comprehensive framework for recognizing and guiding students' development in numeracy. Participants will learn how to connect and reinforce concepts within and across grade levels, creating a coherent learning progression that builds upon prior knowledge.
SOAR: Supporting Ongoing Achievement Responsibly	All 9 AEAs Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	Participants learn to use SOAR tools and materials to identify students' math knowledge, pinpoint foundational areas for growth, and set aligned goals and activities. This professional learning also equips teachers to apply the research-based Effective Math Teaching Practices across all instruction levels while experiencing the 8 Effective Math Teaching Practices from our facilitators.

Support Evidence-based Instructional Practices for Science

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
OpenSci Ed	Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	OpenSciEd empowers educators to move beyond traditional science teaching by collaborating with leading researchers and educators to create curricula that align with how students learn most effectively. Successfully implementing this program requires a deep understanding of the instructional routines embedded in the curriculum, as well as the foundational principles that support active student sensemaking of phenomena. Fostering a student-centered classroom through a social constructivist approach is key to delivering a high-quality learning experience. In this course, teachers will gain insight into the lesson progressions within a unit and how these lessons reinforce the core principles of the curriculum.

Strengthen Systems for Behavioral and Mental Health Support

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	Green Hills AEA Grant Wood AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	Adverse Childhood Experiences, more commonly known as ACEs, are stressful or traumatic events experienced during childhood. Research shows these events impact brain development, and are related to health problems throughout the lifespan. Participants learn about the ACEs research and approaches to foster trauma-informed, healing centered environments for children, families, and communities.
Child Mental Health First Aid	Grant Wood AEA Green Hills AEA Keystone AEA	This was rolled into the Youth Mental Health First Aid and is not a separate course.
Non-violent Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI)	Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	CPI training in schools is a program designed to equip educators and staff with strategies to prevent and de-escalate disruptive or potentially harmful behaviors. The training emphasizes proactive techniques to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment. CPI focuses on recognizing early warning signs, effective communication, and non-violent crisis intervention methods. It also includes strategies for safely managing physical aggression when necessary, with an emphasis on reducing the need for physical intervention.
Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS): Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3	All 9 AEA's Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Great Prairie AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. Participants will learn about evidence-based practices for proactively and responsively addressing student behavior at the universal, supplemental and intensive (Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3) levels within a multi-tiered system of support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1 systems, data, and practices support everyone – students, educators, and staff – across all school settings. They establish a foundation for positive and proactive support. • Tier 2 supports refers to the practices and systems that enable targeted interventions for students who are not successful with Tier 1 supports alone. • At Tier 3, students receive more intensive, individualized behavioral and academic supports.
PREPaRE Workshop 1: Comprehensive School Safety Planning: Prevention Through Recovery	Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	In this 1-day workshop participants will learn how to establish and sustain comprehensive school safety efforts that attend to both physical and psychological safety. The workshop addresses critical components needed to develop, exercise, and evaluate safety and crisis teams and plans and conduct building vulnerability assessments. The model also integrates school personnel and community provider roles in providing school-based crisis preparedness and response activities.

Course Title	Authorized AEA(s)	Description
PREPaRE Workshop 2 - Mental Health Crisis Interventions: Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in Schools	Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	This 2-day workshop develops the knowledge and skill required to provide immediate mental health crisis interventions to the students, staff, and school community members who have been simultaneously exposed to an acute traumatic stressor. The knowledge and skill developed within this session also help to build a bridge to the psychotherapeutic and trauma-informed mental health response sometimes required to address challenges associated with trauma exposure. This workshop is an excellent course for all mental health professionals in your district who provide mental health crisis intervention services.
Teen Mental Health First Aid (TMHFA)	Grant Wood AEA Green Hills AEA Keystone AEA	Teen Mental Health First Aid (TMHFA) teaches teens in grades 9-12, or ages 14-18, how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their friends and peers
Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA)	Central Rivers AEA Grant Wood AEA Green Hills AEA Heartland AEA Keystone AEA Mississippi Bend AEA Northwest AEA Prairie Lakes AEA	This course is designed to teach parents, family members, teachers, school staff, neighbors, and other caring adults about (1) the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, (2) the importance of early intervention, and (3) how to help an adolescent experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis. The course is focused on information participants can use to help youth ages 12-18.